



# Recent Trends of Population Mobility: A Case Study of Sitamarhi District

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## Abstract

The trend of population mobility is expressed in the district of Sitamarhi by the fact that migrant population increased very slowly during the previous century because of socio-economic conditions, orthodox thinking of the people, divisions of the district, low pressure of population, tradition of joint family, poor attraction of towns, etc. after independence the population of the district rapidly increased in trend of migrant population. Various types of pull and push factors are responsible for this process, which includes flood and drought affecting. The agriculture, the problem of unemployment, the higher rate of interest by the landlord to the labourers, Problem of safety and security, the tendency of nuclear family, lack of infra-structure, more interest in the literacy programmes, interest towards towns, the trend of rigid caste system and dowry system, the trend of marriage in the far distant area, the feeling of independence among women and various political and non-political groups which inject terror among people.

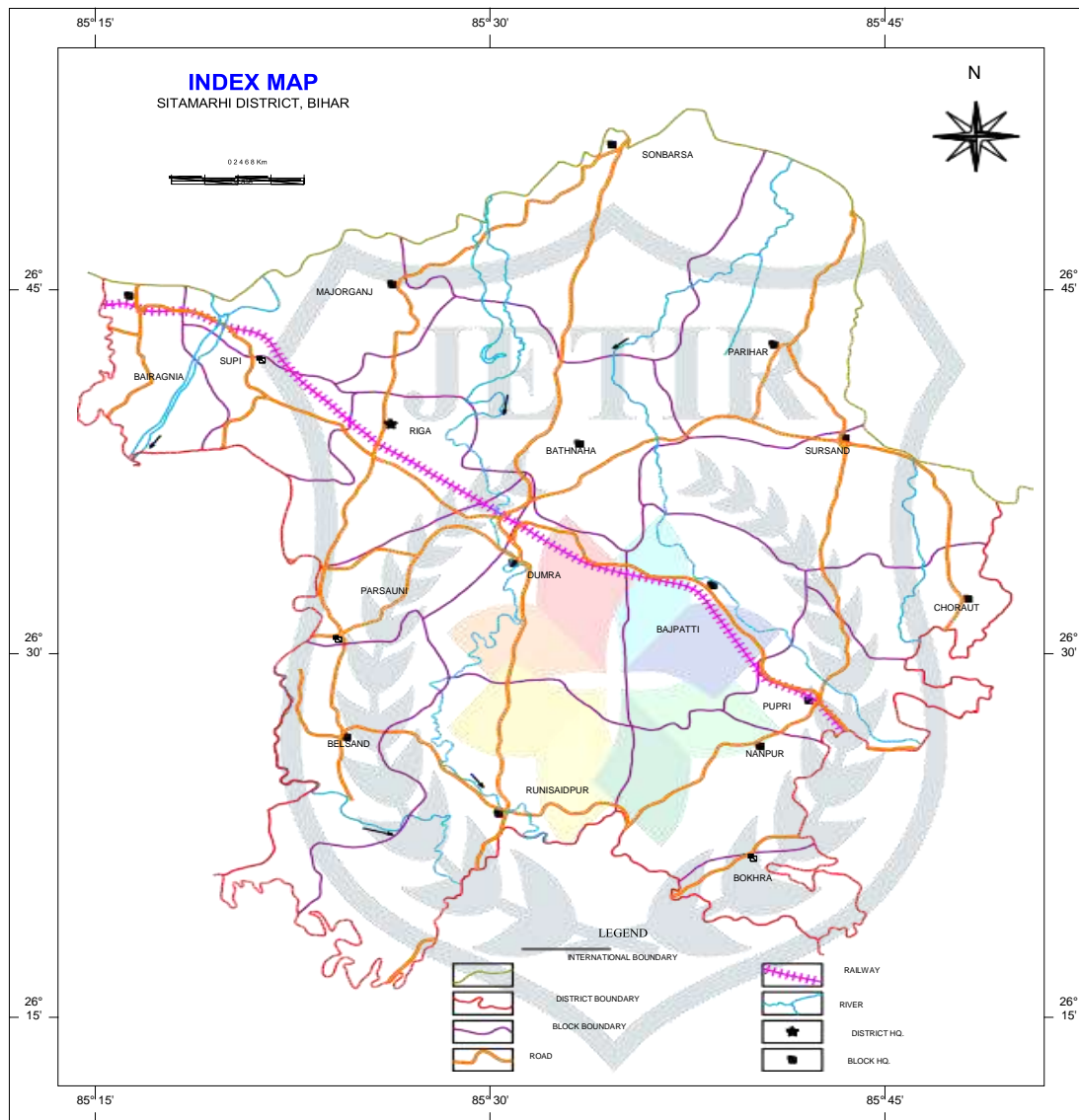
**Keywords:** Migration, Economic development, Social conditions, Infrastructure, Immigration

