

Chhonda Dey* and Debesh Chakraborty*

Migration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands During 1901-1981: Trend and Pattern†

Introduction

THE objective of this paper is to present an overall picture of migration in the entire group of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 1901-1981. The study of the population movement for a developing region has a special significance, as it is directly associated with the economic development of that region. It also brings to light the population redistribution, besides providing a useful revelation regarding the social, economic and other forces responsible for such movements.

India's emeralds in the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands consists of two distinct groups—the Andaman group and the Nicobar group consisting of 325 and 25 Islands respectively. These Islands are separated from the mainland and also from one another by a vast stretch of the sea. These Islands are divided into two districts—Andaman district and Nicobar district, having an area of 6408 sq kms and 1842 sq kms respectively. They are basically a chain of coral islands with relatively no important mineral deposits, no abundant water supply or perennial river. The land territory is scattered over a very long stretch in bits and pieces, as a result of which the communication with the mainland and in between the Islands is very poor.

The ecology of the Islands is particularly fragile, with unique species of flora and fauna in the densely forested areas, which constitute some of the richest evergreen forest resource of India. The forest area of the Island is 80% of the total land area of which only 30% is exploitable.

Most of the islands are uninhabited and rough estimates indicate that only 21 islands in the Andaman and 13 in the Nicobar are inhabited. Density of population is only 23 per square km, which is very low compared to the national average of 216 persons per square km. The climate of the Island is warm, humid and uniform because of its closeness to the equator. The archipelago is green and splendid with the biologically rich sea around.

Historical Background

Owing to the significant location of these islands, their existence was known to the ancients, as is evident from the account of Ptolemy in 2nd century A.D. These islands were

* Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Calcutta-32, India.

† This is a revised version of the Paper submitted at the 17th Annual Conference of IASP held at Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar (Tamil-Nadu) from 16th-19th December 1993. The authors would like to acknowledge the helpful comments from an anonymous referee. However, the responsibility of errors, if any, lies with the authors.

mentioned by the Arab travellers in the 9th century, and by the Buddhist monk of Chinese origin ITsing in 672 A.D., by Marco Polo in the 13th century, Friar Odoric in 1322 A.D. and Nicolo Conti in 1430 A.D.

The history of the Andaman and Nicobar has three distinct phases. The first phase which extended upto 1788 A.D. was characterised by isolation of these islands from the rest of the world. From time immemorial the Andaman Islands have been inhabited by a small Negrito people divided into several groups and tribes hostile to each other. These people continued to live in the undisputed position of the Andamans for countless generations until the first recorded attempt to colonise the Andamans was made in 1789.

The people of the Nicobar Islands are entirely different racially from the aboriginals of the Andamans, whom they displaced many hundreds of years ago.

In the second phase from 1789 to 1941, these islands were under the British rule. A penal settlement was established by the British during this period, which was responsible to a great extent in providing a distinct shape to the history and traditions of these islands. In 1857, the sepoy mutiny in the Indian mainland prompted the British Government to set up an isolated and safe penal colony in the Andaman Islands. Port Blair was selected as the ideal site for the establishment of a penal settlement in 1857.

In the Islands, the population has fluctuated between 1901 and 1941, in accordance with the increase or decrease of the strength of the penal settlement. The entire population consisted of convicts and of people who were in these islands in connection with these convicts—warders, armed forces, administrative personnel, and merchants catering to the above, and aboriginals who were steadily decreasing in number. The strength of the population, therefore, depended entirely on the number of convicts that were sent to these islands from the mainland. If a large number of convicts were received, up went the population, if on the other hand, the number of convicts coming in fell below normal, down went the population.

The third phase from 1942 to 1945 was the period of temporary rule of Japanese invaders. The Japanese Armed forces occupied these islands in March 1942. During their tenure the food supply was inadequate. Only military supply could be brought in due to the Allied blockade and only through submarines. The Japanese troops inflicted severe and prolonged torture on many people, particularly those knowing English. As a result of these tortures an unknown number of men, women and children died.

In 1945, Government of India issued a proclamation, abolishing the penal settlement. A free pardon was granted to all convicts and they as well as ex convicts were all offered repatriation to their homeland, at the Government's expense.

The Andaman and Nicobar islands attained their independence as an integral part of India on August 15, 1947. These islands then entered a new phase of development. After 1951, dramatic changes occurred in the volume of migration. There was a large inflow of displaced persons who were sent to Andaman for settlement. Beside this, after independence developmental and other economic activities which geared up required a large man-power. This in turn resulted in an inflow of immigrants from different states of India (Ghosh 1989).

It is, therefore, evident from the above analysis that migration played a key role in shaping the size of population in these islands. Since the migrants were from other states of

mentioned by the Arab travellers in the 9th century, and by the Buddhist monk of Chinese origin ITsing in 672 A.D., by Marco Polo in the 13th century, Friar Odoric in 1322 A.D. and Nicolo Conti in 1430 A.D.

The history of the Andaman and Nicobar has three distinct phases. The first phase which extended upto 1788 A.D. was characterised by isolation of these islands from the rest of the world. From time immemorial the Andaman Islands have been inhabited by a small Negrito people divided into several groups and tribes hostile to each other. These people continued to live in the undisputed position of the Andamans for countless generations until the first recorded attempt to colonise the Andamans was made in 1789.

