

The Human Migration in 21st Century India: Intensity, Trends, Flow and Opportunities for Economic Development of Migrants

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KEYWORDS Internal Mobility. Determinants. Poverty. Regional Inequality. Remittances

ABSTRACT Migration has been an inherent part of human existence since the dawn of human civilisation, shaped by numerous socio-economic factors. Since 1991 India has been experiencing an upsurge in migration, largely affecting urbanisation, social transformation and economic development of the country. The objective of the present study is to analyse spatial-temporal variation in trends, pattern, and reasons for migration, and its impact on society. Based on secondary sources of information and simple statistical methods, the study finds that increasing trends of migration in the country are closely related to the liberalisation of the economy. Excluding marriage-related migration, migration is mainly a male dominated, employment oriented and long distance phenomena. Given the spatial variation in economic development, people migrate from under-developed regions to developed regions to improve their living conditions. Migration is a livelihood strategy for majority of the people and therefore, it should be viewed in the context of regional disparity in economic development.