## Introduction

In the decade 1901, the population of Sitamarhi district was recorded 5% migrant population and 95% non-migrant population. Wherever, in the year 1921, the district recorded slight decreased of population but more or less similar trend in context to migration. In the year 1941, the population of this district again got increasing trend in which 5.2% migrant population and 94.8% non-migrant population. Thus, we observe that before independence the ratio of migrant population to the non-migrant population in the district Sitamarhi remained about 5%, because of several responsible reasons. But after independence the population of the district rapidly increased in trend of migrant population. Various types of pull and push factors are responsible for this process, which includes flood and drought affecting.

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of independence among women and various political and non-political groups which inject terror among people. In the census 1951, the district of Sitamarhi registered 5.94% migrant population and 94.06% non-migrant population. While In 1961, the district recorded 5.99% migrant and 94.01 nonmigrant respectively. In the year 1971, the population of the Sitamarhi district was recorded 1956084 in which 6.81% was recorded as migrant population and rest 93.19% as non-migrant population. After the Independence of the country, the trend of population movement gradually increased.



## Objectives

The present study aims to analyze the recent trends of population movement as most areas of the state of Bihar have been facing the problems of out migrations of people from the rural areas. Virtually, a few decades earlier, only a few persons from the villages of this part of the country used to move out for the urban center of Kolkata or for other urban centers when they used to get some job or some other attractions. During recent years, almost all villages have been contributing migrant for urban centers of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat etc. and the rural areas of Punjab, Haryana and other states where agricultural development has taken place in a better way. As Such the present study will also analyse the changing pattern of movement of the people specially in terms of the places of destination. The study will also take into consideration the causes responsible for the out migration of people

belonging to different categories consisting of the poor people, the rich people, the labour class people, the professionals and other. At the same time, the present study will analyse socioeconomic consequences of the movement of people.

### **Hypothesis**

- (a) Most of the migrants move only a short distance.
- (b) The volume of migration increases with the development of industry and commerce.
- (c) The direction of migration is generally from agricultural to industrial areas.
- (d) Most of the long distance migration is to the major industrial and commercial centers.
- (e) Migration occurs in a series of stages.
- (f) Each migration current out flow has a counter current.
- (g) Females are more migratory than males over short distance and
- (h) Migrants are more likely to have rural than urban origin.

### **Methodology**

The study of this nature needs adequate primary data and secondary data for highlighting different aspects of migration problems. It may be noted that secondary data made available from the census office are not available concerning all aspects. As such in this study attempt has been made to select some villages using suitable sampling technique, the formulation of exhaustive questionnaires for generating data of different nature, processing of data and drawing of suitable maps etc. In this study five villages have been selected. Certainly in the selection of sample villages the consideration of representation of all areas, villages have been different conditions and locational significance have been considered. Some migrant and some non-migrant families from the selected villages have been interviewed for getting information of migration features. These data have been processed and depicted through suitable maps and diagrams This study required intensive field work for gathering at of information and data concerning land use, agriculture. Cattle wealth, population, transport etc.

