

U.P.Migrants to Mumbai: Mainly for Economic Reasons

Background

Migration to Mumbai has always remained a matter of serious concern to researchers, planners and policy makers. Mumbai has a long history of migration and migration has remained the major force behind the city's very rapid population growth since its inception. It was the first Indian city to experience the economical, technological, and social changes associated with the growth of capitalism in India. During the first few decades of twentieth century, due to distressed situations and natural calamities many migrated to the city from far off states. Economic diversification and development of city resulted into steady growth of employment opportunities in the city which in turn have attracted heavy influx of migrants and consequently a very rapid population growth in the city and nearby urban areas. The opening of oil mills and start of machine building and engineering units further opened up job opportunities for natives of less developed states and increased the volume of migration to the city (Jacquemin 1999). As such migration was the main force that led to the sudden spurt to city's population, when the city got overpopulated and peripheral areas were developed.

The 2001 census, however, showed an upward trend in the migration to the city. It was found that the number of migrants enumerated within the corporation limits of the city was significantly higher in 2001 (5.2 million) than in 1991 (3.7 million). During 1991-2001 there was a marked increase in the number of migrants that provided the absolute number of migrants by different time durations. However, the decadal population growth within corporation limits remained virtually stable i.e. 20 percent. During 1991-2001 the direction of migrant's flow to Mumbai further streamlined. The share of migrants to Mumbai from Gujarat and Southern states declined further in 2001. In contrast the share of migrants from Uttar Pradesh and other states of India increased significantly. The share of migrants from Uttar Pradesh (UP) increased by nearly 4 percentage points during 1991-2001 i.e. from 20 percent in 1991 to 24 percent in 2001(Census 2001). Thus more critical analysis of migration situation in Mumbai is required. Prasad et al (2009) found that one out of every 5 migrant to Mumbai city is from U.P., the most populous state of India and majority of them have migrated for employment purpose. It has been aimed to study about these migrants. In view of the above the present paper focuses on the U.P. migrants using another data set,

Objective of the study

This paper aims to understand the characteristics of the **Principal Migrants**, their timing of migration to Mumbai, reasons for migration, frequency of remittances sent to their kin at the native place and utilization their of.

The data

The data has been extracted from a survey on Migration Health and Employment in Greater Mumbai Urban Agglomeration (GMUA) conducted by International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. The survey used a household schedule to collect information on place of birth, place of last residence and duration of residence at the place of enumeration and some socio-demographic characteristics of all the members of the household. A separate module was canvassed to all the principal migrants to collect detailed information on migration and employment history and social linkages of migrants to their native place and details on the remittances sent and their utilization. The survey covered more than 12,000 households spread over all the wards of Mumbai and the 7 other constituent units of the Greater Mumbai Urban Agglomeration (GMUA). In all 5812 Principal Migrants were contacted from Mumbai of which 20 percent (i.e. 1162) were from U.P.

Results and Discussion

*A **Principal Migrant (PM)** in a household was a person who decided to move independently to Mumbai from his native or place of last residence irrespective of the fact whether he/ she moved alone or along with other family members, friends or relatives. However, in a household if there were only single male migrants who came to city independently but were living together all such migrants was considered separate principal migrants.*

The sex ratio was highly in favor of males i.e. the sex ratio (Male/Female*1000) of the migrant population was found as 1753. It was observed that around 9 of every 10 migrants had rural background. The migrants moved to Mumbai due to economic reasons. The prime reason for migration to Mumbai was for employment purpose. More than two third rural migrants and less than half urban migrants moved to Mumbai to look for a job or for a better job than what they had in their native place.

The median age of migrants at the time of migration was found to be 19.7 years but urban migrants appeared to be one year older than their rural counter parts. Three fourth migrants were Hindus and one of every 5 migrants was from other backward castes.

Table 1: Distribution of Principal Migrants to Mumbai from UP by Residence Background and Other

Characteristics	Rural	Urban	Total
Age (Years)			
• Less than 15	19.8	23.8	20.3
• 15-19	33.1	22.4	31.8
• 20-24	29.5	24.5	28.9
• 25-29	10.2	11.9	10.4
• 30-34	3.6	9.8	4.3
• 35 +	3.8	7.6	4.3
Sex			
• Male	63.9	62.5	63.7
• Female	36.1	37.5	36.3
Religion			
• Hindu	74.9	75.0	74.9
• Muslim	14.3	14.6	14.4
• Others	10.8	10.4	10.7
Caste			
• SC	18.1	18.1	18.1
• ST	12.1	11.8	12.0
• OBC	20.4	20.8	20.5
• Others	49.9	49.3	49.4
Marital Status			
• Never Married	46.4	45.8	46.3
• Currently Married	53.3	53.5	53.3
• Widowed/Divorced/Separated/Deserted	0.3	0.7	0.4
Education			
• Illiterate	26.9	28.4	27.1
• Educated up to Primary	21.0	19.5	20.8
• Educated up to Middle	32.3	18.1	19.1
• Educated up to High School and Above	19.7	34.0	33.0
Employment Status While Coming to Mumbai			
• Employer	0.3	0.6	0.2
• Paid Employee	17.4	32.4	19.3
• Self-employed	4.8	48.6	11.1
• Non workers	76.5	19.0	69.4
Waiting Time to Get Employment			
• Came With a Job/Transfer of Job			
• Waited For 6 Months	3.4	6.9	3.9
• Waited For 6-12 Months	51.0	48.9	50.7
• Waited For More Than 1 Year	6.1	6.9	6.2
	39.5	38.3	39.2
Total	87.6 (1018)	12.4 (144)	100.0 (1162)

More than half of the migrants were married when they migrated to Mumbai and their median age was around 19.3 years .The urban migrants married one year later than the rural migrants.

