



CENSUS TALES ON INDIAN MIGRATION FOR EDUCATION

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Abstract:

Census data on migration indicate increased movement of people over the years. The present study explores the status of migration in the Indian states and examines its gender dimension as well as spatial variations. There are regional variations in the extent of total migration, female migration and rural migration. It is seen that migrants are mostly females and are concentrated in the rural areas. The agrarian belt of Eastern and Central India witnesses higher incidence. Marriage is the most prominent cause of migration and work/employment is important for males. Nonetheless, social factors of migration are dominant overall. Education as a cause of migration is not very prominent but has higher relevance in the North-eastern region

Keywords: Census, Migration, migrants, education

1, Introduction

The decadal census of population collects, compiles, analyses demographic, economic and social data of all persons in a country (or a well-defined geographical territory) existing at a particular point of time. In other words, census provides information on the households and population through a complete enumeration. In India, the Census is considered to be the most exhaustive source of information on area and population, gender composition, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, age structure and marital status, literacy and level of education, housing, household amenities and assets, economic activity, religion, disability and many other socio-cultural and demographic data since 1872. Apart from the those stated, the census of India provides exhaustive information about the nature and trends of movement of people across the country, thereby emerging as an important source to understand the dimension and dynamism of migration in India.

It may be pertinent here to note that the temporary or permanent movement of people from one geographic location to another owing to a variety of reasons ranging from better employment to religious persecution is called migration (Hagen-Zanker, 2008) and the person moving to a new place is a migrant. Migration is the third most important determinant of population after fertility and mortality (Bhagat, 2005). Interestingly, Census records two types of migrants- migrants by place of birth (MPB) and migrants by place of last residence (MLR). MPB are those who are enumerated at a different village/town during census other than their place of birth, whereas, a person is considered as MLR, if he/she is enumerated during census at different place other than his place of immediate last residence. The Census data records the movement of people as intra-district migration, inter-district migration, inter-state migration along with the rural and urban specifications. Moreover, the records on the time-frame of migration, direction of migration and the causes of migration are also collated. It is to be noted that there are seven causes of migration like- work/employment, business, education, marriage, moved with household, moved after birth and others as per census classification. The cause named 'Others' is an envelope term to take account of factors like- movement due to partition; internal displacement due to developmental interventions like construction of highways, large irrigation projects and industrial establishments; forced movement due to manmade disasters like riots, social unrest and ethnic disturbances and lastly also includes migration arising from natural, environmental and ecological disasters like earthquakes, landslides, droughts and floods.

Migration is an important consideration in India and has substantial effect on national economy and society owing to its multi-faceted influences at the individual level, household level and regional level (Srivastava and Sasikumar, 2003). In course of the recent pandemic, the country witnessed great distress and the trouble for the migrants had been much severe as was observed in the several media reports and shows. The impact of migration was felt at the source or origin as well as in the destination. The theoretical expositions on migration indicate a flow of people from rural to urban areas; from the agrarian areas to the developed/ industrialised areas: but there are migrations based on aspiration too as suggested in the literatures classified under new economics of labour migration (NELM).

This paper is structured into five sections including the present Introduction. Section 2 provides the Objectives, Data and Methodology. In Section 3, extent of migration is analysed while the fourth section discusses about the causes of migration. Summary and conclusion are provided in the final section.

2. Objectives, Data & Methodology

It is in this background that we take up the present study with the following objectives-

1. To explore the extent of migration among the states of India and examine the inter-regional variations, if any
2. To explore the causes of migration in India
3. To explore the extent of education as a cause of migration and analyse the regional differences, if any

In order to fulfil the stated objectives, we have used the final D- Series of Census 2011 data that focuses exclusively on Migration in India. This data set was published in late 2019 and is extremely exhaustive. Standard analytical and statistical tools have been used for analysis and necessary tables and charts have been used for easier comprehension.

The six zonal classifications of the country adopted by NITI Aayog was used for studying inter-regional variations. These zones are – 1) Northern Zone: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi & Chandigarh; 2) North-Eastern zone: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya & Nagaland; 3) Central Zone: Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; 4) Eastern Zone: Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim and West Bengal; 5) Western Zone: Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Daman& Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli; 6) Southern Zone: Andhra Pradesh, Andaman& Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. ANOVA was used to examine the existence of mean difference, if any.

