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THE RISE OF THE IT SECTOR IN PUNE, MAHARASHTRA: CATALYST FOR INTERNAL MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT

The Sociological review of migrants and migration is a widespread attraction in contemporary times. Internal migration within states has attracted economists, sociologists and political scientists in order to understand the effects of varied factors of migration. Certain factors have promoted the internal migration and a rapid increase in internal migration in India has affected the structure of the society, financial matters and patterns of lifestyle and social practices of migrants.

In Maharashtra one can find the varied new trends in migration in recent decades. One of them is the migration of IT persons from other states to Maharashtra especially to Pune. Pune is one of the developed cities in the state of Maharashtra. The city has witnessed the remarkable changes in recent years as a result of the emergence and development of IT centers and parks in the city.

In present paper the researcher has tried to study the recent trends in interstate migration of IT persons especially to Pune, Maharashtra. The reasons behind it, the development of Pune as an IT hub and some other factors are being studied.

Keywords: Migrants, Interstate Migration, Urban Agglomeration, Million Plus Cities, Lifestyle and Social Practices.

INTRODUCTION

The trends of migration in India

The study of migration has developed rapidly as a research field over the past few decades. Researchers have studied different aspects of migration and its consequences on human society. Sociologists have studied migration as a phenomenon that affects various structures and institutions of the society. A sociological definition of migration defines migration as the physical movements of individuals or groups which has effect on the individuals and the social structure of the group to which they belong.

Migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihoods is a key feature of human history (Srivastava, 2003). While certain regions and sectors fall behind in their capacity to support populations, few other sectors hold promising opportunities wherein people migrate to access these emerging opportunities. In India, the trends and pace of migration has boomed post liberalization, as the economy started opening up to different sectors. People have a wide range of choice and opportunities of different vocations and professions. This has triggered the pace of internal migration in India with increasing job opportunities in different sectors.

The Indian Census defines Internal Migration as any movement within the political boundaries of the nation which results in a change of usual place of residence from the past residence or place of birth. Based on this, internal movements within the political boundary of states or nation are classified as intra-district, inter-district and inter-state movement. These three categories of internal movements across and within states are together called as internal migration. Migration literature makes a clear-cut distinction between “pull” and “push” factors, which, however do not operate in isolation from one another. Mobility occurs when workers in the source areas lack suitable options for employment or livelihood, and there is some expectation of improvement in circumstances through migration (Srivastava, 2003). In India the level of development in different states and places is different, thus inter-state migration within the states varies differently between different states. The patterns of migration in India are such that less affluent states and districts show higher out-migration while rich metropolises attract large inflows of labor (Economic Survey of India, 2017). Census data reveals that internal migration has been rising in recent years, which has nearly doubled in the 2000s as compared to the 1990s.

The Economic Survey of India (2016-2017:265) in its chapter titled ‘India on the Move and Churning: New Evidence’ finds high levels of internal work-related migration in India. It analyses the Census data on migration, stating that interstate migration in India was about 5-6.5 million between 2001 and 2011. The survey analyses some of the largest interstate migration routes in India. According



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to it, 'states like Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat attract migrants from the North Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Kolkata in West Bengal attracts migrants from nearby states of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha making clear one of the laws of migration put forward by Ravenstein (1885)': "There is a process of absorption, whereby people immediately surrounding a rapidly growing town move into it and the gaps they leave are filled by migrants from more distant areas, and so on until the attractive force is spent."

Migration to Maharashtra

The state of Maharashtra has thus emerged as one of the most selected destinations for migration. According to the UNESCO 'Internal Migration in India Initiative (2011)' there is an increase in urban migration as well as interstate migration in recent times, wherein noticeable migration corridors have emerged within the country – Bihar to Delhi, Bihar to Haryana and Punjab, Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra, Odisha to Gujarat, Odisha to Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan to Gujarat. In general, in-migration rates were higher in high-income states such as Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and West Bengal, whereas low-income states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Orissa and Chhattisgarh reported relatively higher rates of out-migration. It is thus seen that state of Maharashtra being one of the most developed and 'high income' states in terms of its per capita income, has witnessed high migration rates in recent years.

The Census data reveals that during the 1991-2011, the total migrants in the state of Maharashtra increased remarkably. The total migrants to the state increased by 16.37(lakhs) during the period 1991-2001 and 6.53 lakhs during the period 2001-2011. Total in-migrants comprised of migrants from other states and migrants from abroad.

Source: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. (ORGI)

The Census data also reveals that work or employment emerged as the most popular reason for migration amongst in-migrants from other states to the state of Maharashtra, followed by marriage during the period 1991-2001. For work or employment, the in-migrants from other states to the state of Maharashtra increased by 10 lakhs during the period 1991-2001. During the period of 2001-2011 'moved with household' emerged as the most popular reason amongst in-migrants from other states.

