



## Migration: A study of Varanasi city of Uttar Pradesh

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### Abstract

In today's world the rapid pace of urbanization has propelled many challenges in cities and recent phase of developing cities as smart cities has even increased challenges in urban sectors. One of the major challenges that urban sectors are facing today is migration and migration has been a trend since ancient times but the intensity of migration in 21st century has brought with itself various, whether it is increase in slums, pressure on existing infrastructure of the cities and obstacles in providing a better level of standard of living by the local administration as demand has propelled many times in respect to supply and uneven settlement of this segment of population has even worsened the condition by hampering the supply chain, as there has been large influx of migrating population in the city and there has been a constant tug of war between development and development for all which entails providing basic amenities to all but even distribution of the population and perception of the population has also increased the problem. The positive aspect of seeing migration as a problem is employing this population of working age in productive employment opportunities which to some extent help in curtailing the differences between have and have not. In light of this the current paper has tried to dwell in to the problem of migration in city of Varanasi as this trend of migration has created multiple issues such as, a question mark on rural development, an increased burden on infrastructure of urban areas and imbalance in overall economic development. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the migration pattern, impact of migration on socio-economic variables of the migrated population in the city of Varanasi one of the holy city of Uttar Pradesh and suggest a road map which to some extent help in resolving various issues created by migration which in turn will help in a planned development to all involving the last person living in the society.

**Keywords:** migration, urbanization, rural development, socio-economic imbalances. JEL classifications: j11, j61, o15

### Introduction

The roots of migration can be traced back to the evolution of human kind, and for centuries it was practiced by humans for its betterment and growth, whether it was in the form of search for a new kingdom or dynasty or the zeal to explore new avenues of trade and commerce and it was also mentioned in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13, Para. 1 and 2 that "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state" and "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country".

The rate of migration has gained momentum on the backdrop of increasing urbanization rate and there has been a trend of continuous movement of population from less developed rural/urban clusters to more developed urban clusters in the desire of living a '*minimum standard of living*' (i.e., daily livelihood, better education for children, medical facilities and other basic amenities which are essential for the survival of a human being).

### Need for Study

The mobility (rural to urban areas and urban to urban areas) in turn has poised many problems in the urban cities and the blistering example is the rise in the number of slums and squatter settlements, but the implication of the foregoing is that attention has focused disproportionately on the rapid urban growth or rural-urban migration as the sole or major

factor determining the proliferation of slums and squatter settlements in developing countries (Costello, 1987; Muwonge, 1980; Salih, 1980; Srivastava and Singh, 1996; Tindigarukayo, 2004 cited by Arimah, 2001) [2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 1]. In respect to this Srivastava and Singh (1996, p. 58) [8] (cited by Arimah, 2001) [1] stated "Migration from rural areas is the root cause of increasing slums", but there are also other economic, social, political, institutional and historical factors whose impacts are not known with much degree of certainty, as they have rarely been the focus of rigorous empirical investigation (Arimah, 2001) [1].

### Objective

The objective of current paper is to address the situation of migration in Varanasi city of Uttar Pradesh and study the various socio-economic aspects arising out of migration. The core objective of this research paper was to bring out the ground reality of the migrants and the paper has attempted to throw some light on the aspect of reverse migration.

### Research Methodology

The data was collected through a structured questionnaire which consisted 20 questions of close ended type out of which 18 questions having relevancy were taken from around 145 valid respondents. The area of survey was taken which represented large population of migrants in the city, and care was taken to sketch a vivid picture of each city through taking

responses from different pockets of both the cities.

**Analysis and Interpretation**

Table 1 shows the age structure of migrants in both the cities to bring out a clear picture of the migrant population.

**Table 1: Age Structure of Migrants**

Age Group (Years)	(%)
< 20	26 (17.93)
21 - 35	63 (43.45)
36 - 50	19 (15.17)
51 - 65	25 (17.24)
66 - 75	8 (5.52)
> 75	1 (0.69)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 shows that around 43.45 per cent (i.e., 63 out of 145) respondents in Varanasi fall in the age group of 21 to 35 which represents the working age group. In the single age group category there were around 17.93 per cent respondents. There were around 5.52 per cent respondents in the age group of 66 to 75 which signifies large family structure of the migrants.