### **Migration Pattern**

From the very beginning of human civilization the movement of people from one place to another has presented changing pattern caused by several geographical conditions. These changes are supposed to have influenced cultural diffusion and social interaction and changes in human habitation, economic activities and other features. It is important to note that spatial pattern of migration is considered as a prominent tool of cultural diffusion and social interaction and it permits the growth of certain urban centres or certain rural areas at the cost of other rural or urban areas owing to the population mobility from one region to another. It also equalizes the population pressure of different regions according to their economic development.

Generally it lightens the population pressure on economically weak and less developed regions and increases the burden of population on the economically developed regions. In this process several economic, social, geographical, psychological, ideological, educational, cultural and political factors contribute to the spatial mobility of population and determine the pattern of population. They bring remarkable changes in the social structure of society and influence the economic, social and political behaviour of migrants. When people coming from one social set up and cultural background enter into another group of people having different cultural set up, social interaction takes place and cultural change starts. As such migration process creates a mixture of different cultures especially in urban areas where people from diverse cultural background assemble together and interact among themselves. While analysing changing pattern of human migration of any region the importance of time, space, economic condition, social ecology, political condition, technological innovation etc. cannot be ignored. Sometimes greater distance and tedious route, reduce the volume of migrants while

the changing socio-economic and political conditions increase the volume of migration so persons having either better or miserable socio-economic background tend to migrate while those having moderate socio-economic base remain mostly stable. The Baghmata plain area of the Middle Ganga valley has recorded remarkable changes in human habitation, migration pattern and cultural transformation since early period of civilization. The study area has been slightly attracting people since earlier period for cultivation. As such people from other areas have been inflowing for this purpose. During this period, there is more pressure of man on land and it has become difficult to manage with the limited place of land. Again disintegration and fragmentation of holding caused by growing pressure of population created problems as such there has been out migration from this region especially from rural areas. A large number of people migrated to other parts from the district. People also moved towards other states of India like Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, M.P., U.P., Rajasthan, Delhi, West Bengal, Assam, etc, as well as towards other agricultural regions of Bihar where they got enough cultivable land on reasonable price. Virtually, migrants of this region are found in different parts of the country specially in developing industrial regions of this province as well as other provinces. The present trends of movement of rural migrants of this region is more inclined towards urban centres of the province as well as industrial centres of North and Western States of the country and other areas. Virtually these migrants moved out from their places of origin towards different destination for a variety of works. Educated persons moved out from their places of origin for government job as well as for other white collar jobs but less educated and illiterate persons moved out from their places of origin for engaging themselves in some private works of diverse nature and some other business.

These people first of all preferred neighbouring areas or destinations located at the short distance and to the areas having similar geographical conditions because distance of migration is determined partly by physical size of the geographic units as well as by the social background of the migrants. In case of short distance migration of people have to bear little transportation cost besides they can look after their places of origin by visiting frequently. In case of long distance destination migrants are required to bear more transportation cost coupled with more disconnection from the places of origin. It is true that destinations of rural migrants of this region are of varied nature. These destinations differ in terms of distances covered, productivity in areas of destinations, job opportunities for rural migrants, economic development in the places of origin and chances for better economic achievement and social development. It is necessary for social scientists to analyze the prevailing socio-economic conditions of the places of origin and destination of migrants. Areas of Origin and Destination of Migrants The areas from where people move out for different destinations are known as the places of origin or donor society. Similarly areas providing hospitality to out-migrants coming from different places are known as the areas of destinations or the host society. Yadav<sup>1</sup> defined that the place of origin or donor society refers to those societies from where people out-migrate and the societies to which people inflow is known as host society and the people who migrate from one society to another are known as migrants. For the out-going and incoming people the Baghmata plain area can be said to be the area of origin. This region supplies migrants to other districts of the province, other states of the country and other countries.

