

## **Extended Abstract**

### **Changing Perspective of Urbanization and Urban Male Out-Migration from Uttar Pradesh (India) \***

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At present internal migration and urbanization are the two most debatable issues in most of the Asian countries, though the rates of change of these two processes vary from country to country. In India too, urbanization and migration are gaining ever increasing attention of both the researchers and the policymakers. However, in most of the Asian countries including India, either the issue of out-migration from rural areas or the problem of in-migration in big cities and its impact on the quality and growth of urbanization have been the major issues of discussion. Surprisingly the problem of out-migration, from urban areas especially from small and medium size towns of backward areas, has largely been ignored. In this paper, therefore, an attempt has been made to look into the level, growth and pattern of urbanization in Uttar Pradesh and also to identify the spatial pattern of urban male out-migration from the state. Efforts have also been made to investigate the reasons of urban male out-migration by religion, social group (caste), duration of stay of out-migrants at their destinations, migration streams, types of destinations, regional pattern of out-migration from the state to various zones in India. Besides, state preferences of out-migrants, engagement of out-migrants in economic activity, migrants sending remittances and the amount of remittances from internal and international out-migrants, the trend and share of Uttar Pradesh in the total emigration from India and international remittances inflow to India have also been explored. Finally some suggestions have also been given for the sustainable development of the state. The study is based on secondary sources of data. Various aspects of migration and urbanization have been explored using data from Census of India 2001 and 2011. Besides, data from National Samples Surveys (NSS), 64<sup>th</sup> Round, 2007-08, World Bank, and various annual reports of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India and other sources have been utilised to explore the process of urban male out-migration from Uttar Pradesh. In the present study descriptive analysis of data has been applied and the processed data has been demonstrated through various types of diagrams. Choropleth maps have been prepared using GIS techniques.

Though being situated in fertile Indo-Gangetic plains, Uttar Pradesh is agriculturally very developed and thus can support a very large rural population, if not all. However, industrially it is one of the very backward states and is not even able to absorb and sustain its own urban population therefore it has emerged as one of the highly out-migrating states in India. Out-migration of male population from the urban areas of the state to other states and countries has been adopted as the survival strategy by substantial number of people.

According to the Census of India 2011, Uttar Pradesh with about 200 million people is the most populous state of India. It is also the most populous sub-national entity in the world. Only four countries (China, India, the USA, and Indonesia) have their populations greater than Uttar Pradesh. As per the Census of India, 2011, Uttar Pradesh with 44.47 million people living in urban areas possessed the second largest urban system (915 cities and towns) in India. However, the level of urbanization stood at 22.28 per cent (population living in urban areas) making it one of the least urbanized states and thus the state ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in the level of urbanization among 35 states and UTs; the level of urbanization of the state is thus much below the national average of 31.16 per cent. Moreover, it is interesting to note that most of the towns are small and medium size towns with inadequate socio-economic opportunities, social amenities and facilities, therefore, prompting people to out-migrate. Urbanization has been a slower process in Uttar Pradesh compared to other states. Low level of urbanization in Uttar Pradesh may be attributed to certain factors. These factors, for example, include low level of industrialisation, poor infrastructural base, its location in fertile Indo-Gangetic plain which is very favourable for agricultural activities and thus overdependence on agriculture based economy, more attention to the development of few big cities neglecting the small and medium size towns, saturation and overburdening in big cities; and low employment opportunities in the big cities in general and in small cities and towns in particular. Besides, high out-migration rates from urban areas to other states and lower rates of rural to urban migration within and from other states are some of the factors responsible for low level of urbanization in the state. Uttar Pradesh is regarded as one of the most underdeveloped states of India in terms of most of the indicators of social and economic development like literacy rates, per capita income, employment rate, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, death rate, life expectancy, medical facilities and electric power supply and so on.

Uttar Pradesh constitutes around 12 per cent of the total urban population but contributes to more than one-fourth of the total inter-state urban out-migrants in India. From

Uttar Pradesh emigration has also increased very rapidly during the last few years. Uttar Pradesh with 19228 emigrants contributed to about 5 per cent in the total emigration (especially to Gulf countries) from India. Surprisingly, the contribution of Uttar Pradesh in the total emigration from India has reached as high as 25.61 per cent (191341 emigrants) in 2012. Such a high proportion of out-migration from the state clearly indicates the dearth of employment opportunities in the state. In India the amount of International remittances inflow has increased very rapidly due to very high emigration from its underdeveloped and poor states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar etc. and India has become the largest recipient of international remittances in the world.

Out-migration of male population from both the urban and rural areas has emerged as a family supporting strategy in most of the households in Uttar Pradesh. Various studies by the Planning Commission, World Bank and academicians have shown that Uttar Pradesh is one of the poorest and backward states of India and thus is unable to support its own population in a sustainable manner. Henceforth a very substantial proportion of the male population is out-migrating for economic motives to other states and countries (especially to the Gulf countries) so that their left behind families may sustain and gain social and economic upliftment. As per the Census of India the most prominent reason for urban male out-migration was economic reason. The NSS data, 64<sup>th</sup> Round, 2007-08 revealed more interesting results for urban male out-migration by religion and caste. In urban areas of Uttar Pradesh, Muslim population contributes a substantial proportion of population. Interestingly various studies have shown that in urban areas of Uttar Pradesh, socio-economically Muslim are the most backward community. Therefore they have a very high propensity of out-migration within and across the national boundary for economic reasons, though the economic motive is very prevalent among all the religious communities.

The study emphasises that the urban areas of the state should be developed in a sustainable manner. Special efforts should be done to strengthen the socio-economic base of small and medium size towns because if these town areas developed they can sustain and hold their own population on one hand and can fulfil the socio-economic needs of the surrounding rural areas on the other. Thus, they can help reduce rural to urban migration because then rural people instead of out-migrating to the big cities will migrate or commute to these small and medium size towns. This will serve an additional purpose of lessening the burden of various facilities and amenities in already congested big cities. The study has revealed that in Uttar Pradesh majority of the population living in the rural areas as well as in

the small and medium size towns depends on agriculture and allied activities which are unable to support the population in a sustainable way, particularly in the urban areas. Therefore efforts should also be done to strengthen the secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy in the state.

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\* The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of IIDS.