**Table 2: Gender Wise Break Up of Migrants**

Gender	(%)
Male	124 (85.52)
Female	19 (13.10)
Transgender	2 (1.38)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

From Table 2 we infer that around 85.52 per cent of the respondents in Varanasi were in the male category, followed by 13.10 per cent in the female category. A category of transgender received two respondents (i.e., 1.38 per cent) in Varanasi who migrated from Gorakhpur and the reason for migrating was not given.

**Table 3: Marital Status of Migrants**

Marital Status	(%)
Single	24 (16.55)
Married and living with family	98 (67.59)
Married but not living with family	8 (5.52)
Widowed/Widower	5 (3.45)
Divorced	1 (0.69)
Others	9 (6.21)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

In Table 3 around 67.59 per cent (i.e., 98 respondents) were married and staying with their family followed by 16.55 per cent in the single category, around 5.52 per cent of the respondents were basically labourers who migrated to the city for a very short duration in relation to the contract work being assigned, leaving behind their families in villages and in other smaller cities of origin. A revelation during the survey which came out was the other category was around 6.21 per cent, this category consisted of males/females were living in the same

family but not married but having kids.

**Table 4: Education Status of Migrants**

Level of Education	(%)
Middle	2 (1.38)
Secondary	8 (5.52)
Higher secondary	2 (1.38)
Literate	21 (14.48)
Illiterate	112 (77.24)
Others	0 (0.00)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Around 77.24 per cent of the respondents were illiterate in. The literacy level was mere 14.48 per cent and a meagre 1.38 per cent of the migrants attained education up to higher secondary level. The major cited for such large scale illiteracy was unaffordability of schooling facilities due to large family size as majority of respondents started working at very early age to support their family.

**Table 5: No. of Children in Migrants families**

No of Children	(%)
0	22 (15.17)
1-4	67 (46.21)
5-7	34 (23.45)
>8	22 (15.17)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

An analysis of Table 5 shows that around 22 (i.e., 15.17 per cent) have no children, followed by 46.21 per cent having children in the range of around 1-4 children per family. In terms of children above 4 there were around 23.45 per cent in and around 15.17 per cent cited having children above 8 per family. The large size of the family has an adverse effect on the income structure of the respondents as majority of the income is spent on fulfilling the basic requirements of children.

**Table 6: Occupation of the Migrants**

Employment Avenues	(%)
Works in hotels/shops	45 (31.03)
Road side sellers	9 (6.21)
Workers at construction site	8 (5.52)
Loaders/porters	17 (11.72)
Rag picker	6 (4.14)
Shoe polisher	2 (1.38)
Rickshaw puller	19 (13.10)
Auto driver	8 (5.52)
Others	28 (19.31)
No work	3 (2.07)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 shows that around 31.03 per cent of the migrant respondents were engaged as dish cleaners and waiter at hotels/shops, followed by 13.10 per cent who were rickshaw pullers. Around 11.72 per cent of respondents were employed as loader/porters. The others category represents around 19.31

per cent which majorly consisted of respondents working as sex workers, drug peddlers and other options which on the request of the respondents have been kept undisclosed.

**Table 7: Income Pattern of Migrants**

Income (Rs)	(%)
None	9 (6.21)
1-100	37 (25.52)
101- 200	47 (32.41)
201-300	32 (22.07)
301-400	11 (7.59)
401-500	7 (4.83)
> 501	2 (1.38)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

On analyzing Table 7 an understanding can be drawn about the Income pattern of the migrant population in the city of Varanasi, and it can be seen that around 25.52 per cent of the respondents earn in the income range of Rs. 1-100 per day a large chunk of migrant population is unable to earn a respectable income to support their family many of the respondents during survey cited non payment of full salary to them and they continue to work in belief of getting the full payment in the near future. Around 32.41 per cent of the migrant respondents are earning in the income range of Rs 101-200, followed by 22.07 per cent in the range of Rs 201-300. In terms of earning above Rs 300 per day around 7.59 per cent of the respondents were cited. There were around 1.38 per cent who were earning above Rs 500 per day.

