

# 3

## Migration



### Milestones

In this chapter, you will learn about:

- Migration—its meaning and various types
- Causes and effects of migration
- Brain drain—its meaning and causes
- Positive and negative effects of brain drain

### Buckle Up

Find out whether anyone in your immediate or extended family has migrated. Write about her/his place of destination. What made her/him migrate?

Person who migrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for migration: \_\_\_\_\_

### Migration

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the purpose of settling at the destination or living there for a relatively long period of time. It often takes place across political or administrative boundaries. People can migrate temporarily or permanently. Migration may occur voluntarily or forcefully. There are two important processes related to migration.

- Emigration
- Immigration

Emigration is the movement of people out of a region or country and such migrants are called emigrants. Immigration is the movement of people into a region or country and such migrants are called immigrants. The place where the people are moving in, that is, the destination, is called the receiving country. The place from where the people are moving out, that is, the origin, is called the sending country.



▲ People migrate in search of better economic opportunities.



## Types of Migration

There are two types of migration—internal and external.

### Internal migration

Internal Migration refers to the movement of people within the same country. There are various ways in which internal migration takes place.

When people move from villages to cities, it is called rural to urban migration. It happens due to poverty, unemployment and lack of social amenities such as health and education. This type of migration is common in the developing countries of Asia and South America.

When people move from a small town to a larger city, it is called urban to urban migration. It happens due to poor infrastructure and lack of adequate employment opportunities. In India, many people have migrated from small towns and cities to the metropolitan cities such as Delhi and Mumbai in search of jobs and better education and health facilities.

When people move from one village to another, it is called rural to rural migration. It happens when farmers move out from overcrowded villages to areas with less population or more fertile land and better irrigation facilities. This type of migration is common in the Indian sub-continent and South-east Asia.

### Around the World

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

Countries like USA and Australia are largely made up of migrant population. The Spanish were the first to settle in the USA, followed by people from England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and other European countries. In Australia, the first immigrants were convicts who were transported from Britain and Ireland. Later, people from continental Europe and south-east Asia also migrated in large numbers.

1. Why did many Europeans migrate to USA?
2. How does migrant population affect the social structure of a region?

- When people move from cities to villages or suburban areas, it is called urban to rural migration. It happens when certain cities become overpopulated, resulting in shortage of housing, traffic congestion and pollution. People prefer to move out from these cities and settle in the suburbs or rural areas where living conditions are better. Mumbai, Shanghai and London are examples of metropolitan cities where thousands of people commute to work from the surrounding suburban areas.

- Sometimes, political unrest in a particular region may force people to move out from there and settle elsewhere in the country. This is called forced migration. The emigration of many people from Kashmir to different parts of India is a suitable example.
- When people move out from an area in the aftermath of a natural disaster such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, flood or cyclone, it is called short-term migration.

## External or international migration

External Migration refers to the movement of people from one country to another. It can be of different types.

- When people emigrate from their home country with the **legal** permission of the receiving country, it is called legal migration. For example, large numbers of people have migrated from the South Asian countries to the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and the Middle East for better employment prospects and higher standard of living.
- When people move out from their country without any legal permission, it is called illegal migration. They violate the immigration laws of the receiving country and cross the borders illegally.
- International emigration also takes place due to natural calamities (for example, famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s), climate change (for example, rising sea levels have caused the sinking of many islands in the South Pacific Ocean), communal tension (for example, influx of **refugees** from Pakistan to India after Partition in 1947) and civil war (for example, Syria in current times).

### Checkpoint

Answer correctly.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the movement of people out of a region or country, while \_\_\_\_\_ is the movement of people into a region or country.
2. The country of \_\_\_\_\_ suffered widespread famine in the 1980s.
3. The country from where people are moving out is called the receiving country. (True/False)
4. The emigration of many people from Kashmir to different parts of India is an example of rural to urban migration. (True/False)
5. People who emigrate from their country to another in order to escape conditions like civil war and political unrest are called \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) legal migrants (b) illegal migrants  
 (c) refugees (d) None of these



## Causes of migration

People move from one region to another or across international boundaries due to various reasons, which can be grouped under two categories—**push factors** and **pull factors**.

### Push factors

A push factor is something that encourages or forces people to move out from a region or a country. In case of internal migration, the common push factors are **poverty**, **unemployment**, **poor infrastructure** and **lack of social amenities**. Internationally, the push factors are **overpopulation**, **lack of employment opportunities**, **low standard of living** and **lack of social services**.

#### Let's Do This

Prepare a chart of push and pull factors of India and display it in the class.



### Pull factors

A pull factor is something that encourages or attracts people to move into a region or a country from elsewhere. The important pull factors for both internal and international migration are better employment opportunities, better **infrastructure**, **higher standard of living**, **more access to education** and other facilities and **stable economy** and **political conditions**.