The people of the Nicobar Islands are entirely different racially from the aboriginals of the Andamans, whom they displaced many hundreds of years ago.

In the second phase from 1789 to 1941, these islands were under the British rule. A penal settlement was established by the British during this period, which was responsible to a great extent in providing a distinct shape to the history and traditions of these islands. In 1857, the sepoy mutiny in the Indian mainland prompted the British Government to set up an isolated and safe penal colony in the Andaman Islands. Port Blair was selected as the ideal site for the establishment of a penal settlement in 1857.

In the Islands, the population has fluctuated between 1901 and 1941, in accordance with the increase or decrease of the strength of the penal settlement. The entire population consisted of convicts and of people who were in these islands in connection with these convicts—warders, armed forces, administrative personnel, and merchants catering to the above, and aboriginals who were steadily decreasing in number. The strength of the population, therefore, depended entirely on the number of convicts that were sent to these islands from the mainland. If a large number of convicts were received, up went the population, if on the other hand, the number of convicts coming in fell below normal, down went the population.

The third phase from 1942 to 1945 was the period of temporary rule of Japanese invaders. The Japanese Armed forces occupied these islands in March 1942. During their tenure the food supply was inadequate. Only military supply could be brought in due to the Allied blockade and only through submarines. The Japanese troops inflicted severe and prolonged torture on many people, particularly those knowing English. As a result of these tortures an unknown number of men, women and children died.

In 1945, Government of India issued a proclamation, abolishing the penal settlement. A free pardon was granted to all convicts and they as well as ex convicts were all offered repatriation to their homeland, at the Government's expense.

The Andaman and Nicobar islands attained their independence as an integral part of India on August 15, 1947. These islands then entered a new phase of development. After 1951, dramatic changes occurred in the volume of migration. There was a large inflow of displaced persons who were sent to Andaman for settlement. Beside this, after independence developmental and other economic activities which geared up required a large man-power. This in turn resulted in an inflow of immigrants from different states of India (Ghosh 1989).

It is, therefore, evident from the above analysis that migration played a key role in shaping the size of population in these islands. Since the migrants were from other states of

India, from within the island territory and also from other countries, it would be interesting to know in greater detail the size of each component, the nature and trend of the flow. An attempt is therefore made here to study in detail the pattern of population movement in the entire group of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

However, this study is constrained by the limitations and paucity of data. The Census Reports were the main source of reference. Other major source of information has been the Basic Statistics of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, issued by the Statistical Bureau-Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

The definition of migrant used here is a person enumerated in the Island territory though born somewhere else. Whenever the data relating to the last residence is used, a migrant is taken to be a person enumerated in the Island territory with last residence somewhere else. In this study till 1961 migration figures relate to place of birth and 1971 and 1981 figures relate to migrants classified by last residence. Census being a decennial affair, population counting is done only once in ten years. In between a large number of people may enter and exit without the census being able to record the movement. Birth place statistics therefore give no indication of year to year fluctuations in the migrant flows. The data collected in 1971 census and later, has a noted advantage over the previous census data as from 1971 onwards migrants are classified by place of last residence.

In spite of the limitations, efforts have been made to present a sufficiently coherent picture of migration and its trend and pattern in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to derive useful inferences and conclusions.

This paper is organised as follows. In the first section, it discusses in brief the migration, size and the growth of population followed by an analysis of the pattern and trend of migration in the second section. In the third section summary and conclusions are presented.

Migration, Size and the Growth of Population

The population of Andaman and Nicobar according to the latest census held in 1991 was 280661 which represents only 0.03 % of the total population of India. Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a noticeably high rate of growth (48.7% in 1981-91). This growth rate is specially significant for these islands in relation to the population size. Table 1 presents the total population of the Islands from 1901 to 1991 and the decadal growth of population. It is evident that there has been an appreciative variation in the growth rate from one decade to another. The Graph 1 indicates the population growth of ninety years in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and in India.

Population growth of any territory is the outcome of three important factors—birth, death and net migration. In case of the growth of the population of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands over the years, the relative importance of these components has varied over time as evident from Table 2.

Migration into Andaman began from 1858 with the establishment of a penal settlement. Apart from a steadily decreasing number of aboriginals the entire population in the Islands comprised convicts and people who were in the Islands in connection with the convicts such as the warders, government staff, armed forces and administrative personnel necessary to

run the penal settlement. The strength of the population therefore depended entirely on the number of convicts that were sent to these islands from the mainland. During the decade 1941-51, nature had interfered with the growth of the population in more than one ways, resulting in a decline in the total population. The decrease is also attributed to the effect of the Second World War. The Japanese armed forces occupied these islands in March 1941 and stayed for three and a half years. During this period the immigration process was halted. A further reduction in the population was because of the general amnesty to convicts at the advent of independence.

In the Nicobar Islands there was a slight setback in the growth of population during the decade under review because of the war, and because of the sudden appearance of a disease known as poliomyelitis to which the Nicobarese were unaccustomed and against which they therefore had no immunity.

