

9th Social Science Lesson 18 Notes in English

18. Migration

Concept of Migration:

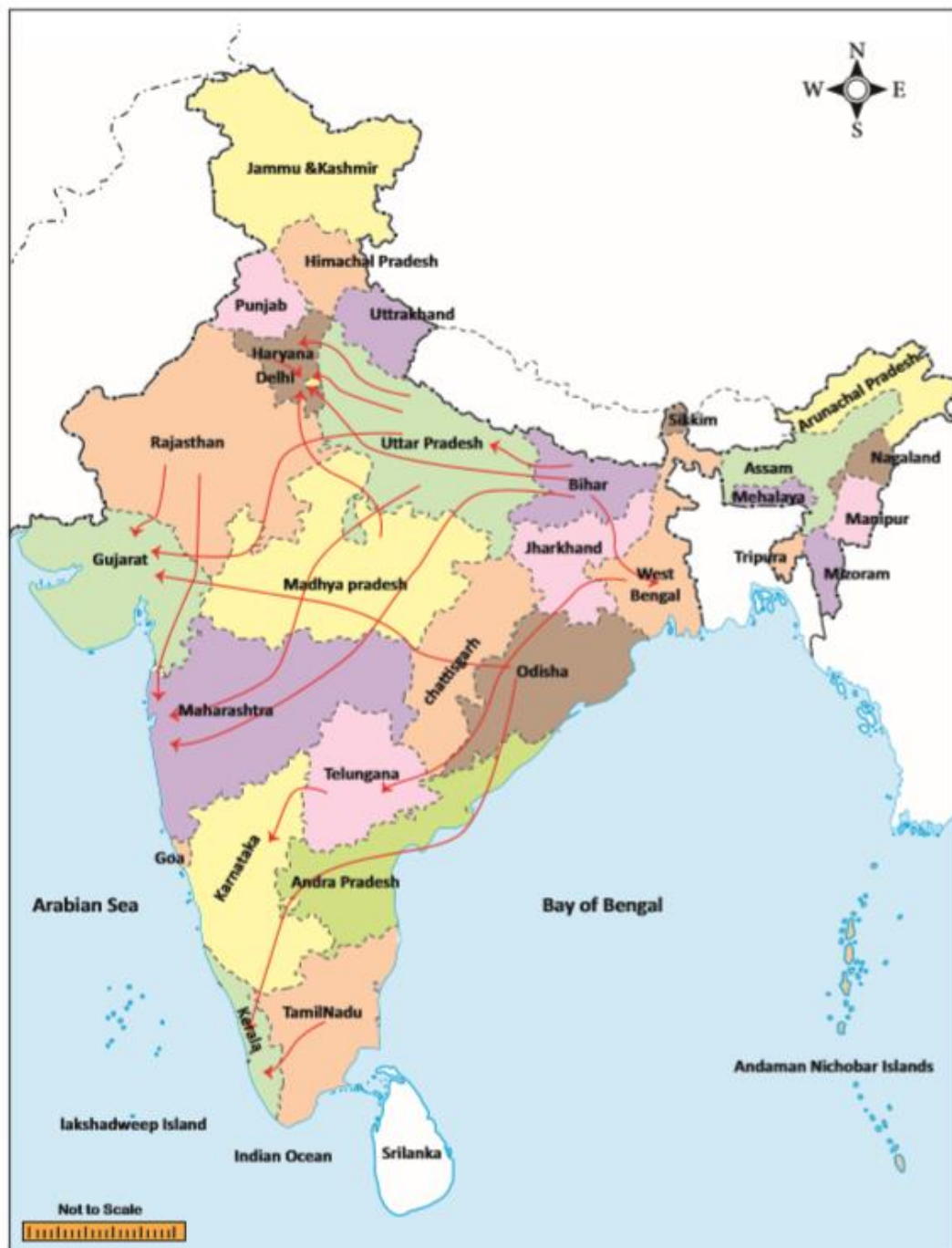
- In any settlement-village or town- change in population occurs due to **birth, death and migration**.
- Of these three components of population change, birth and death is clearly identifiable events while migration poses the maximum amount of problem with regards to its definition and measurement.
- As almost everyone keeps moving most of the time, it is not easy to define which of these moves have to be classified as migratory moves.