Some of the urban **agglomerations** which have attracted large numbers of migrant population are **Shanghai**, **Beijing**, **Mumbai**, **Delhi**, **Jakarta**, **Osaka**, **Tokyo**, **Seoul**, **Manila**, **Cairo**, **Lagos**, **Mexico City**, **Sao Paulo**, **Chicago** and **New York**.



▲ Today foreign-born people (immigrants) make up about 21% of Canada's population.

### Impact of migration

Migration, both internal and international, has a significant impact on the socio-economic structure of the society.

#### Positive impacts:

- Emigration reduces pressure of population from the rural areas and overpopulated countries.



- Money sent home - Remittance*
- Rural-urban migration provides labour to industries and other urban services, facilitating production.
  - Immigration adds to the human resource of underpopulated countries, thereby enhancing economic growth.
  - Rural communities and sending countries benefit due to the money that is sent home, thereby increasing household incomes and promoting economic development.
  - Immigrants bring their own customs and traditions and thus enrich the cultural diversity of the receiving country. *Remittance*

#### Negative impacts:

- Large-scale rural-urban migration leads to shortage in the supply of agricultural labour.
- Big cities get overcrowded, which leads to a strain on the social amenities.
- Job opportunities in urban areas are not adequate, leading to unemployment, social tension and increased crime rates.
- International migration results in loss of human resources.
- Large number of refugees in a country often leads to social conflicts and racism.

#### Checkpoint

Answer correctly.

1. Which of the following is not a push factor for migration?  
(a) poverty (b) unemployment (c) civil war (d) stable economy
2. The city of \_\_\_\_\_ in Indonesia is an urban agglomeration which has attracted large numbers of migrants.  
(a) Manila (b) Jakarta (c) Seoul (d) Cairo
3. \_\_\_\_\_ reduces pressure of population from rural areas and overpopulated countries.
4. Most villages in India have poor infrastructure and few social amenities. (True/False)
5. Access to education is a pull factor for migration. (True/False)

#### Brain Drain

The large-scale emigration of highly educated or skilled people from one country to another is called **brain drain**. Usually this migration occurs from the developing and underdeveloped countries to the developed ones. Brain drain is also known as **human capital flight**.

The causes of brain drain can be classified into push factors and pull factors.



Push factors are the features of the less developed countries that force intelligent and talented people to migrate to the developed nations. They are:

- Lack of employment opportunities or highly paid jobs
- Lack of research facilities and funds
- Discrimination in employment and lack of freedom at work
- Poor working conditions
- Low standard of living
- Political and social instability
- Lack of educational opportunities

Pull factors are the features of the developed countries that attract highly qualified or trained people to move out from the less developed countries. They are:

- Highly paid jobs
- Superior research and training facilities
- Intellectual freedom and **autonomy**
- Advanced technology and good working conditions
- High standard of living
- Economic and political stability
- Prestige of foreign training

## Impact of brain drain

Brain drain has an important influence on a country. Though it is a major problem for the sending country, there are some benefits too.

### Positive effects:

Highly educated people, who move from the less developed countries to the developed ones, acquire more knowledge and learn new techniques of production. When they return, the home country can utilise their expertise for its own development. The migrants send part of their earnings back home. This contributes to household earnings, which in turn enhances the economic growth of the country.

### Negative effects:

Most of the highly educated and trained people leave the country and contribute their knowledge and skills for the benefit of other countries. The home country faces a shortage of skilled labour and loss of innovative ideas. All the investment in education goes waste and the poor countries lose their potential leaders. Loss of tax revenue, critical health and educational services are also the negative impacts of brain drain.



## Checkpoint

Answer correctly.

The large-scale emigration of highly educated or skilled people from one country to another is called \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a positive effect of brain drain on the home country.

- (a) Increased household earnings                      (b) Increase of skilled labour  
(c) Loss of innovative ideas                              (d) Loss of potential leaders

Brain drain is also known as human capital flight. (True/False)

Brain drain usually occurs from the developed countries to the developing countries. (True/False)

## Snap Recap

- Migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the purpose of settling at the destination or living there for a relatively long period of time.
- Emigration is the movement of people out of a region or country, while immigration is the movement of people into a region or country.
- There are two basic types of migration—internal (within the country) and international (from one country to another).
- The push factors of migration are poverty, unemployment, lack of social amenities, overpopulation and political unrest.
- The pull factors of migration are better employment opportunities, higher standard of living and stable economy and political conditions.
- Migration, both internal and international, has a significant impact on the socio-economic structure of the society.
- Brain drain is the large-scale emigration of highly educated or skilled people from the developing and underdeveloped countries to the developed ones.

## Review Exercise

### A. Picture study

Observe the picture and answer the questions.

1. What is depicted in the picture?
2. In which regions would you find this type of movement of people?
3. Give two reasons for the same.



### B. Answer these questions in 10-20 words.

1. Define the term 'migration'.
2. Who are refugees? Give an example from India.