3. Extent of Migration

The number of MPB in India was 44.73 crores in 2011 as seen in Table 1. Domestic migrants were expectedly the pre-dominant group accounting for more than 98.7% of the total. Among the domestic migrants, intra-state migrants were the majority. Almost 87% of the Indian migrants had moved within their state itself. As a single group, most of them (59.04%), are from the intra-district category suggesting migration within shorter distance. International migrants, i.e., persons born in other countries but are residing in India accounted for 1.2% of the migrants of the country.

Table 1 also shows that the number of migrants by last residence is a bit higher, 45.57 crores. 39.56 crores of the MLR are intra-state migrants while 5.42 crores are inter-state migrants. The rest, around 0.55 crores, are international migrants. The proportional distribution of

MLR and MPB are quite similar, with dominance of domestic and intra-district migration. However, it is very interesting to note that the number of inter-district and inter-state migrants have been less in not just in proportional terms but also in absolute terms for MLR as compared to MPB. It may be noted here that in 2001, the total number of MPB and MLR was 30.71 crores and 31.45 crores respectively (Bhowmik, 2020). The inter census period of 2001 to 2011 witnessed almost 45% increase in the absolute number of migrants in the country while the increase in population was almost 19% in absolute terms.

Table 1: Type of Migrants in India- 2011 (in Crores)

		MLB	MLR
A = (1+2)	Domestic Migrants	44.16 [98.73]	44.99 [98.71]
1 = (a+ b)	Intra-State	38.53 [86.14]	39.56 [86.80]
A	Intra-district	26.41 [59.04]	27.75 [60.88]
B	Inter-district	12.12 [27.10]	11.81 [25.92]
2	Inter-state	5.63 [12.59]	5.42 [11.91]
B	International	0.536 [1.20]	0.542 [1.21]
C	Unclassifiable	0.03 [0.07]	0.04 [0.08]
D= [A+B+C]	Total Migrants	44.73 [100]	45.57 [100]

Source: Computed from various Census Reports

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage;

Table 2 shows that Maharashtra has the largest number of migrants in the country, 5.73 crores while Uttar Pradesh is marginally lower and comes second with around 5.64 crores of migrants. The least number are found in Lakshadweep, 19874 persons. However, in terms of percentage Goa leads with 78.21% while Jammu & Kashmir has the minimum proportion of migrants, 22.57%. It is to be noted that Goa, Chandigarh, Daman & Dui, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Pondicherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra, Punjab, Kerala, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh remain above the all-India average of 37.64%. The remaining states of India; West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Bihar, Meghalaya and Jammu & Kashmir are found to have migration rates lower than the average. Among the major states, Maharashtra has the largest proportion of migrant population (51%), while large agrarian states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have less than 30% of its residents classified as a migrant.

Table 2: Extent of Migration in India

States and UT	Total Migrants (Nos.)	Migrants Share (%)	Female Share (%)	Rural Share (%)
A & N Islands	216341	56.84	49.04	64.10
Andhra Pradesh	38360644	45.35	61.95	58.99
Arunachal Pradesh	630831	45.59	52.31	64.45
Assam	10644234	34.11	65.5	79.44
Bihar	27244869	26.17	85.92	85.40
Chandigarh	678188	64.26	46.58	2.90
Chhattisgarh	8888075	34.79	73.93	67.90
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	188057	54.71	45.1	33.33
Daman & Diu	148592	61.09	33.69	14.70
Delhi	7224514	43.03	48.07	2.42
Goa	1140690	78.21	52.9	38.12
Gujarat	26898286	44.50	62.84	48.70
Haryana	10585460	41.75	69.81	51.90
Himachal Pradesh	2647067	38.56	74.8	84.10
Jammu & Kashmir	2809629	22.40	70.38	65.05
Jharkhand	9659702	29.28	79.29	67.57
Karnataka	26463170	43.31	61.44	56.21
Kerala	17863419	53.47	59.06	55.04
Lakshadweep	20401	31.64	41.68	20.85
Madhya Pradesh	24735119	34.06	74.07	66.10
Maharashtra	57376776	51.06	57.85	51.12
Manipur	686935	24.05	64.88	64.22
Meghalaya	759554	25.60	46.63	72.18
Mizoram	387370	35.31	50.08	34.81
Nagaland	549618	27.78	48.85	50.00
Odisha	15421793	36.74	72.59	77.41
Puducherry	712401	57.09	55.13	32.98
Punjab	13735616	49.51	63.01	57.31
Rajasthan	22071482	32.20	79.15	71.75
Sikkim	247049	40.46	55.85	62.85
Tamil Nadu	31274107	43.35	59.12	46.56
Tripura	1299623	35.37	62.73	67.43
Uttar Pradesh	56452083	28.25	80.17	70.97
Uttarakhand	4317454	42.81	65.69	62.64
West Bengal	33448472	36.65	69.38	63.83
Total	455787621	37.64	67.94	61.04

