

Population Migration & Population Displacement

Geography of Population Migration

Geography of Human Migration

Migration (human) is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent residence.

Types of Migration

- **Internal Migration:** Moving to a new home within a state or country.
- **External Migration:** Moving to a new home in a different country or continent.
- **Emigration:** Leaving one country to move to another.
- **Immigration:** Moving into a new country.

Types of Migration

- **Involuntary Migration**: When a government forces a large group of people out of a region, usually based on ethnicity or religion.
- **Impelled Migration** (also called "reluctant" migration): Individuals are not forced out of their country, but leave because of unfavorable situations such as warfare, political problems, or religious persecution.
- **Step Migration**: A series of shorter, less extreme migrations from a person's place of origin to final destination—such as moving from a farm, to a village, to a town, and finally to a city.

Types of Migration

- **Chain Migration:** A series of migrations within a family or defined group of people. A chain migration often begins with one family member who sends money to bring other family members to the new location.
- **Return Migration:** The voluntary movements of immigrants back to their place of origin.
- **Seasonal Migration:** The process of moving for a period of time in response to labor or climate conditions (e.g., farm workers following crop harvests or working in cities off-season).

Why Do People Migrate?

People move for a variety of reasons. They consider the advantages and disadvantages of staying versus moving, as well as factors such as distance, travel costs, travel time, modes of transportation, and cultural barriers.

- **Push Factors:** Reasons for emigrating (leaving a place) because of a difficulty (such as a food shortage, war, flood, etc.).
- **Pull Factors:** Reasons for immigrating (moving into a place) because of something desirable (such as a nicer climate, better food supply, freedom, etc.).

Impacts of Migration

- Human migration affects population patterns and characteristics, social and cultural patterns and processes, economies, and physical environments.

Diffusion: The process through which certain characteristics (e.g., cultural traits, ideas, disease) spread over space and through time.

Relocation Diffusion: Ideas, cultural traits, etc. that move with people from one place to another and do not remain in the point of origin.

Impacts of Migration

- **Expansion Diffusion:** Ideas, cultural traits, etc., that move with people from one place to another but are not lost at the point of origin, such as language.
- **Cultural markers:** Structures or artifacts (e.g., buildings, spiritual places, architectural styles, signs, etc.) that reflect the cultures and histories of those who constructed or occupy them.

Hazards and Population Displacement

Hazard

Definition: A hazard is a potential source of harm or adverse effect. It refers to anything that can cause injury, damage, or negative consequences.

Examples:

- **Manmade Hazards:** (e.g. Any kind of human induced accident)
- **Natural Hazards:** (e.g. Earthquakes, floods or any natural phenomenon)

Different Types of Natural Hazards

- Cyclone
- Tornados
- Nor'Wester
- Storm Surges and Tidal Bores
- Flood
- Coastal Erosion
- Landslide
- Groundwater Contamination
- Earthquakes

Vulnerability of Bangladesh to Natural Hazards

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world due to its geographic location, low-lying deltaic landscape, and dense population.

The country is highly vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, including cyclones, floods, riverbank erosion, landslides, and droughts.

Situated at the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers, and adjacent to the Bay of Bengal,

Bangladesh experiences frequent flooding during the monsoon season, which inundates vast areas of farmland and settlements.

Tropical cyclones, often accompanied by storm surges, cause widespread destruction in coastal districts, while **riverbank erosion** steadily erodes habitable land along major rivers. In the hilly areas of the southeast, heavy rainfall can trigger landslides, claiming lives and destroying homes.

Population Displacement Caused by Natural Hazards

These hazards often lead to significant population displacement, both temporary and permanent.

Floods and cyclones can force millions of people to evacuate their homes each year, seeking shelter in cyclone centers, embankments, or with relatives in safer areas.

Riverbank erosion, in particular, causes permanent loss of land, forcing affected families to migrate to urban slums or newly accreted coastal lands in search of livelihoods.

Such displacement disrupts social networks, livelihoods, and access to essential services, often pushing vulnerable groups deeper into poverty. Displaced populations face heightened risks of food insecurity, health problems, and lack of education for children.