Some Characteristics of Return Migrants in Rural Northern Madhya Padesh

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Introduction

The impact of the movement of human beings on the social, economic, demographic and other characteristics of the population has been recognised by several administrators, planners, social-scientists and researchers. In modern times, the nature, the types, and the causes and consequences of the movement of people from one place to another have become different from those in the ancient days. Studies related to the movement of the people related to the process, volume and direction of the movement of the people are influenced by a number of factors such as geographical conditions, economic hazards, non availability of regular and reliable occupations, educational opportunities and achievements and several other social and psychological conditions (Janhon, 1966).

The migration of the people from rural to urban areas in the developing countries has been argued to be a normal process in many studies (Caldwell, 1968; Hugo, 1981, Lipton 1982 Singh and Yadava, 1981, Yadava, 1989, Yadava et al,1997) It should be mentioned that, in migration, the individuals are away from their homes for a long duration of time. As such, migration is neither an immediate action nor inspired by a single impulse that is the same for all the people. When an individual or a family changes residence, a move is made and a destination is selected for a number of specific reasons. Sometimes people decide to migrate from their place of origin because of long term acquaintance of the place of destination or because it is easy but may not be the case with regard to the selection of destination. Knowledge of the area of destination is seldom exact and some of the advantages and disadvantage of an area can be perceived only by living there. Between the place of origin and the place of destination, there stands a set of intervening obstacles which may be marginal in some instances and nearly insurmountable in others. The movement of the people from rural to urban areas may be conceptualised in terms of daily commuting, circular migration, return

migration and permanent migration. The present paper focusses on return migration. The study of return migration behaviour has been an important subject of research for demographers and social- scientists. The present paper assesses the extent of return migration amongst rural out migrants of northern Madhya Pradesh in the light of the factors relating to social class, level of education level, duration of absence from the village, and reasons for first out migration and then return migration. The pattern of return migration has been studied through a probability model proposed by Yadava et al (1989). In addition, life table technique has been applied to estimate the expected duration of stay out of the village.

Data

The study is based on the data available through the demographic survey of Satna (Rural) 2013 which was conducted by the researcher and which collected information on migration was collected in detail. The survey covered 22 villages of district Satna which were selected randomly and covered 3867 household, out of which 1778 households had at last one migrant. The information available from this survey served as the baseline for the present study. In addition six rounds of six monthly follow-up surveys were carried out during 2014-2016. The information about return migrants was colleted during these follow-up surveyes. The survey covered both male and female migrants. However, because of very small number of female out migrants, the present study is confined to male migrans aged at 15 years and above.

The Nature of Return Migrants

Table 1 presents details about those individuals who were classified as out migrants at the time of 2013 survey but who returned to the village at the time of successive follow-up surveyes. The table suggests that the annual rate of return migration is 2.088 per cent, although, this rate varied by social class - highest in upper class but the lowest in the middle class. A relatively higher rate of return migration in the upper class might be due to the fact that most of the upper class migrants possessed land and other properties in the village. Moreover, the place of destination of out migrants of the upper class was generally near the village so that they could return easily. By contrast, a low rate of return migration in scheduled castes was due to the fact that these out migrants migrate to distant places in Gujarat, Maharashtra, etc.

The rate of return migration has been found to be inversely related to the level of education of the out migrant (Table 2). Such an inverse relationship may be due to the fact that out migrants with higher level education usually got white collared job at the place of destination so that they had higher chances of permanent settlement at the place of destination and their family also migrated after some time. Children of these migrants grew in urban environment and, therefore, it was difficult for them to get themselves adjusted in the rural environment. By contrast, illiterate out migrants were engaged in temporary manual and private jobs at the place of destination annd therefore they left their families back in the village. The illiterate out migrants, therefore, preferred to return back to their native village.

In general, out migrants who returned to the village were below 40 years of age (Table 3). The median age of returned migrants was 37.5 years, which however varied by social class. The median age of return migrants was the highest in return migrants belonging to Scheduled Castes followed by business class and upper class. A higher median age of Scheduled Castes, business class and upper class return migrants may be due to the lack of non-agriculture employment opportunities in the village. Moreover, the existing pattern of Scheduled Castes out migrants shows that the rate of out migration is higher at both ends of the economic spectrum - rich and poor (Yadava and Singh 1988). The poor Scheduled Castes out migrants do not have sufficient sources of income in the village and, therefore, they prefer to stay in the place of destination to fulfil their subsistence needs.