Source: Census of India 2011

Further from Table 2, we find that almost 68% of the migrants by last residence are female. The dominance of females as migrants is visible more strongly among the larger states like Bihar (85.32%), Uttar Pradesh (80.17%), Jharkhand (79.29%) and Rajasthan (73.15%).

On the other hand, the shares of males are comparatively higher in small sized zones like Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. On the other hand, the number of rural migrants is 27.82 crores, whereas the rest, 17.75 crores stay in urban areas, indicating that majority of the migrants, 61.04%, stay in rural areas and the remaining 38.96% resides in urban areas. The top five states in terms of rural dominance in terms of migrants are Bihar (85.4%), Himachal Pradesh (84.1%), Assam (79.44%), Odisha (77.41%) and Meghalaya (72.18%). Expectedly, rural migrants are less in urbanised areas like Delhi and Chandigarh. Among the states, Mizoram (34.81%) indicate the least rates for rural share, while industrialised states like Goa, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana also depict relatively lower rates of rural incidence of migration.

Table 3 Zone Specific Migration Rates

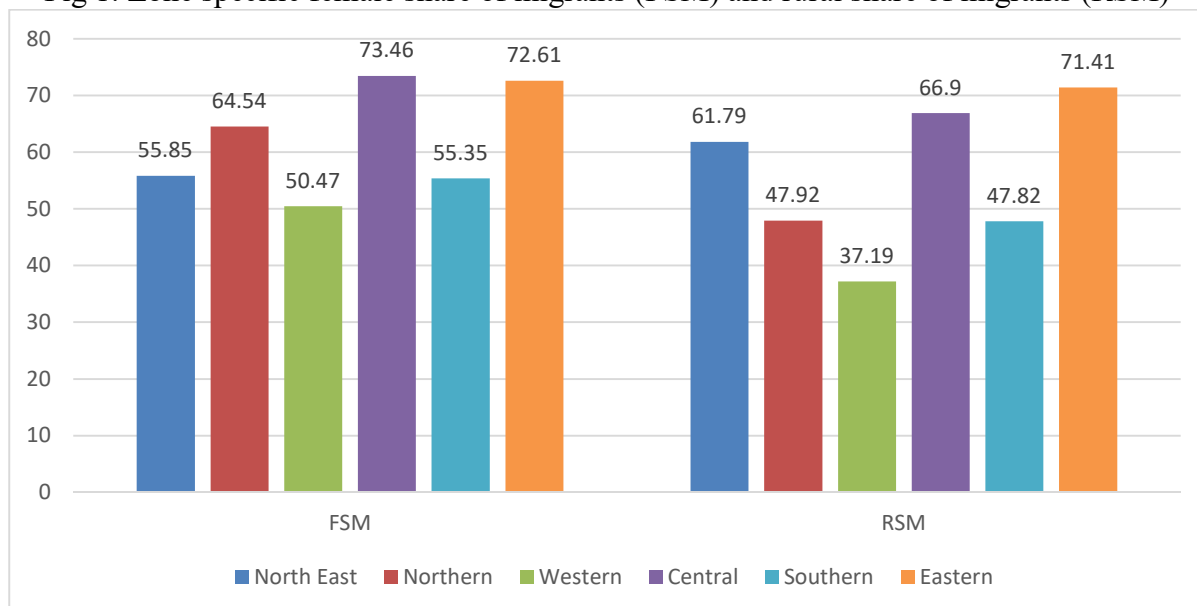
Zone	Share of Migrants	Max [Place (%)]	Min [Place (%)]
NORTHERN	41.67	Chandigarh [64.26]	Jammu & Kashmir [22.40]
NORTH-EASTERN	32.54	Arunachal Pradesh [45.59]	Manipur [24.05]
EASTERN	33.86	Sikkim [40.46]	Bihar [26.17]
CENTRAL	34.90	Uttarakhand [42.81]	Uttar Pradesh [28.25]
WESTERN	57.91	Goa [78.21]	Gujarat [44.50]
SOUTHERN	47.29	Puducherry [57.09]	Lakshadweep [31.64]