Physical conditions of most of the area are to a considerable extent responsible for out-migration. Physically unsuitable areas have produced push factors and numerous attracting forces of this region have produced pull factors. The Baghmata Plain being part of Middle Ganga valley has not physical conditions of varied nature. Maximum areas of Sitamarhi district are Kewal, domat and balsundari soil which are fertile. As such these areas do not have the problem of food but in these areas have other social problems that cause out-migration of people. Maximum areas having flood problems sometimes force poor farmers or

landless labourers to move out from their places of origin for other destinations especially for sometimes. The Study area has also the impact of monsoon. Only those areas of canal irrigation belt have fewer problems of failure of monsoon in the production of crops but areas devoid of canal irrigation or tube-well or well-irrigation still depend upon favourable monsoon. Sometimes monsoon breaks very late or sometimes earlier or sometimes causes hawcking flood or sometimes its failure causes drought and famine. The existing climatic scenario compel people to mi-grate from one place to another.

### **The Areas of Destination**

Out-migrants having different social and economic background are influenced by different destinations. These days urban areas have become the destination of most rural migrants. Fertile areas are the destination of those people, who are dwellers of unfertile areas. Industrial areas are the destination of people of unindustrialized areas. The Baghmata Plain is one of the most flood affected areas of the state. Specially, it has a few small urdan centres with significant attractive points for providing enormous opportunities for jobs. some industries and other factors have turned the whole area in to the area of destination that is revealed by Recent Trends of Population Mobility out of the total population of the region 79.58% people were born at the places of enumeration and remaining 20.42 % people were immigrants either from any parts of the country or abroad. It makes it, clear that above 314th of the people are on their original places and they did not migrate anywhere. It is revealed that 99.97% males and 99.95% females were born in state of enumeration but in case of places of birth 97.25% males were born in the places of enumeration. In case of females only 59.84% females only were born at places of enumeration. Persons born elsewhere i.e. males and females consisted of 2.27% and 29.16% respectively. Persons born in other districts of the state enumeration were 5.45% but males and females of the region born in other district of the state enumeration consisted of 0.48% and 11.00% respectively. This region had less people born in states beyond the state of enumeration. Such persons consisted only 0.04% and males while males and females consisted of 0.30% and 0.05% respectively. Person born in other countries were 0.01% in the year 2001 and males and females of other countries were 0.01% and 1.01% respectively.

### **Causes and Consequences of Population Mobility**

The phenomenon of human migration was not so alarming earlier as is found these days hence this feature consider-ably influences the socio-economic conditions of the places of origin, the place of destination and migrants. This human phenomenon has recorded differential characteristics concerning causes of human migration, trends of human migration and consequences of human migration. In early days, when people were unaware of civilization and when they were leading jungle life, they used to move from one jungle to another without any restriction in search of food and hunting materials. Certainly, civilization brought some restrictions in human migration. When people started deserting forest life by domesticating some animals for hunting. milk products, performance of agricultural activities, then mobility of man got restricted. At this stage, people used to move for suitable pastoral and or agricultural land. When people got involved in agricultural activities and some non-agricultural works the consideration of different types of sources motivated people to have the idea of state or country or resources motivated people to have the idea of state or country or construction of dwellings and the development of permanent settlements. In this process mobility of man got highly restricted because of the formation of boundary of the country, need of permission to move from one country to another, etc. Virtually mass migration from one continent to another or from one country to another remarkably decreased and International migration has considerably declined. Certainly internal migration from one

region to another within the country has become more important that may be due to differential development or some other causes.