The urban migrants appeared to be more educated as one third urban and twenty percent rural migrants had level of education high school and above. It is worth mentioning that larger proportion of migrants having employee as well as self employed status had urban back ground. Around half of the migrants had to wait for 6 months to get a job after their arrival in Mumbai, the financial capital of India (Table 1). Such a percentage was less among urban migrants. It was apparent that there was not much difference in the characteristics of the migrants when they were classified by residence background i.e. rural and urban.

It is evident from Table 2 that one third migrants had been staying in Mumbai for last 30 years while another one fourth had spent only twenty years. In course of their stay in Mumbai the migrants had changed their jobs/employment status too. Three of every five rural migrants were currently self employed or were engaged in some type of business activities but this scenario changed in case of urban migrants where only 52 percent were engaged in such activities. The migrants provided an idea about number of years they were working for in the present job. It was found that around 30 percent migrants were working in the same job for 15-24 years. The migrants had changed their jobs as well. The prime reasons were for better prospect or the old company/office was closed. It was interesting to note that around three fourth migrants were still working in the same company/office right from the time they migrated to Mumbai. In addition to economic reasons, the migrants had moved to Mumbai for many other reasons such as transfer of jobs, for education, to start a business and marriage. Seventeen percent rural and 8 percent urban migrants expressed marriage as reasons for migration to Mumbai. One fifth migrants moved to Mumbai because their friends / relatives were staying there while another 12 percent migrated to Mumbai because their family members were staying in Mumbai

Table2: Distribution of Principal Migrants to Mumbai from UP by Residence Background and Timing of Migration

Timing of Migration	Rural	Urban	Total
After 2000	0.5	0.7	0.5
1991-2000	15.6	16.1	15.7
1981-1990	27.2	27.3	27.2
Before 1981	24.7	24.0	24.6
Before 1971	32.0	31.9	32.0
Total	87.6 (1018)	12.4 (144)	100.0 (1162)

The migrants to Mumbai had been sending remittances too to their kin residing at the native place. Seventy three percent migrants informed that they had been sending remittances to their kin/ relatives residing at native place. This proportion was quite high (93 percent) in case of rural migrants (Table 3). Two of every five migrants reported to have sent remittance regularly while one fourth reported that they did so only when there was a need to do so. This picture was very much same for rural as well as urban migrants. Around one fourth migrants had sent some items as well to their relatives at the native place which included clothes, household items and other necessary things.

Table 3: Distribution of Principal Migrants to Mumbai from UP by Residence Background and Utilization of Remittances Sent by Migrants

Utilization of Remittances Sent by Migrants	Rural	Urban	Total
Remittances Utilized for			
• Household consumption	29.9	32.8	30.1
• Educational activities	10.5	8.6	10.4
• Housing Activities(Repair & Consumption)	8.8	10.3	8.9
• Others(Medical expenses/ Purchase of equipments)	50.8	48.3	50.6
Total	(93.1)788	(6.9)58	(72.8)846

The remittances sent by the migrants were utilized for house hold expenses, education of children, medical expenses and purchase of agricultural equipments and other such items. Around 30 percent migrants reported that remittances were utilized for household expenses while more than half reported that it was utilized for repair and construction of house.

In other words the relatives at the native place appeared to be very much dependent on the remittances sent by the migrants who migrated to Mumbai mainly for economic reasons.

The migrants were asked why they selected Mumbai in particular as a place for migration. It can be seen from Table 4 that more urban than rural migrants moved to Mumbai alone but more rural migrants moved to Mumbai accompanying their friends/relatives. Four of every 5 migrants irrespective of residence back ground had family member living at their native. The persons living/ left out at their native place were wife, children, parents and other relatives. Around 50 percent migrants reported that their parents were staying at the native place and 70 percent migrants said that their brothers/ sisters were staying at native place. The migrants often visited their native place to meet their kin or to attend some functions. More than half of the migrants reported that they visited their native place at least once a year. Thirteen percent reported that they visited their native place only when it was needed. Around three fourth rural and urban migrants reported that they had been to their native place during last one year. Sizeable number of migrants reported that it had been more than 2 years since they had been to their native place.

Table 4: Distribution of Principal Migrants to Mumbai from UP by Residence Background and Reasons for Migration and selecting Mumbai in Particular

Reasons for Migration to Mumbai	Rural	Urban	Total
• In search of Job/Employment	68.4	47.2	65.7
• To Start Business	5.5	7.6	5.8
• Education	2.8	4.9	3.1
• Marriage	8.0	17.4	9.1
• Transfer	3.4	6.9	3.9
• Others	3.4	16.0	12.4
Reasons for Selecting Mumbai in Particular			
• Moved alone	16.7	25.0	17.9
• Accompanied Friends/Relatives	21.1	17.4	20.6
• Accompanied parents	8.6	8.3	8.5
• Family Staying here(Mumbai)	12.0	12.5	12.0
• Got/Transfer of Job	6.0	6.3	6.1
• Marriage	19.6	17.4	19.3
• Others	16.0	13.1	15.6
Total	87.6 (1018)	12.4 (144)	100.01(1162)

Policy Implications

Studies have indicated that migration is age and sex selective. Majority of the migrants to Mumbai are young males. If this influx continues for a longer time it will have bearing on the existing infrastructure facilities of Mumbai and near by centers. There is a need to develop more centers in other parts of country to attract migrants and save deterioration of existing urban amenities in these metros.

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