Source: Computed from Census of India 2011

Table 3 indicate that the incidence of migrants has been highest in the western region (57.91%) with Goa leading with 78.21% and least in Gujarat (44.50%). The average of the incidence of migration is least in the North-eastern region (32.54%). Eastern and Central region have marginally higher incidence rate while Northern (41.67%) and Southern (47.29%) regions indicate much higher incidence of migration. Interestingly, the lowest rate of Western region, Gujarat, is higher than the highest rate of Central (Uttarakhand) and Eastern (Sikkim) region.

Fig 1, on the other hand shows that female share among migrants are high at the Central region followed by the Eastern region with an average of 73.46% and 72.61% respectively. The average rate is least, 50.47%, in the Western region. On the other hand, in terms of the rural share of migrants, we find that it is the Eastern region (71.41%) at the top followed by Central region (66.9%). The rates are lowest in the Western zone (37.19%), suggesting that migrants in the western region are predominantly urban dwellers.

Fig 1: Zone specific female share of migrants (FSM) and rural share of migrants (RSM)



Source: Computed from Census Data

Table 4 indicates that the mean rates for share of migrants in total population (TMS) varies substantially across the zones with the F value being 5.42 indicating a level of significance at 1% level. Moreover, the F-value for the share of females in total migrants (FMS) is a bit less, 4.76, yet the level of significance is same. However, the mean difference among the share of rural incidence among the total migrants (RMS) across the zones is significant at 10% level following an F value of 2.52, indicating lesser degree of variation.

Table 4: ANOVA: Zonal Variation (Df= 5,29)

	F Values	Sig
Share of Migrants in Total Population (TMS)	5.42	0.001
Share of females in total migrants (FMS)	4.76	0.003
Share of Rural incidence among total migrants (RMS)	2.52	0.052

Source: Computed

4, Causes of Migration

Among the causes of migrations listed, work/ employment, business and education can be considered as economic factors while marriage, moved after birth, moved with household are purely social factors. Others include both social and economic issues as well as encompass political and natural factors also. Table 5 shows that marriage with 46.33% share is the most prominent cause of migration in India. Considering the urban rural divide also, we find marriage emerging as the most common reason in both rural and urban areas separately. The

proportion however varies, with the rural incidence rates (59.89%) being much higher than the urban rates of incidence (26.23%). Marriage is also the most dominant cause of migration for both rural and urban females with 77.65% and 44.68% share respectively, thereby according a share of 66.48% for total females. The higher incidence of marriage as the cause of migration is because of the traditional Indian practice of the wife moving to the husband's house after marriage. This feature is common across the country except for certain matrilineal societies like the Khasis in Meghalaya, where males generally move to the house of the in-laws after marriage.

Table 5: Causes of Migration by last residence (In %)

	Work/ Emp	Business	Education	Marriage	After Birth	Moved with HH	Others
Rural Person	9.05	0.68	1.16	59.89	6.26	12.55	10.42
Urban Person	12.58	1.35	1.68	26.23	13.35	23.45	21.37
Rural Male	31.03	2.04	2.83	5.84	15.43	22.78	20.05
Urban Male	24.78	2.36	2.34	1.92	17.68	24.11	26.80
Rural Female	1.83	0.23	0.61	77.65	3.25	9.18	7.26
Urban Female	3.32	0.58	1.17	44.68	10.06	22.94	17.25
Total Persons	9.09	0.79	1.20	46.33	7.43	14.47	20.69
Total Female	2.07	0.29	0.70	66.48	4.45	11.72	14.30
Total Male	23.96	1.84	2.26	3.66	13.74	20.31	34.24