It is evident from Table 2 that the immigration in the Islands increased after 1951. This increase was the result of bringing in large number of labourers from various parts of India on contract to serve these islands for a limited period. Also the policy to settle refugees from Bangladesh in these islands artificially inflated the immigration figures.

TABLE 1: POPULATION AND GROWTH RATE IN INDIA AND THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS DURING 1901-11 TO 1981-91

<i>Census year</i>	<i>Andaman</i>		<i>Nicobar</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>India</i>	
	<i>population</i>	<i>growth rate</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>growth rate</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>growth rate</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>growth rate</i>
1901	18138		6511	—	24649	—	238396327	
1911	17641	-2.74	8818	35.43	26459	7.34	252093390	5.75
1921	17814	0.98	9272	5.15	27086	2.37	251321213	-0.31
1931	19223	7.91	10240	10.44	29463	8.78	278977238	11.00
1941	21316	10.89	12452	21.6	33768	14.61	318660580	14.22
1951	18962	-11.04	12009	-3.56	30971	-8.28	361088090	13.31
1961	48985	158.33	14563	21.27	63548	105.19	439234771	21.51
1971	93468	90.81	21665	48.77	115133	81.17	548159622	24.8
1981	158287	69.35	30454	40.57	188741	63.93	683329097	24.66
1991	241453	52.54	39208	28.74	280661	48.7	846302688	23.85

Note: Growth rate refers to the percentage decadal variation in population.

Sources: Report Census 1931, Part-I Census 1951, T-D-fil Census 1981 Census of India 1991, series-I Paper-2 of 1992 Final Population Totals.

The increase and decrease in population in so far as the Andaman Islands are concerned was much influenced by the migratory movements whereas in the Nicobar Islands the natural causes had a free play. In Table 1 the growth rates of population is given for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands separately. The Graph 2 shows a considerable increase in the population of Andaman after 1951. It was due to the spectacular changes in the volume of migration.

TABLE 2: SHARE OF IMMIGRANTS AND NATURAL POPULATION IN TOTAL POPULATION OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Census Year	Immigration in Andaman and Nicobar Island	Natural Population	Total Population
1901	14219 57.6	10430 42.4	24649 100
1911	14402 54.4	12057 45.6	26459 100
1921	15120 55.8	11966 44.2	27086 100
1931	14745 50.1	14718 49.9	29463 100
1941			33768 100
1951	11648 37.6	19323 62.4	30971 100
1961	36771 57.8	26777 42.2	63548 100
1971	67274 58.4	47859 41.6	115133 100
1981	108808 57.6	79333 42.4	188741 100

Source: Report census 1931, part-I; Census 1951, T-D-IH; Census 1961, T-H; Census 1971, T-DH; Census 1981

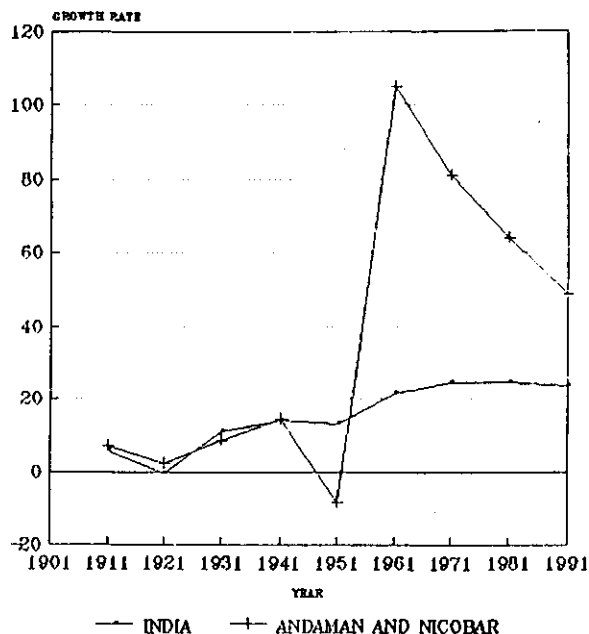
In Nicobar the population growth rate was steady due to the natural increase. It may, therefore, be stated that migration played an important role in shaping the population growth of the Islands and the role of immigration was more pronounced in the Andaman than in the Nicobar Islands.

Pattern and Trend of Migration

The case of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands can in a more general context provide insight into how migration patterns change in response to development and to characterise the role of short term mobility within the overall trends of migration (Dey 1992). Total migration includes

- (a) the migrants from countries outside India,
- (b) from other states of India, and
- (c) local movement that is within Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The migrants from other states of India and the migrants from within Andaman and Nicobar Islands are referred to as Ordinary migrants and Internal migrants respectively. The Pie