**Table 8: Saving Pattern of Migrants**

Saving Amount	(%)
None	9 (6.21)
1-50	19 (13.10)
51-150	37 (25.52)
151-250	25 (17.24)
251-350	28 (19.31)
> 351	27 (18.62)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

Table 8 shows that around 25.52 per cent of the respondents save in the range of Rs 51-150 and 19.31 per cent in the range of Rs 251-350, there were around 17.24 per cent respondents in the range of Rs 151-250 and in terms of saving above Rs 350 around 18.62 per cent respondents were cited.

**Table 9: Expenditure Pattern of Migrants**

Expenditure(Rs.)	Varanasi (%)
None	8 (5.52)
1 - 100	62 (42.76)
101-200	32 (22.07)
201-300	30 (20.69)
> 300	13 (8.97)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 shows that around 42.76 per cent respondents spend in the range of Rs 1-100 on a daily basis. In the range of Rs 201-300 there were around 20.69 per cent respondents. Around 8.97 per cent of the respondents were spending >Rs 300 on daily basis in Varanasi city.

**Table 10: Migration Pattern of Migrants**

Place of Migration	(%)
Rural to Urban area	48 (33.10)
Urban to Urban area	40 (27.59)
Change of place within city (Short Migration)	57 (39.31)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

Table 10 shows that around 33.10 per cent of the respondents migrated from rural to urban area in search of better employment opportunities and standard of living, followed by around 27.59 per cent from urban to urban area. In terms of short migration there were around 39.31 per cent respondents who migrated from one place of the city to another on the backdrop of eviction from government authorities and change of place of work. This trend of migratory pattern in the city was on the back fall that majority of the respondents cited desire of living better life and regular income opportunities.

**Table 11: Cause of Migration**

Reasons	(%)
No work	13 (8.97)
Not Sufficient Income	78 (53.79)
Irregular Pattern/Tenure of employment	38 (26.21)
Medical	12 (8.28)
Others	4 (2.76)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

Table 11 reveals that around 53.79 per cent of migrant respondents in Varanasi cited Irregular pattern/Tenure of employment as the major reason for migration, followed by 26.21 per cent Irregular pattern/Tenure of employment. Even though schemes like MNREGA have to a large extent controlled the pattern of migration.

**Table 12: Period of Migration**

Place of Stay	(%)
By Birth	14 (9.66)
Less than 1 year	10 (6.90)
1-5 year	22 (15.17)
6 – 10 years	27 (18.62)
> 10 years	72 (49.66)
Total	145 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data

Table 12 shows that around 49.66 per cent of the respondents were found staying at current location for more than 10 years, followed by 18.62 per cent between 6–10 years. There were around 9.66 per cent respondents in who were living by birth

at the same location, on enquiry the respondents said that their forefathers migrated way back.

**Table 13:** Place of Stay of Migrants

Place of Stay	(%)
Slums	72 (49.66 )
Footpaths	24 (16.55)
Under flyover/Bridges	7 (4.83 )
Relatives House	4 (2.76 )
Night Shelters	0 (0.00 )
Open Sky	16 (11.03)
Railway Platforms/Bus Stand	8 (5.52 )
At place of work	14 (9.66 )
Total	145 (100.00 )

Source: Primary Data

Around 49.66 per cent of respondents (refer Table 13) were found to be living in slums. The second most preferred destination of living was place of work and it was 9.66 per cent. The majority of migrant population was found living in slums with families in very pathetic condition lacking the basic amenities.