Main causes of out migration were lack of employment opportunities in the village and associated poverty (Table 4). A substantial proportion of upper class out migrants who went out of the village in search of job returned back to village probably because they could not find appropriate empoyment opportunities at the place of destination. This proportion was, however, lower in other social classes. As regards reasons for return migration, the main reason was retirement due to old age in all social classes. Other reasons for return migration included high economic pressure in the place of destination, illness, mental tension at the place of destination, to look after the agriculture land in the village, separation from the family, death of the male member.

Patterns of Return Migration. Although, a number of studies have been carried out at macro and micro levels to explain the pattern of rural to urban migration through probabilistic and deterministic models in both developed and developing countries (Singh and Yadava, 1981; Yadava et al, 1996; Yadav et al, 1989), yet, no model has been proposed to describe the pattern of return migration. In this section, we attempt to develop such a model.

Let X be a random variable denoting the duration of stay by a migrant worker in the place of destination which is usually an urban area and let X assumes only non negative values. Then, the distribution function of X is given by

$$f(x) = xe^{-\lambda x}, \lambda > 0, x > 0$$
$$= 0, otherwise$$

where λ is the risk parameter which varies from migrant to migrant. This probability density function has only one parameter which is estimated by the method of moments by equating the observed mean to the theoretical man as

$$E(x) = \frac{1}{\hat{\lambda}}$$

where E(x) is the observed mean (average duration of stay in the place of destination by an out migrant) and $\hat{\lambda}$ is the estimate of λ.

Once λ is estimated, the expected frequencies can easily be calculated. The observed and expected frequencies of return migrants are given in table.6. It is clear from the table that the model provides a good fit to the observed data which shows the appropriateness of the model in describing the pattern of return migrants.

Expected Duration of Stay. The life table technique has been used to estimate the expected duration of stay at the place of destination by an out migrant. Usually, two types of events are handled through the life table. The first type of events occur only once and is not reversible in nature such as the death of a person. The second type of events occur more than once such as illness, marriage and migration. Results of the application of life table to the return migrants data are presented in table 7.The table suggests that the expected duration of stay of an out migrant at the place of destination varied by the age of the out migrant and was maximum for out migrants in the age group 35-39 years after which it decreases gradually. Considering all migrants together, it is estimated that, on average, an out migrant is expected to return home after 18 years. This may be due to the fact that an out migrant usually returns only when his younger generation is able to support the family.

Conclusions

This study has found that there has been a very substantial rate of return migration to the rural areas of district Satna of Madhya Pradesh, India. The rate of return migration has, however, been found to vary by the individual and socio-economic characteristics of the out migrants including the age of the out migrant. The analysis shows that the rate of return migration has particularly been very high in the upper social class of the society primarily because the upper social class has imovable property in the native village. The study also shows that there has been little permanent out migration from the villages surveyed. Similar findings have also been reported from studies carried out in many third world countries (Maude, 1979).

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Table 1
Out migrants and return migrants by social class, 2013-2016 in the surveyed population.

Social class		Total number of out migrants in 2013	Number of return migrants during (2013-2016)	Percentage returned (per year)
Upper class	(I)	888	61	2.29
Middle class	(II)	400	22	1.83
Business class	(III)	188	11	1.95
Functional class	(IV)	146	9	2.05
Scheduled castes	(V)	243	14	1.92
Muslims	(VI)	18	1	1.85
Total		1883	118	2.09

Source: Author's calculations

Table 2
Return migrants by the level of education and social class.

Social class		Illiterate or no formal education	Primary or middle	High school or Intermediate	Graduate and above
Upper class	(I)	16(2.04)	23(1.74)	16(0.73)	6(0.43)
Middle class	(II)	11(1.40)	6(0.45)	4(0.18)	1(0.07)
Business class	(III)	5(0.63)	4(0.30)	1(0.05)	1(0.07)
Functional class	(IV)	3(0.38)	2(0.15)	2(0.09)	2(0.14)
Scheduled castes	(V)	8(1.02)	2(0.15)	3(0.14)	1(0.07)
Muslims	(VI)	0(0.00)	1(0.07)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)
Total		43(5.49)	38(2.88)	26(1.19)	11(0.81)

Source: Author's calculations

Table 3
Age distribution of return migrants at the time of return by social class.