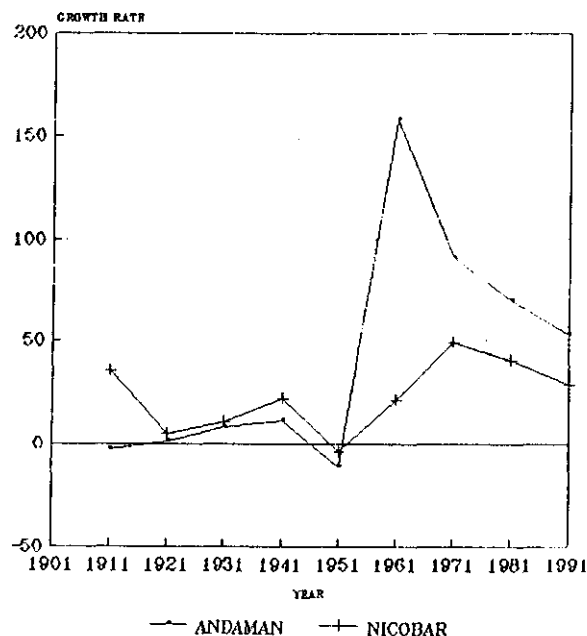


Graph 1. Population Growth Rate Curves

charts show the share of these components for the census years 1961,1971,1981. These figures show that the share of migrants from other states is declining. In 1931, their representation was as high as 97% which declined to about 50% in 1981. While on the other hand the proportion of migrants within the Island territory is increasing steadily.

As is evident from Table 3 the share of migrants from other countries was relatively higher in 1951 and 1961, compared to other years. In 1961, its proportion was 28.6% which eventually declined to approximately 2% in 1981. Their number increased from 490 in 1931 to 2018 in 1981, registering an increase of about 312% while those from other states of India increased from a little over 14 thousand in 1931 to 54 thousand in 1981. Earlier the persons with last residence outside India included the early colonisers specially from Bangladesh. It may be noted, that since 1962, the programme for planned settlement of families by the Union Government has been abandoned, though immigration to the Islands for the purpose of permanent settlement continued and is still continuing partly clandestinely, particularly from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Table 4 indicates that in 1961, the migrants within the Andaman and Nicobar Islands represented 7.5% of the total population but by 1981, their share increased to 28%. Though



Graph 2. Population Growth Rate Curves

the size of the migrants from other states is higher compared to that of migrants within Andaman and Nicobar, it is interesting to observe that the rate of increase of the latter was much higher. These internal migrants recorded a decadal increase of 80% from 1971-1981, whereas the migrants from other states of India registered an increase of only 48%.

TABLE 3: TOTAL MIGRANTS AND ITS COMPONENTS

Census year	1931	1951	1961	1971	1981
Migrants from other countries	3.30	27.50	28.60	2.00	1.90
Migrants from other states of India	96.70	72.50	58.40	54.40	49.70
Migrants within Andaman & Nicobar Islands			13.00	43.60	48.40
Total migrants	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Report Census 1931, part-I; Census 1951, T-D-EI; Census 1961, T-H; Census 1971, T-D-D; Census 1981.

TABLE 4: MALE FEMALE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL POPULATION AND ITS COMPONENTS

<i>Census year</i>	<i>1931</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1981</i>
Total population	29463	30971	63548	115133	188741
Male	19702	19055	39304	70127	107261
Female	9761	11916	24244	45106	81480
Natural population	14718	19323	26777	47859	79933
Male	7754	9964	13596	24435	41456
Female	6964	9359	13181	23424	38477
Total migrants	14745	11648	36768	67274	108808
Male	11948	9091	25706	45592	65805
Female	2797	2557	11062	21682	43003
Migrants from other countries	490	3206	10524	1353	2018
Male	461	2364	5921	804	1138
Female	29	842	4603	549	880
Migrants from other states of India	14255	8442	21457	36604	54120
Male	11487	6727	17290	24812	32752
Female	2768	1715	4167	11792	21368
Migrants within Andaman & Nicobar Islands			4787	29317	52670
Male			2495	19976	31915
Female			2292	9341	20755

Source: Report Census 1931,part-I; Census 1951.T-D-DI; Census 1961.T-H; Census 1971.T-D-H; Census 1981.