**Table 14:** Reverse Migration Perception of Migrants

Desire to Go Back	(%)
Yes	133 (91.72)
No	4 (2.76)
No response	8 (5.52)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 14 shows that around 91.72 per cent of the respondents shared their willingness to go back to their place of origin if proper and regular employment opportunities were provided to them. A meagre 2.76 per cent of the respondents cited unwillingness to return which is not so significant. An analysis which emerges from the above table is that a more structured and refined policy initiative can to a large extent curtail the migratory pattern.

**Table 15:** Motivating Factors for Reverse Migration

Factors	(%)
Employment	120 (90.23)
Education	5 (3.76)
Healthcare Facilities	8 (6.02)
Others	0 (0.00)
Total	133 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 15 shows that around 90.23 per cent of the respondents cited employment as the major factor to revert back to their place of origin. All other factors such as education, healthcare and other facilities were on the second preference. A understanding which came out during the survey was that majority of respondents admitted that they were employed in the rural/less developed areas of their origin but the income and continuity is a major factor.

**Table 16:** Perceived Benefit of Migration by Migrants

Response	(%)
Yes	87 (60.00)
No	47 (32.41)
No Response	11 (7.59)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Around 60.00 per cent of the respondents (refer Table 16) cited being benefitted from migration on the various aspects (refer Table 17). Around 32.41 per cent of the respondents cited that they have been not benefitted from migration as they social as well as economic aspect has not changed much due to migration. There were around 7.59 respondents who were neutral as they were unable to assess their pre and post migration condition.

**Table 17:** Perceived Growth Aspect of Migration

Various Aspects of Migrant Population	(%)
Employment	98 (67.59)
Health	11 (7.59)
Education	9 (6.21)
Living Condition	7 (4.83)
Social Aspects	20 (13.79)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 17 shows that around 67.59 per cent of the respondents cited that they were benefitted from employment avenues available to them at their current location in comparison to their place of origin, even though majority of them are employed in unorganized/informal sectors, but continuity of the occupation and the desire to gain in the future acted as a force to stay. Around 13.79 per cent of the respondents cited improvement in social aspects due to migration which means; the men and women migrants learn and experience the cultural attitudes, political ideas and behaviour of their new environments. These may be quite different from those they left behind

**Table 18:** Working Hours of Migrants

Working Hours	Pre Migration (%)
< 8	8 (5.52)
8 hours	78 (53.79)
9 - 12 hours	38 (26.21)
> 12 hours	21 (14.48)
Total	145 (100)
Working Hours	Post Migration
< 8 hours	2 (1.38)
8 hours per day	13 (8.97)
9 - 12 hours	42 (28.97)
> 12 hours	88 (60.69)
Total	145 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Table 18 shows the working hours of the migrant respondents in respect to pre and post migration (i.e., the number of hours respondents use to work before they migrated and after they

migrated to earn their livelihood) and it can be seen that in terms of pre migration working hours around 53.79 per cent respondents worked up to 8 hrs to earn their livelihood, but in terms of post migration around 60.69 per cent respondents were working above 12 hours to earn their income. An inference which was drawn during the survey was that many respondents were found working in multiple jobs as a single occupation was insufficient to support their expenditure pattern.

### Findings and Conclusion

The findings from the paper disclose that majority of the influx of migrant population in the city of Varanasi was on the backdrop of lack of employment opportunities at their birth places and it was also stated by Dhar (1980)<sup>[3]</sup>; Kundu and Sarangi (2007)<sup>[4]</sup> that, any long-term plan aiming at an increase in labour productivity and rural employment opportunities should consider the possibility of migration of a relatively large proportion of population away from areas with relatively low agronomic potential.

The paper reveals that majority of the migrants were to a major extent satisfied with their current condition and a large chunk of the migrant respondents was ready to revert back to their places of origin given that regular and adequate earning opportunities are provided to these people. A positive aspect of migration was also noticed during the survey that the process of migration has in fact helped them to be more socially developed due to the environment of living. According to Portes and Rivas (2011)<sup>[6]</sup> migrants make much progress, on average, from the first to the second generation, both culturally and socioeconomically.

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