Development of IT Sector in Maharashtra - Reasons of Migration

In order to promote balanced growth of Information Technology (IT) industry in the State, Government of Maharashtra came up with its IT & ITES Policy. As defined by Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), IT is the study, design, development, implementation, support or management of computer-based information system particularly software's applications & computer hardware. ITES is Information Technology Enable Services. It is defined as outsourcing of processes that can be enabled with IT and covers diverse areas like Finance, HR, and Administration etc. The Government of Maharashtra announced its first IT Policy in the year 1998. It was followed by the Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES) Policy-2003 and IT/ITES Policy-2009 to generate employment, increase efficiency and to improve the quality of life of the people. From the year 2001 the concept of private IT parks gained much importance. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) and Software Technology Parks of India have developed 37 Public IT parks which are functioning in the State with an immense investment and availed a huge employability. Amongst the Private IT parks, the highest number are located in Pune and Mumbai suburban area. These IT parks accommodate a number of companies related to IT and ITES.

The Pune city in the state of Maharashtra which was popularly known as the "Pensioner's Paradise" and the "Oxford of the East" has thus witnessed comprehensive changes in recent years as a result of the rapid increase in IT hubs and parks in the city. It has developed as a substitute to Mumbai, the administrative capital of the state of Maharashtra and business capital of India. According to the Report on Migration and its Impact On Cities by World Economic Forum, the city of Pune which was traditionally a manufacturing hub, soon transformed itself into a service sector with the IT sector being a predominant source of employment in recent years.



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It is estimated that India has 7,935 cities and towns according to the 2011 Census, however 70 per cent of the urban population lives in 468 Class I Urban Agglomerations (UAs) i.e., a continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining outgrowths. The number of Class I UAs has sharply increased from 384 in 2001 to 468 in 2011. In addition, there are 53 million-plus UAs which comprise 43 per cent of India's urban population. The number of million-plus UAs increased from 35 in 2001 to 53 in 2011 – an addition of 18 UAs during the period 2001–2011 –demonstrating that the nature and pattern of urban population is heavily concentrated in large cities. (Bhagat, 2014) The city of Pune has fast emerged as an Urban agglomerate.

The rising importance of these million-plus cities, both in numbers as well as the huge concentration of urban population within them, indicates the significance of the presence of migrants in the city space. (Bhagat, 2014) The city of Pune is on the 5th highest position amongst the selected 16 urban agglomerate cities. (R.B.Bhagat, 2012).

Looking at the proportion of migrants across the million-plus cities, it is quite evident that this is closely related to the economic position and vitality of these cities. (Bhagat, 2014). The progress of Pune has exceeded from manufacturing hub to a prosperous IT hub, resulting in creation of employment, emerging as the most chosen destination for migration, ensuring higher out migration from those states who are relatively lesser developed in terms of IT infrastructure and services. The JLL¹ City Momentum Index² in its research pointed out India – with seven cities in the top 20, the most of any country – leads the 2020 Index. The city of Pune was ranked in the top 20 rank with the 12th position. The JLL City Momentum Index identifies a number of key success drivers of the world's most dynamic cities, including talent attraction and strong innovative economy as well as the challenges these cities face in trying to accommodate rapid growth and maintain positive momentum in the longer term. This again supports to the fact that the city, amidst heavy migration against the background of 'IT boom' and remarkable demographical, economic and cultural changes, has maintained its position in various indices indicating that the city has constantly adapted to the changes and worked towards providing people with better opportunities and good quality life.

All these factors point out that a high income state and a city is usually a preferred destination for the aspirant migrants. Especially when it comes to high skilled migrants who migrate out of choice for raising one's standard of living. Also they try to employ themselves in the jobs which are most suited to their professional skills.

The rise of the IT industry in Pune has not only developed it in terms of infrastructure developments across the city but has also accompanied in the pace of urbanization with a rise in the number of residential complexes, hospitals, hotel industries, multiplexes and malls. The rapid industrialization and migration to the city has led the process of cultural hybridization. This increasing migration which is the result of urbanization has affected the economic spheres along with the socio-cultural aspects. For example, development in culture like sunburn or EDM with the existence of traditional cultural events like Sawai Gandharva Sangeet Mohotsav, Development of multi cuisine restaurants with the growing popularity of the traditional food culture, development of old Pune with the emergence of planned townships in the areas of IT parks, existence of traditional education with emergence of half a dozen private universities with new vocational courses. Many more examples of such socio-cultural fusion or cultural hybridization can be given.

Effects of this Migration

The Indian society is a distinctive one with diverse cultures and traditions together. The people of India practice diversity in cultures and perform across various regions making them distinct from one another. There are differences in practices with respect to family, marriage, religion, gender and practices related to cuisines and dressings. However, cultures are dynamic forces which constantly evolve as a result of different forces acting upon them; one such force being the process of globalization which has drastically altered the face of societies across time and space. Emergence of transnational corporations, changed notions of division of labour, increased

¹Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), together with its subsidiaries and affiliates, is a leading global provider of real estate and investment management services.

²The City Momentum Index 2020 covers 130 major established and emerging markets to identify the cities that have the strongest positive momentum in their economies.



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human mobility, changing institutional structures, changes in lifestyles and practices are all result of globalizing tendencies which have affected our society.

All such changes are clearly visible to any metropolitan city due to the economic and industrial development and due to migration. It tends to change the cultural identity of the city. The city of Pune has witnessed such transformation with the rise of IT industry and constant growth in migrants from other states. Transformations in social institutions, lifestyles, social practices, patterns of entertainment, patterns of consumption and youth culture are clearly visible.

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