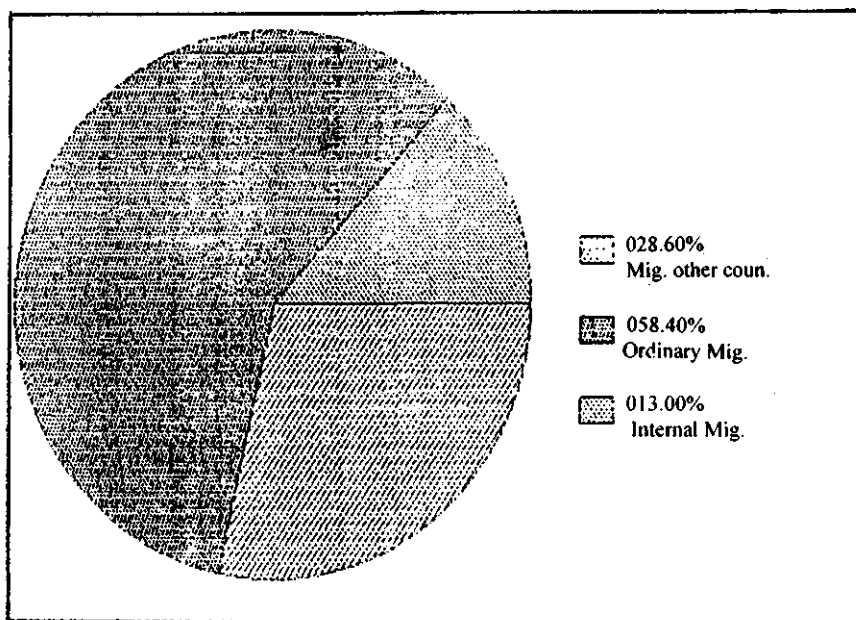


Fig. 1. Total Migrants and its Components, 1961

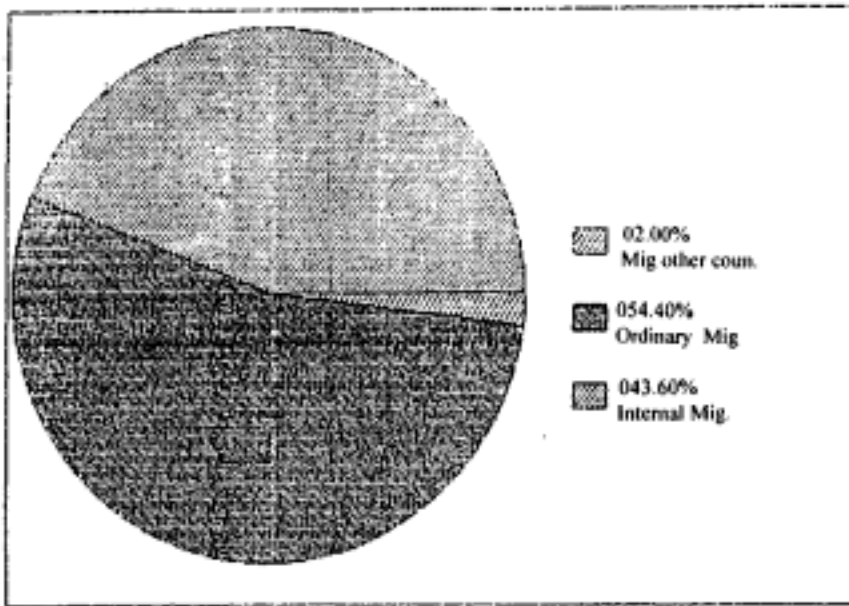


Fig. 2. Total Migrants and its Components, 1971

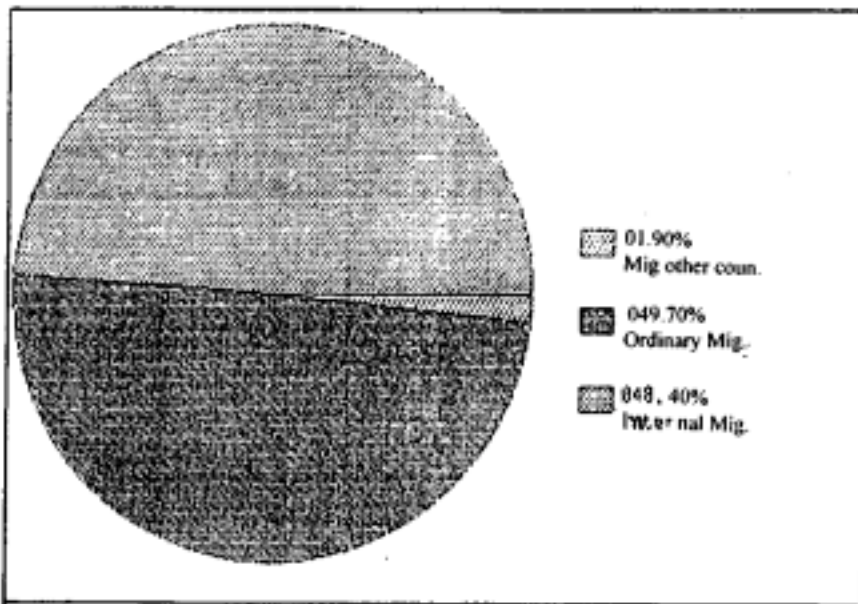


Fig. 3. Total Migrants and its Components, 1981

Migrants from Countries Other than India

As mentioned earlier the migrants coming into the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from outside India formed approximately 2% of the total migrants in 1981 against approximately 29% in 1961. Depending on the character and magnitude of the flow of the migrants from other countries, they can be classified under two categories:

- (i) Displaced migrants.
- (ii) Other than displaced migrants.

Displaced migrants formed a major component of the migrants from outside India. In 1981, the share of the displaced migrants was very close to 90% and the rest were non displaced migrants. Here, the focus is on the displaced migrants.

As mentioned before displaced migrants are necessarily from outside India but they were compelled to leave the home country on account of civil and political disturbances. The displaced migration is rather forced in nature. They have come once for all, leaving behind the hearth and home. With a view to make the destination their new home they brought their family along with them. Therefore, unlike the ordinary migrants and like the residents they should be treated as a permanent element of the population of the area. For these migrants have come to make the region their home, and it is quite unlikely that they would move for a second time, at any rate not substantially out of the place of settlement.