In the Census of India, migration is enumerated on two bases

(i) Place of birth: If the place of birth is different from the place of enumeration (**known as life-time migrant**).

(ii) Place of residence: If the place of last residence is different from the place of enumeration (**known as migrant, by place of last residence**).

Extent of Migration in India in Tamil Nadu



India - Extent of migration

- In India, the Census of 2011 enumerated a total population of **121 crores**, of which **45 crore** people were reported as migrants, according to the definition of the place of last residence.
- Similarly, in Tamil Nadu out of **7.2 crore people**, **3.13 crore** people were counted as migrants, in 2011.

- That is, the percentage of migrants was **37 percent** in the country, while it was at a much higher rate in Tamil Nadu at 43 percent.
- Generally, one tends to associate migration with urban areas. However, we find that in India as well as Tamil Nadu, the extent of migration is much higher in rural areas compared to urban areas.
- In 2011, 37 percent of the population are counted as migrants in rural areas while the corresponding percentage in urban India is 27 percent.
- In Tamil Nadu, migrants account for **41 percent in rural areas and 35 percent in urban areas, in 2011**. That is, the mobility of population in rural areas is greater than that in urban areas.
- Further, one usually associates mobility with males rather than females. However, an examination of data clearly indicates that a larger proportion of females are reported to be migrants compared to males.
- In the country as a whole, **53 percent are female migrants while 23 percent are male migrants, in 2011**.
- In Tamil Nadu, the picture is very similar, with more than half the **females (52%)** reporting their status as migrants, by place of last residence, and 35 percent are male migrants.
- Now, why is there such a large percentage of migration among women? **70 percent in India and 51 percent in Tamil Nadu** report marriage as the reason for migration of females in 2011.
- That is, marriage and the movement associated with marriage appear to be a major factor responsible for women's mobility in India and Tamil Nadu.
- Movement related to work and employment appears to be the driving force for migration, among men.
- Of all the male migrants in India, **28 percent report 'work'** as the major reason for their migration, in 2011. The corresponding percentage in Tamil Nadu is 26 percent.
- To sum up, in Tamil Nadu, two out of every five persons is reported to be a migrant in the year 2011.
- Incidence of migrants is higher in rural areas and larger among women. Tamil Nadu has a history of migration and people have moved for various reasons such as **trade, business, employment etc**, to various countries.
- During the colonial period, labourers had moved to other colonies seeking work and wages.
- In the more recent period workers from Tamil Nadu have been moving to countries in **the Gulf, United States of America and Australia**.
- In 2015, an independent research study was conducted to understand the level, nature and pattern of migration in Tamil Nadu . This study has made some interesting findings, as discussed below:

Of the total migrants in Tamil Nadu, 65 percent have migrated or moved abroad while 35 percent have moved within the country

Chennai district has recorded the maximum number of emigrants followed by Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Tiruchirapalli districts

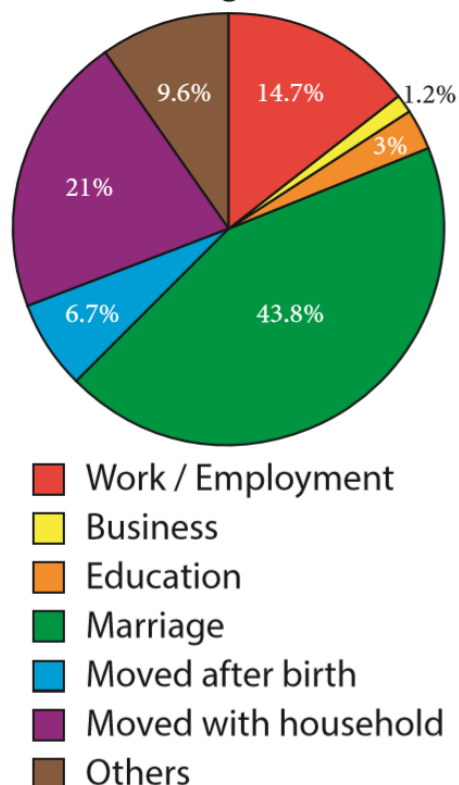
Cuddalore, Karur, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Namakkal, Salem, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Nilgiris and Dharmapuri districts record low number of emigrants. This study also provides information about the sex and destination of migrants Tamil Nadu