Source: Census of India 2011

The second most prominent cause of migration in India is 'Others' accounting about 20.69% of total migration apart from being the most important cause for total male migration as well as urban male migration. For males, work/employment is the second most prominent cause with almost 24% share in aggregate. However, in rural India, work/employment accounts as cause for 31% of the male migrants and is the highest factor. In aggregate, work/employment is the cause for 9.09% of the total migrants. 'Moved with household', with 14.47% share, is the third most prominent cause in the country as well as both in the urban and rural areas. This reason, basically, is often indicating the movement of dependent family members along with the head of the household, who might have moved for any other reason, be it either economic or social. Moved after birth accounts for almost 7.5% of the migrants and interestingly, its existence as a cause is higher for males in both urban as well as rural areas. Business as a cause of migration has the least share across all the categories except urban males, where education is the least prominent cause.

Table 6: Education as a Cause of Migration (%)

States and UT	Total Persons	Female Migrants	Male Migrants	Urban Migrants	Rural Migrants
A & N Islands	5.6	4.56	6.85	5.28	6.31
Andhra Pradesh	1.87	0.96	3.18	2.85	1.05
Arunachal Pradesh	10.39	6.72	14.56	10.33	10.64
Assam	2.31	1.37	3.3	3.45	1.61
Bihar	1.59	0.63	2.48	3.35	1.15
Chandigarh	0.97	0.78	1.18	1.06	0.8
Chhattisgarh	1.27	0.71	2.26	2.85	0.64
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.84	1.21	3.62	2.43	1.57
Daman & Diu	1.17	0.6	2.18	1.62	0.61
Delhi	1.4	0.92	2.11	1.51	0.84
Goa	2.66	1.76	3.93	2.94	2.45
Gujarat	1.56	0.84	2.49	1.97	1.21
Haryana	2.84	1.75	3.91	3.65	3.37
Himachal Pradesh	1.06	0.54	2.19	1.74	0.7
Jammu & Kashmir	2.38	1.43	3.63	3.36	2.09
Jharkhand	1.77	0.79	3.72	4.04	0.89
Karnataka	0.96	0.53	1.61	1.43	0.66
Kerala	4.8	4.8	4.81	5.07	4.67
Lakshadweep	4.03	2.63	5.19	4.94	7.25
Madhya Pradesh	1.01	0.5	2.02	1.85	0.58
Maharashtra	0.87	0.51	1.43	1.29	0.44
Manipur	12.79	10.67	14.96	16.49	10.51
Meghalaya	4.18	3.3	5.34	5.2	2.71
Mizoram	5.61	4.9	6.35	15.14	2.88
Nagaland	6	4.87	7.34	7.26	4.73
Odisha	1.02	0.63	1.46	2.14	0.63
Puducherry	0.86	0.63	1.19	1	0.76
Punjab	1.29	0.88	1.92	1.89	0.74
Rajasthan	0.89	0.4	1.63	1.62	0.56
Sikkim	7.67	4.2	13.02	9.61	6.01
Tamil Nadu	1.2	0.9	1.53	1.52	0.88
Tripura	3.09	1.73	4.68	4.54	2.04
Uttar Pradesh	1.04	0.58	1.49	1.9	0.74
Uttarakhand	1.48	0.81	2.46	2.1	1.17
West Bengal	1.11	0.6	1.89	1.67	0.58
Total	1.2	0.7	2.26	1.2	1.2

Source: Census of India 2011

However, the differentials in the causes of migration are extremely pronounced across the gender dimension as well as the urban-rural divide. The economic factors- work/employment, business and education account for only about 3% of the female migration, while for males it is around 28%. Incidence of migration for business and education is higher among males as

compared to females. These two reasons do not account for even 1% of the female migration. Further, even though social causes account for almost 64% of the urban migration, the share of marriage is much lower, 26.33% as compared to rural areas.

From Table 6, we find that education as a cause for migration is highest in the North-eastern state of Manipur. 12.79% of the migrants in Manipur have moved for education, while in another NER state, Arunachal Pradesh, more than 10.39% of the migrants have moved for the same cause. These two states hold the top two positions for both the female as well as male migrants too. Sikkim holds the third spot for migration for education in aggregate as well as for the males. However, Mizoram comes third among the female migrants. Manipur records the highest share among the urban and the rural migrants too. However, Arunachal Pradesh ranks third after Mizoram among the urban migrants, while among the rural migrants, Arunachal Pradesh regains the second spot ahead of Lakshadweep, the smallest territory of India who stands third with an account of above 7% rural migrants citing education as the cause.

