

B.A. Part III (Economics Honours)
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LABOUR MIGRATION

Human migration is a universal phenomenon. It is a process through which people move from a permanent place of residence to another more or less permanent one for a substantial period of time.

Migration may be classified as rural to urban, urban to urban, urban to rural and rural to rural. Migration leads to redistribution of people at the origin and at the place of destination. Population tends to migrate from low opportunity areas to higher opportunity areas.

Intensive agriculture, establishment of industries and higher living standards are the major reasons for providing work opportunities.

According to the International Migrant Stock 2019 report (released by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), India with 17.5 million international migrants has emerged as the top source of international migrants, constituting 6.4% of world's total migrant population.

One of the characteristic features of the industrial labour in India is that it is mostly of a migratory character in the sense that the workers employed in most industries do not claim as their home town the place at which they work. In other words, the Indian factory labourers do not constitute a wage earning class exactly corresponding to the factory labourers in the western countries.

Types of Migration

People move for many reasons, based on which types of human migration include **internal migration** (moving within a state, country, or continent) and **external migration** (moving to a different state, country, or continent).

Internal migration in india is primarily of two types:

- Long term Migration, resulting in the relocation of an individual or household.
- Short term Migration, involving back and forth movement between a source and destination.
 - Internal Migrants in India constitute a large population of 309 million internal migrants or 30 percent of the population (Census of India 2001).
 - When a person is enumerated in the census at a different place than his / her place of birth, she/he is considered a migrant.
 - Female Migration: Out of the total internal migrants, 70.7 percent are women (Census of India 2001) and marriage is one of the major reasons for female migration in both the rural and urban areas.
 - Male Migration: Migration for employment-related reasons is one of the prominent reasons for male migration in both rural and urban areas.
 - Employing Sectors: Migrants are mostly employed in subsectors like construction, domestic work, textile, brick-kilns, transportation, mines, quarries, and agriculture.

- Urbanization: Rates of urbanization influence rural-urban wage differences and an increase in the demand for labor in urban areas can push up urban wages and increase migration.

External Migration

- External migration in India can broadly be classified as:
 - Emigration from India to various parts of the world.
 - Immigration of people from different countries to India.
 - Refugee Migration: There had also been a significant trend of an involuntary or forced immigration to India in the form of refugees.