From the point of view of internal migration, developing nations have become more important because people are moving from rural areas to urban areas or from less-developed agricultural areas to the mineralized or industrialized areas or to relatively developed areas. Even in the developed nations, internal migration remained important specially in human phenomenon at the time of mechanization of agriculture and industrial revolution. In most developed nation's mechanization of agriculture compelled people to move out from primary sector of economy to secondary and tertiary sectors, because agricultural machines reduced the requirement of labour force for agricultural works. Most of the people living in the villages moved to the urban centres or industrial centres. In those countries, people move from one urban centre to another, but in most developing nations, people move from villages to urban or industrial centres. As these developing nations are recording phenomenal industrial and urban development's internal migration has become important. In our country rural to rural or rural to urban migrations have become more important. Even today, more than two-third people live in rural areas where agricultural activities dominate. Certainly after independence urban and industrial growth has generated considerable increase in job opportunities which are attracting people from rural areas. Increasing education is also not less important for the movement of people from village to urban or industrial centres because mostly educated persons prefer white collar jobs. Differential development in rural or urban areas specially in terms of living conditions, leading comfortable life, providing better education and other opportunities to their family members, earn more money in less time etc. favour rural-Urban migration. The Indian sub-continent is growing fastly compared with other developing nations. As such rural-urban migration has become more important phenomenon in this country.

### **Problem of Immigration and Planning**

Of late migration of workers remained a grave problem of North Bihar but today this is not so serious problem as immigration of workers. Presently, immigration of workers has become a knotty problem not only for the study area but also for the entire new Bihar State, because lack of employment, security and modern amenities, poverty, castism, flood, drought and under the pressure of debt, the people in great number move towards several developed rural areas or urban areas or industrial areas. Recently back, which gave birth to a problem of immigration of workers, many reasons are responsible for this problem. The important are as follows : In a landmark judgment in October 2000, the Supreme Court of India gave its order to the Government of Delhi to close all such industrial units, which are directly or indirectly contributing to pollution. As a result of this. order, thousands of big and smalls units have been closed. The side effect of this closure, even the owners of these industries feel themselves unemployed. This closure has thrown about 40 lakhs workers out of employment and jeopardized economic structure of lakhs of families. After having deprived of livelihood, they are coming back from Delhi. According to a regional survey, about 7-8 lakhs unemployed youths and labourers of East & West Champaran are working in different parts of the country. In Purba Champaran district, there is no such big industries, which can provide them employment. If there are some small industries, they are on the brink of collapse due to financial crisis and paucity of electricity. They are actually not benefited by the government sponsored development schemes. The number of unemployed workers is more than what agriculture requires. 2&3 Right from the beginning about 10% people of North Bihar work in South Bihar, because different kinds of factories, mines and forests are located there, which have been providing employment to more and more people. But ever since Jharkhand was separated Jharkhandees have begun to have hatred and jealousy towards the Biharees.

The same situation applies to West Bengal and Assam, where regionalism is taking its strong roots. Under this situation, it became difficult for the Bihari workers to work there. Therefore, they are re-turning back. It is North Bihar specially Baghmata Plain area from where people migrate to these areas.<sup>5</sup> The devastating earthquake in Gujarat in January 2001 has galloped lacks of people pre-maturely. The properties worth crores rupees have been destroyed. This earth-quake has also affected little bit of Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Sindh regions. The earthquake at very little interval of time has compelled the people to get back to their respective regions. Most of the labourers and unemployed people of the Bihar especially from Baghmata plain area migrate to the industrial areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra. But this natural calamity has compelled them to return to their respective homes.<sup>6</sup> In this way, we find that the constant increase in the number of migrated people of these areas to different areas of the country has been temporarily checked. It has more badness than goodness. It is certain that these immigrated people will go back but due to employment scarcity, they will again migrate towards big cities or they would be attracted towards smuggling, kidnapping and other criminal activities. Under this situation it is natural to rise the crime graph. Today, the intellectuals are of the opinion that the central as well as the state Governments should provide employment opportunity under the scheme “grains in lieu of work” Grains are rotting in our different go downs. In addition to it, the government should rehabilitate the sick industries. New industries should also be established so that self-sufficiency in production and employment to the unemployed should be achieved.

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