Table 5 presents the regions from which the displaced migrants made their way to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The migrants were largely from Burma, Pakistan, Bangladesh and lately from Sri Lanka. Bulk of the displaced migrants were from Pakistan. In 1961, 90% of the displaced migrants were from Pakistan. In other census years their share exceeded 60% with the only exception of 1981, when the figure 3.6% was abnormally low compared to other years. This is due to the fact that prior to 1981, migrants from Pakistan refer to those from undivided Pakistan. It is therefore observed that in 1971, 70% of the forced migrants were from Pakistan. Prior to this, partition of India saw an initial massive transmigration of people from Pakistan to India and vice-versa. In Eastern India, however, the stream of migrants from Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) was one way traffic which continues even to this day. In Pakistan and Northern India the population movement was two way, and therefore many of the Pakistani refugees were settled by the Governmental efforts.

The displaced migrants from Bangladesh started pouring into West Bengal at the wake of communal disturbances proceeding and following independence. The Hindu refugees from Bangladesh migrated to India for social security in the early years of independence when communal feelings were running high in Bangladesh. But they came to an already overcrowded West Bengal and could not be assimilated. It led to their dispersal over the rest of the country, largely to the forest areas of M.P., Orissa and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Thus, in the Islands there was a planned settlement of the displaced persons. Unlike the case of ordinary and internal migration which was due to economic motive, displaced migration was forced in nature. The settlement in the Island was an outcome of the policy of the Government of India.

TABLE 5: DISPLACED MIGRANTS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Region migrating from	1951	1961	1971	1981
Bangladesh	—	—	—	1085.00 60.60
Burma	1213.00 39.60	1043.00 10.00	336.00 29.50	374.00 20.80
Pakistan	1850.00 60.40	9273.00 90.00	800.00 70.50	64.00 3.60
Srilanka	—	—	—	265.00 15.00
Total displaced migrants	3063.00 100.00	10316.00 100.00	1136.00 100.00	1791.00 100.00

Source: Census 1951, T-D-III; Census 1961, T-II; Census 1971, T-D-II; Census 1981.

The proportion of migrants from Burma in 1951 was about 40% but in 1981 it represented only about 21 %. Besides the Indian evacuees from Burma during World War II, the Burmese settlers in the Islands include the Barmens and the Karens.

The record number of Sri Lanka born persons, enumerated in the 1981 census, is largely to be attributed to the repatriation from Sri Lanka of many persons of Indian origin in terms of the 1964 Agreement between the two Governments in regard to the status of all persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. The bulk of the migrants who moved to these islands were Sri-Lankan Tamils, particularly from Jaffna district.

The displaced migrants largely settled in the rural areas of the Territory. The early colonisers specially from Bangladesh were settled in rural areas and have occupied themselves in agricultural activities. The close similarities of the land of Bangladesh and that of the rural areas of the Islands proved favourable of the successful adaptation of the refugees to the Islands. Moreover, the basis of the actual agricultural practices is the rice culture in both the lands. Another reason behind their intrusion were the availability of the rich, unexplored lands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. By diluvian and devastating floods these immigrants often became landless and even without their homesteads. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands offered the taste of a refreshing life of peasant proprietorship.

The Burmans are agriculturists, the principal crop cultivated by them being rice. They are accustomed to forest life and sea fishing. The obvious choice of the place of settlement was therefore the rural areas of the Islands. Many of them were also employed as Bush police or in some job of the forest department.

Migration from Sri Lanka was insidious and cryptic in nature. The uprooted families took shelter in the abandoned camps of the forest labourers. The displaced migrants were totally divorced from their original homes in terms of climate and language. The psychological trauma of such displacement must surely have contributed to their total disorientation and was also responsible for the choice of rural areas for settlement.

It is observed that the proportion of non workers consisting largely of females were higher than the workers. The displaced migrant workers were associated with agricultural activities in the rural areas.

The on rush of the displaced migrants into the Islands as a result of the political settlements is somewhat unique in its nature. As it introduced explosive elements into population growth of the area firstly by their number and secondly by their favourable sex parity and the increase in fertility consequent on migration, which is particularly important from a long term point of view.

One of the interesting feature of the displaced migrants is that the sex ratio is more balanced, which indicates that the female participation in the migration process was no less important. This is not unexpected in view of the fact that female migrants largely moved on account of family movement. The displaced migrants have among them a good proportion of rural migrants who are most likely to have a fertility higher than that prevailing among the resident population. Thus the in-rush of the displaced migrants would have a twin effect on the births that would take place in the area of settlement. Firstly through the rise in the sex ratio and thus in the number of married females in the reproductive age, and then again through the increase in the level of fertility following migration. But it is expected that the sudden thrust in fertility would be smoothed out in course of time and would fall back to that existing among the resident females. But by then considerable number of females would have been added to the total population, ensuring a much higher rate of growth compared to that prevailing before the displaced migrants started flooding in. Thus, the displaced migrants have directly contributed a considerable amount to the population of the region and in future would be indirectly adding substantially to the natural increase of the Islands by giving birth to a large number. This prospect of the inflow of the displaced migrants is very important from the long term point of view.

Ordinary Migrants

The ordinary migrants formed nearly 50% of the total migrants in 1981. All along they formed a major constituent of the population of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and were therefore, instrumental in shaping the size of the population of the entire Islands. The figures shown in Tables 3 and 4 reveal that the size of the ordinary migrant is continuously rising, though their share in the total migrant population registered a continuous decline. These migrants are found to be ushering in largely from Southern states, followed by Eastern states and others. The Southern states consisted of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala. The Eastern states included Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland etc. Other states with modest representation from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh also contributed fragmentarily to the total share of Ordinary migrants. The Southern and Eastern states together accounted for over 87% of the Ordinary migrants in 1981. Southern states together contributed over 55%, dominated by those from Tamil Nadu (26%).

