

## A Retrospective View Over “Human Migration”

Sheza Azeen

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### Abstract:

*Human migration is not a new process it has been there since the beginning of world, in a way this process has shaped human culture, history and economy. It has always been a matter of consideration from anthropological as well as sociological perspective. In history it has worked as mean for spreading out the whole civilization and enriching cultures. It came in as a strong driving force giving shape to cities and urbanization since the time of industrial revolution. This article aims at giving retrospective view to the readers, as to how since beginning of the world human migration is in motion, and what are different factors putting effect on this churning wheels to make it happen and increase its rate of flow. It is also observed that lately the influx had increased drastically because of Syrian war, letting hundreds of native Syrians to flee the country in search of better livelihood confirming one of the major factor for process of migration being disruptive internal issues of a country.*

**Keywords:** Anthropology, Human Migration, Factors effecting Migration, Culture, Development.

### Authors:

1. Sherlock Institute of Forensic Science INDIA, New Delhi, India

## Introduction

It is said all the species travel but human beings are considered to be master of all. Since the origin of this species almost two hundred thousand years ago, humans are were on March. This migration of people from one place to another is considered to be movement. Other than human beings there is no other creature which has history of trekking up so far or make habitat in such different environments. The only place exempted on Earth from this migration is Antarctica, this is considered to be only place where humans are said not to be settled down permanently. It has been observed that reason of this human migration differs from animal migration vastly. It is fact that animals migrate because of their biological instinct or natural deposition of being, that generally gets ignited by hormones or air temperature. While humans on the other end depends on reasoning and logic. So, it would not be unsafe to cumulate it as a fact that all of the animal kingdom migrates in order to find food, reproduce, or in response to change in seasons. But Homo sapiens goes on move for finding better livelihood.

Among scholars from every field geographers were the one who were first to identify the phenomenon of migration. (**Ravenstein, 1885**) They used analogies of physical laws to elucidate process of migration. Later on Zelinsky gave theory of mobility transition that explained migration because of demographic shift. (**Zelinsky, 1971**)

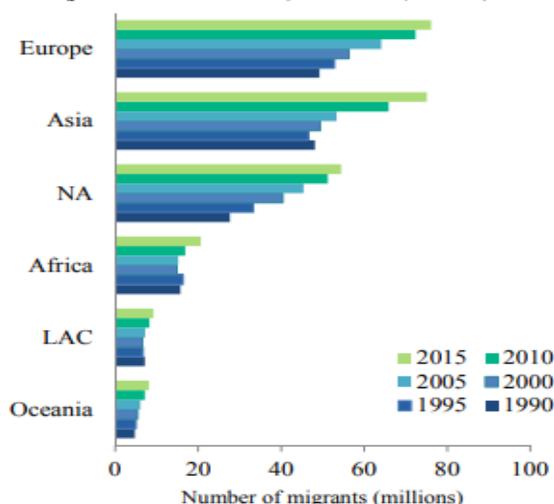
Various scholars were of different opinion about migration, it is often linked with “mobility” and “movement” though these are two different terms but most of the time used interchangeably. (**Parnwell, 1993**) However, every movement cannot be considered as migration by people who does not have fix place of residence. To explain, a person on travel such as tourists or nomads does not fall into the category of migrants. (**Sharvastava, 1994**)

## Timeline

- **200,000 BCE:** Appearance of Homo sapiens in Continent of Africa as distinctive species took place.
- **74,000 BCE:** On Island Sumatra, evidence of migration of first humans found, below ash line created due to volcanic eruptions.
- **70,000-60,000 BCE:** Humans migrated to Asia from Africa because of poor climate and food condition
- **55,000-50,000 BCE:** Migration of humans from Asia to Australia in the course of last Ice age took place during this time period. Glaciers had absorbed so much sea water that human walked most of their way through it.
- **52,000-45,000 BCE:** It was the time period when humans migrated to Europe via Middle East to southern Europe and have there met last remaining Neanderthal Man.
- **16,500-13,500 BCE:** Migration of humans towards America took place during this year.
- **3000-1000 BCE:** Bantu clan migrated across Africa
- **132-1948 CE:** Diaspora took place during this era.
- **793-1150:** Vikings intruded in western and eastern Europe and established their trading posts and settled down during this time period.
- **1500-1850:** One of biggest transatlantic forced migration in history took place in this time period, approximately twelve million people were captured and sold off to Europeans and Americans. Then comes Indian ocean slave trade which resulted in capturing and shipping of almost three to five million Central Africans to South Asia and Middle east.
- **1607-1700:** British colonized North Americas east coast, establishing thirteen colonies that later on became the United States of America
- **1815-1915:** In search of political independence along with economic opportunities thousands of Asians natives and millions of Europeans migrated to United States of America.
- **1910-1930:** Great migration took place during this year. As in order to escape from racism thousands of African Americans migrated towards northern states, another reason for this escape was finding better economic opportunities.
- **1942-1960:** During this period almost four and a half million Mexican workers migrated to United States as farm laborers.

