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Topic: Causes of Migration

Migration & the Census of India

In the Indian Census, migration is signified by two types:

Migration by birthplace

Migration by place of last residence

The census also covers the reasons for migration which are:

Work/Employment

Business

Education

Marriage

Moved after birth

Moved with household

As per 2001 census:

5.3 crore migrants were recorded who moved from one village to another

2.1 crores migrants moved from the villages to towns

62 lakhs migrants from moved from towns to villages

1.4 crore migrants moved from one town to another



Maharashtra topped the list of the states w.r.t the number of net migrants (23.8 lakh)

Uttar Pradesh (-26.9 lakh) and Bihar (- 17.2 lakh) were the two states with the largest number of persons migrating out of the two states.

Causes of Migration

People, generally, are emotionally attached to their place of birth. But millions of people leave their places of birth and residence. There could be a variety of reasons. These reasons can be put into two broad categories:

Push factors, these cause people to leave their place of residence or origin; and

Pull factors, which attract people from different places.

In India, people migrate from rural to urban areas mainly due to poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic infrastructural facilities like health care, education, etc.

Apart from these factors, natural disasters such as floods, drought, cyclonic storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, wars and local conflicts also give an extra push to migrate.

On the other hand, there are pull factors that attract people from rural areas to cities.

The most important pull factor for the majority of the rural migrants to urban areas is the better opportunities, availability of regular work and relatively higher wages.

Better opportunities for education, better health facilities and sources of entertainment, etc., are also quite significant pull factors.