The flow of Ordinary migrants was predominantly from rural areas of other states of India. In 1981, over 78% of the migrants were from rural areas and the rest from urban areas. The pre-eminence of the rural areas is one of the important aspects of the migratory movement of the ordinary migrants. It may be inferred that the Ordinary migrants are mostly

surplus agricultural population pushed into the Islands to carry out a living. It is therefore likely that they do not possess any particular skill and are a mass of illiterate and unskilled labourers. The Ordinary migrants settled in the rural areas of the Island territory, but a growing preference for settlement in the urban areas is evident.

Ordinary migrants do not usually bring their families along with them. They come in search of jobs and leave behind their wives and children in their native villages and come mostly as single members. This is so because of the fact that the Ordinary migrants find it cheaper to visit their families at intervals rather than to bring and maintain them. The employment position of the female migrants is not very bright. Therefore their chances of supplementing the family income is also low. The Ordinary migrants are generally from low income groups, maintenance of the family in an unfamiliar area will impose an additional burden on them. Ordinary migrants are therefore single migrants accounting for a large number of males and hence an imbalance in the sex ratio is observed. However, with the only exception of the year 1961, there has been a gradual increase in the female participation in the migratory movements, since 1931. This increase in the female participation can be more closely related to the increase in construction activities which absorbed many female migrants in the low paying labouring jobs. However, the principal reason seems to have been to accompany or join male members of their family in this remote region. The increasing female participation in migration is an important factor in accounting for the finding that migrants are staying longer in their destinations. Ordinary migrants were more in number in the short period. This is in confirmation of our earlier observation that ordinary migrants are usually single and do not therefore intend to settle in the Islands. They reflect the phenomenon of 'return migration' observed by Rele (1969)—a practice quite widespread in India.

The share of the Ordinary migrant workers was more than the share of non-workers. Non agricultural activities were more important for the ordinary migrants in which service occupations was found to be more important. Over 56% of male ordinary migrants stated employment as the reason for migration while 90% of the females gave marriage, or family movements as the justification for their move. This confirms the opinion expressed by Premi (1989), Skeldon (1986), Rele (1969) who emphasised that in general India's women folk account for over 80% of their move because of marriage and other family consideration. They also held the view that females in India are unlikely to move independently of males. Rele too shared the same view point, when he stated that obligatory and non economic reasons cause females to leave the village while voluntary and economic reasons are prominent in the outmigration of males from villages.

For the Ordinary migrants it was found that besides the economic factors, a variety of non-economic stimuli influenced the migration streams into the Islands. The pull-push forces (Redford 1926; Lee 1966) also considerably affected the migration decision. After Independence, in the Islands, development and other economic activities which were geared up required a large man-power. For instance, along with large wood based industries, several cottage and small scale industries such as carpentry, coir industry, bamboo and other handicrafts were started. A project for electric power generation was also taken up. Local population was too small and scattered to provide sufficient labour for production, for

construction and for infrastructure! developments. The displaced migrants settled in the rural areas and adopted agricultural activities for living. It was, therefore, felt necessary to bring in labour from other states of India to meet the demand for labour.

Majority of the migrants had their origin in the rural areas of other states of India, chiefly from the rural areas of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh. The villages in these states that are characterised by land scarcity, skewed distribution of land and a high proportion of agricultural labourers are likely to induce a high rate of outmigration.

A major push factor is the state of employment opportunities at the area of origin. The size of the population, population density, man land ratio, labour force in manufacturing or the level of industrial development also influence the migration decision considerably.

The result of rapid growth of population is rising density. Population density of both the origin and destination will considerably influence the number of migrants. A high population density functions as a push factor encouraging people to move out of their area and go to the less populated areas. It is likely that overcrowded areas will not be a desirable or a suitable place for a potential migrant, who may face harsh competition for employment or accommodation. The obvious selection was therefore the Islands which provided a zone with vast areas, very sparse population and large unutilised sources of land and water.

In Bihar as a result of rapid growth of population the density of population also increased. There are some highly populated districts in Bihar such as Saran, Siwan, Patna, Vaishali, Darbhanga etc. where the population density is close to 1000 persons per square km or well over 1000. The high density figures reflect the population pressure on the land. The rising density therefore inevitably led to congestion and urban land scarcity. As a consequence to this, living conditions deteriorated and delivery of public services were reduced to minimum. These and a number of other factors promoted outmigration and were thus responsible for a substantial push away from the hinterland. Arable land scarcity also generated a powerful rural push accounting for heavy rural emigration.

Geographic distance is also an important factor influencing migration. The available theories—Ravenstein (1885), Rempel (1970), Conell, *et al* (1976) suggest that Emigration between regions tend to decrease as the distance separating them increases. This implies, everything else being equal, the time, cost and effort needed to surmount the distance obstacle is great enough to inhibit migration. It seems likely that the migration process that was operating in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was broadly similar to that originally described by Ravenstein (1885) who observed that "the great body of our migrants only proceed a short distance" and "migrants enumerated in a certain centre of absorption will... grow less as distance from the centre increases". The distance from Madras being less the inflow from the Southern states was relatively higher.