• **Movement of International Migrants since 1990-2015**

**Figure I.2. Number of international migrants by major area of destination, 1990-2015 (millions)**



**Source:** United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2015

- **2004:** Remains of miniature human species was discovered by scientist in Indonesian island of Flores.
- **2008:** World was struck with shock because Greek went under financial crisis under global crisis, which lead to migration of tens and thousands of professionals from Greek to emigrate in search of work.
- **2009:** UNESCO presented a report, where it was found that every one person in thirty-five was an international migrant. In year 2005 however, it was established that around 191 million people have settled down in country other than their own. (UN-DESA, 2006). This was considered to be then three percent of world’s population.
- **2011:** Beginning of Syrian war resulted in migration of more than 10 million Syrians due to displacement by violence.
- **2013:** It was observed in this year that, more than fifty one percent of world’s migrant were living in ten countries. But the largest hold was found in America that was forty six millions in number, which is equal to twenty percent of world’s population. (Cholewinski and Pecoud; 2009) (Cummings,

**2016)(UN International Migration Report, 2013 & 2015)**

**Types of Migration**

Migration can be divided into three types, one being the seasonal human migration, second Rural to Urban migration and third Urban to Rural. These can be understood in details given below:

- **Human Migration Depending on Season:**  
This type of migration is basically linked with agriculture and tourism. This is thought to be one of the temporary kind or one can say it works as a cyclic process, in which migrants come to a particular place in a particular season and goes back to their native place when the work is over and this cycle keeps on repeating after period of certain time.
- **From Rural Area to Urban Area**  
This kind of trend is most commonly seen in countries which are still on the verge of development, while industrial development is taking effect.
- **From Urban Cities to Rural Areas**  
This kind of migration process is commonly witnessed in already developed country, as because of high end living and higher cost crowd tends to move towards urban cities preferring expensive lifestyle over the simpler one (Bhawana, 2013).

**Reason behind Migration**

There can be many factors effecting people’s life and compelling them to migrate from their own nation. Determinant of this process of migration can be either natural or man-made, which results in various factors. That was classified by Lee as “Push or Pull factors”.

- **Push Factors:**  
It could be anything such as naturally high rate of population that eventually creates pressure, over already existing resources or population explosion resulting into extinction or exhaustion of naturally present resources of that area. Few more reasons that can work as push factor is natural calamity such as droughts, floods, earthquakes, famine. Apart from these factors major reason that works as push factor are religious and political clash that compels people to migrate to other place. (Dosky, 2018)
- **Pull Factors:**  
Pull factors can be classified into society, economic-structure, political establishment and environmental factors. Prominent social factors that put influence over migration of humans can be cultural richness which promises improved integrity, better welfare

programs, superior education, great infrastructure, strong social networking opportunity. For example, main reasons for movement and mobility of Indians were: pressured early marriage, varying caste system in religion, diversity in language and culture, lower educational bodies. (Davis, 1968)

#### **Impact of Migration over Development**

It is found that migration has tremendous impact over human development and it helps improve developing countries. (UNDP, 2009) Currently, it's been observed that billion plus people hugely depend over international and internal migration, in order to find escape door from conflicts, and poverty. They run from economic shocks and betterment of their financial conditions, better health maintenance facility etc. It was seemingly observed that Yearly remittances of countries still in development stage let alone has reached to an estimate of five hundred billions U.S dollar (Sutherland, 2013). Hence, we can say that migration is an important ladder necessarily climbed out of poverty.

Another aspect of confirming the statement that migration helps in development of countries would be backed by neo-classical theory of migration, which states that migration is a method which uses optimal allocation method in order to produce, factors for the benefit of both departing from and receiving countries. This actually gives an idea over concept of "balanced growth" which becomes pre-requisite for economic growth and ultimately helping constitute whole process of development. (Todaro, 1969)

#### **Conclusion**

It would not be wrong to say that migration became number one priority for anthropologist in the year 1950 and 1960, however it has been there in the society from early civilization. It was during this year that they noted high rate of rural-to-urban migration. The paper focuses over the trend and flow of migration over time period and how it has been helpful in development of countries by bringing different culture and knowledge in the recipient country.



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