Of the total migrants who go to foreign countries, nearly 20% have chosen to go to Singapore, while 18% to the United Arab Emirates, 16% to Saudi Arabia, 13 % to the United States of America; and Malaysia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Australia and England are also referred as important destinations for migrants from Tamil Nadu in the year 2015

Of the international migrants, 15 percent are women, while 85 percent are men. On the question of educational qualifications of migrants from Tamil Nadu, the study reveals that in 2015 about 7 % were illiterates; 30 % have completed Class X; 10 % have completed Class XII; 15 % had undergone vocational training; 11 % were graduates; 12% were professionally qualified and 11 % had Post Graduate degrees.

The study clearly reveals various occupations undertaken by the migrants: highly skilled professions on one hand and low skilled occupations on the other, along with a large number of semi-skilled occupations.

Reasons for Migration in India



Factors Underlying Migration

- The extent and nature of migration in any society is basically determined by the nature of the development process experienced by that society.
- That is, the type and scale of development achieved by the agricultural and industrial sectors in an economy would determine the migratory patterns.
- In India and Tamil Nadu, though the agricultural and industrial sectors have grown over the years, inequalities still exist in asset and income distribution.
- Endemic poverty continues to be a major problem. The growth processes have also created spatial inequalities, by leading to enclaves of growth.
- The migration patterns observed in a developing society such as ours correspond to these inequalities (**economic, social, spatial etc**) created by the development processes. Therefore, any migrant stream would consist of heterogeneous sub-streams.
- For example, if we consider the rural-urban migrant stream, it would comprise **of rural rich and the rural poor, each with its own reasons and motivation for migration, the mode of migration, the outcome or consequence of migration etc.**
- Poorer sections of the population migrate as a survival strategy, in response to distressing conditions in rural areas.
- Migrants from better-off sections migrate to improve their living standards.
- Further, spatially, there would be a tendency for migrants to converge on enclaves of growth - either in urban areas or in rural areas. The pattern of migration is very complex, comprising of a number of streams:
 1. rural to rural; rural to urban; urban to rural; urban to urban
 2. short, medium and long distance migration streams
 3. long-term stable migration and short-term circulatory type of movements Each of these streams would consist of different types of migrants, (from different social classes) each with its own reason for migration. The extent and nature of these migrant streams would essentially depend on
 4. pressures and aspirations experienced by people at the origin of migration
 5. constraints imposed on mobility at the origin of migration
 6. opportunities at the destination and availability of information regarding these opportunities and
 7. the cost of migration

Migration Policies

Policies to address the problem of migration in developing countries like India essentially aim at the following:

- To reduce the volume of migration: As a large part of migration is a reflection of poverty and insecurity faced by large sections of the rural people, the focus of intervention has to be in rural

areas. Rural development policies to reduce poverty and insecurity would be essential to reduce the rate of migration

- To redirect the migrant streams: Redirection of migrant streams, away from big metropolitan cities is a desirable policy option. This policy can help in reducing spatial inequalities by suitable strategies, such as **developing a more dispersed pattern of Orbanization**.

More to Know:

1. The largest migration corridor in the world in **2010 was Mexico – U.S.A.**
2. The **Arctic tern** has the longest migration distance of any bird in the world.