Migration from Eastern states was no less significant. Migrants from Bihar cover an additional distance as there is no direct link to Port-Blair. The fact that they covered a significant distance to reach their destination may be explained following Lee (1966). According to Lee, apart from the factors associated with the area of origin, area of destination and intervening obstacles, personal factors greatly influenced the decision to migrate. In this connection it would be worthwhile mentioning the fact that the conflicts in families, scarcity

of food, escape from law were some of the strong reasons for large scale outmigration from Bihar.

Internal Migrants

The internal migrants in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands constituted over 48% of the total migrants in 1981. The internal migrants were largely from rural areas and their movement was directed to the rural areas. Like Ordinary migrants they too exhibit sex and age selective migration. They are short distance, short term migrants, being more in number in the short period. The share of internal migrant workers were more compared to the non workers and were largely found to be associated with non agricultural activities, particularly in construction.

The male internal migrants moved primarily for employment while the female migration was due to family movement. It has also been observed that migration within the island territory was largely from rural areas and they reflected a rural bias. This urban-rural differences in propensity to migrate is in line with Ravenstein's (1889) observation. According to him "the natives of the town are less migratory than those of the rural parts of the country".

After the fifties, there was an increase in economic activity in the Islands. The major thrust was on inter-island mainland transport. The sudden spurt of economic activity in the post independence period, therefore led to considerable increase in mobility within the Islands. This can be attributed to the inter-island improvement in transport which confirms the observations of Ravenstein (1889), Greenwood (1978), Narayana (1990) who emphasised that the mobility of the population increases with the improvement in transportation and communication. Ravenstein observed that "an increase in the means of locomotion and a development of manufactures and commerce led to an increase of migration".

Conclusion

The present paper attempts to study the pattern and trend of migration in the entire group of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 1901-1981. It shows that the migrants in the Islands formed an important constituent of population. In 1981, 58% of the total population were migrants.

A section of the migrants were from outside India, a sizeable number from other states of India and those- from within the territory. Their respective shares in the total migrant population in 1981 were 2%, 50% and 48%. It is found that the share of Ordinary migrants is declining whereas the share of the internal migrants is increasing.

It is observed that 90% of the migrants from countries other than India were displaced migrants. The movement of these migrants was rather forced in nature. The rest of the migrants from other countries largely came to the Islands for employment and other services. The displaced migrants indicated a balanced sex ratio. They preferred to settle in the rural areas of the island territory and were mainly associated with agricultural activities.

The Ordinary migrants were found to be age and sex selective. A characteristic feature of these migrants was that, they were largely from rural areas of other states and generally settled in the rural areas of the Island territory. However, a growing preference for settlement in the urban area is evident. Non agricultural activities were more important for the ordinary migrants in which service occupations found the prime importance. For the Ordinary migrants it was found that beside the economic factors a variety of non-economic stimuli influenced the flow of migration stream into the islands. The pull push forces considerably affected the migration decision. The internal migrants in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were largely from rural areas and their movement was directed to the rural areas. Like Ordinary migrants they too exhibit sex and age selective migration. The share of internal migrant workers were more compared to the non-workers. The workers were found to be associated mainly with non-agricultural activities particularly in construction.

To conclude, the current work presents—the trend and pattern of migration in a Union-Territory of India, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It also indicates the social, economic and other forces responsible for the movement of the population and brings to light the nature of population redistribution in the Territory.

References

- Connell, J., Dasgupta, B., Laishely, R. and Lipton, M, 1976, *Migration from Rural Areas: The Evidence from Village Studies*. Delhi, India; Oxford University Press. Dey, Chhonda, 1992, Migration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during 1901 -1981: Trend and Pattern, *M. Phil Dissertation*, Economics Department, Jadavpur University. Ghosh, A., 1989, *Report on the Study on a Development Strategy for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands*, ICSSR, New-Delhi. Greenwood, M. J., 1978, An Econometric model of internal migration and regional economic growth in Mexico, *Journal of Regional Science*, 18: 17-31.
- Lee, E. S., 1966, A Theory of Migration. In: Jackson (ed.), *Migration*, Cambridge University Press. Narayana, R. M., 1990, Market equilibrium in a two region federal economy: Alternative theoretical formulations and empirical implication, *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, 7:93-114. Premi, M. K., 1989, Pattern of Internal Migration in India. In: Singh, Premi, Bhatia and Bose (eds.), *Population Transition in India*. B.R. Publishing Corporation.
- Ravenstein, E. G., 1885, The laws of migration, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, 48(2). Ravenstein, E. G., 1889. The laws of migration. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, 52:241-301 Redford, R., 1926, *Labour Migration in England, 1800-1850*. Manchester University Press. Rele, J. R., 1969, Trends and significance of internal migration in India. *Sankhya*, B-31 (3-4). Rempel, H., 1970, *Labour Migration into Urban Centres and Urban Unemployment in Kenya*, University of Wisconsin. Skeldon, R., 1986, On migration patterns in India during the 1970s, *Population and Development Review*, 12 (4): 759-779.