Age Group	Social class						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total
15-19	11	4	1	2	1	0	19
20-24	5	2	1	1	1	0	10
25-29	6	3	1	1	2	1	14
30-39	11	4	2	12	1	0	20
40-49	14	6	2	1	3	0	26
50-59	7	2	2	1	3	0	15
60-69	5	1	1	1	2	0	10
>70	2	0	1	0	1	0	4
Median age	37	35	42	32	47	30	38

Source: Author's calculations

Table 4
Reasons for out migration by social class.

Reasons of out migration	Social class						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total
Poverty	13.8	6.9	3.4	2.3	6.9	0.0	8.2
Search for job	17.6	3.7	4.6	2.8	3.7	0.9	10.2
Village level persuasion	21.4	4.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	4.0
Household level persuasion	18.2	9.1	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.1
Household difference	20.0	6.7	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	1.4
Studies	16.7	11.1	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.0	1.7
Not known	17.6	7.8	2.0	2.0	3.9	0.0	4.8

Source: Author's calculations

Table 5
Return migration according to reason of return migration and caste group.

Reason for return migration	Class						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Total
Retired or old age	36.1	31.8	45.5	33.3	50.0	0.0	37.3
Illness, less interest at the place of destination or low payment	29.5	22.7	18.2	22.2	21.4	0.0	25.4
Non availability of job or completed education	4.9	13.7	18.2	22.2	21.4	1.0	11.9
Need in the village for agricultural work; could not bear family separation any longer; and death of a male member in the household	26.2	22.7	9.1	11.1	7.1	0.0	20.4
Not known	3.3	9.1	9.1	11.1	0.0	0.0	5.1
All	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Author's calculations

Table 6
Observed and estimated frequency of the duration of stay at the place of destination

Duration of stay (Years)	Class												
	I		II		III		IV		V		VI		Total	
	O	E	O	E	O	E	O	E	O	E	O	E	O	E
0-4	21	25	9		4		3		5		0		42	46
5-9	14	15	4		2		2		2		1		25	29
10-19	17	15	6		2		2		2		0		29	30
20+	9	6	3		3		2		5		0		22	14
Total	61	61	22		11		9		14		1		118	118
χ^2	2.23		na		na		na		na		na		5.16	
D.F.	3		-		-		-		-		-		3	
λ	0.098		0.102		0.083		0.083		0.072		0.142		0.092	

Source: Author's calculations

Remarks: χ^2 for classes II to VI could not be calculated because the observed frequency in
             some cells was less than 5

Table 7
Expected duration of stay in the place of destination by out migrants

Age (Year)	Total out migrants (1994)	Permanent migrants	Returnable migrants $_nP_x$	Return migrants 1994-97	$_nm_x$	L_x	$_nd_x$	$_nq_x$	$_nL_x$	$_nT_x$	e_x
15-19	282	7	275	24	0.0872	100000	35790	0.3579	410525	1282035	12.82
20-24	309	12	297	20	0.0673	64210	18492	0.2880	274819	871510	13.57
25-29	263	23	240	28	0.1166	45718	20637	0.4514	176995	596692	13.05
30-34	315	24	291	21	0.0721	25081	7660	0.3054	106254	419696	16.73
35-39	269	35	234	5	0.0213	17421	1761	0.1011	82702	313442	17.99
40-44	21	17	194	5	0.0257	15660	1890	0.1207	73573	230740	14.73
45-49	99	21	78	3	0.0384	13770	2411	0.1751	62820	157167	11.41
50-54	69	8	61	3	0.0491	11359	2483	0.2186	50585	94346	8.30
55-59	36	7	29	5	0.1724	8876	5346	0.6023	31013	43761	4.93
60+	30	4	26	4	0.1538	3530	1960	0.5554	12748	12748	3.61

Source: Author's calculations