On the contrary, among the total aggregated migration, education as a cause of migration has the least prominence in Puducherry, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, with rates of 0.86%, 0.87% and 0.89% respectively. However, considering only for the female migrants, the order changes with Rajasthan having the least rates, 0.4% while Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra being marginally higher with 0.5% and 0.51% respectively. The situation among the male migrant indicates Chandigarh at the bottom, with Puducherry and Maharashtra placed at the immediate higher spots. Puducherry and Chandigarh exchange their ranks at the bottom for urban migrants while Maharashtra remains at the third last position. However, it is Maharashtra again within the least rate of incidence for education as a cause among rural migrants. Rajasthan and West Bengal stays at immediate higher positions.

Table 7 makes it obvious that education as a cause of migration is more prominent in the North-eastern region for all the various categories under consideration. The average rates are as high as 8.92% among urban migrants, while the zonal average rates are relatively lower, 4.79% among female migrants. Incidentally, this 4.79% is also higher than all the various rates of the remaining regions. The average rate is lowest for Central zone for all types except urban migrants, where, west zone has the lowest rates. The average rates for education as a cause for migration is relatively higher among the males and the urban areas for all the zones and the rural-urban gap is least in the southern region as is for the gap in the gender rates, too.

Table 7: Average rates of education as a cause of migration

Zones	Total Persons	Female Migrants	Male Migrants	Urban Migrants	Rural Migrants
North	1.55	0.96	2.37	2.12	1.30
Central	1.20	0.65	2.06	2.18	0.78
North-eastern	6.34	4.79	8.08	8.92	5.02
Eastern	2.63	1.37	4.51	4.16	1.85
Western	1.62	0.98	2.73	2.05	1.26
Southern	2.76	2.14	3.48	3.16	3.08

Source: Census of India 2011

5. Summary and Conclusion

The relative higher growth in the proportion of migrants attests to the increasing importance of migration in the country and thereby stressing its relevance in the policy decisions. The proportion of migrants in the states shows a wide range and the inter-regional variations in terms of TMS are statistically pronounced. The Western region owing to its greater extent of industrialisation attracts greater in migration. Moreover, the extent of urbanisation is also higher in the industrial belt. Development, Industrialisation and urbanisation are often inter-linked and an outcome of such tie-up is inflow of people. It is also seen that the proportion of migrants are higher in smaller geographical units, which are also more urbanised as well as prosperous. On the other hand, the proportion of females among migrants are relatively more in agrarian parts of the country, particularly in the Central and Eastern region; and we find a strong positive correlation ($r=0.742$, $p=0.000$) between the share of female migrants and the share of rural migrants.

The dominance of marriage as a cause of migration has been an inherent feature of Indian society and is likely to stay in the near future. However, for males, we find that economic factors have much weightage, though social factors and others also holds significant relevance. The economic factors do not have much relevance for females as per 2011 data and education and business account for only 1% of the total female migration. However, in the backdrop of the theoretical expositions of the NELM, it can be argued that migration decisions are being taken not just for the present context but also considering the future scenario at not just at the individual level, but at the household level. Migrating for education is often part of the increasing aspiration of people and changing behavioural structure of the economy. Currently, we find that education as a cause for migration has been nominal, however, it is also seen that there are sizeable differences among the regions regarding education as a cause for migration. The North-eastern states are industrially backward, infrastructural deficit,

financially dependent but the people in the region consider education to be an important reason for migration. The regional average of NER is much ahead for both males and females, this is also because of the traditional practice of gender equality in the region.

Nonetheless, one may say that migration is as old as civilisation. For a country like India, the study of movement of people attains larger implications as it can provide a lot of direction to social, economic and political factors. With the economy at a crossroad following the unprecedented shock of the COVID pandemic, studies on migration becomes even more relevant. It is more likely that education as a cause of migration will have greater relevance and weights in the Census 2021 figures as the economic aspirations of the people has changed substantially in the last 10 years and greater movement of people for education will indicate greater human capital formation and skill building, a need that the country needs at the earliest.

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Declaration:

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