
**VOLUNTARY TRIBAL MIGRANTS AND THEIR ROLE IN ORIGIN PLACE: A
STUDY OF THE PANGWALA TRIBE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH (INDIA)**

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ABSTRACT

The permanent or semi-permanent movement of an individual, “community”: or group of people from one place to another is known as migration. Migration implies spatial mobility of the population embracing all sorts of territorial movements-intra-regional, inter-state; and international. It causes redistribution of population and is of great importance in the understanding of changing man-resources relationships. In fact; migration is a universal characteristic of all human groups; irrespective of their socio-economic development. In economic migration, migrants emigrate from one place to another to improve the living standard. This migration occurs because of insufficient job opportunities in the origin place of migrants. The present study focused on tribal migration with reference to voluntary migration. The research was conducted in the Pangi Block of District Chamba in Himachal Pradesh (India). The main motive of the research was to assess the push and pull factors responsible for migration. A total of 32 samples were surveyed among people who had permanently migrated from their place of origin. The samples were selected using the help of snow ball sampling method. These samples were selected from the people who had constructed their permanent houses at the district headquarter Chamba only. Rests of the places where Pangwala tribe reside permanently have been excluded from the study. Primary as well as secondary data were used to complete this study. The findings of the study show that prosperity is one of the main reasons for voluntary migration. It was also found that the role of migrants towards their origin place is gloomy.

Keywords: *Voluntary Human Migration, Himachal Pradesh, Population, Urbanisation, demography, Pangwala Tribe, Immigration*

INTRODUCTION

Migration has become a matter of political debate all over the world; as it is a continuous process. Managing human mobility is one of the biggest challenges for destination places. Most of the people want to migrate to cities where they try to spend good quality of life. Mobility is one of the fundamental human activities that are essential part of developing human capital. It is a powerful driver of social change. It is also responsible for the change in the population of a country. Migration is a positive sum in which everyone wants to gain something. The deficiencies of international governance, differences in interests, disparities in policies, and lack of cooperation between countries have reduced the advantages that various actors gain from migration. Due to the lack of knowledge of the aspects, structure, and features of international flow of migration, the governance of migration has become difficult. There is a lack of exact and quality data at the governance level. No accurate data on migrants are available with the government. To overcome the challenges of migration, it is very important to maintain a proper record of migrants and collect the quality of statistics. Migration is a geographical movement of the individual, communities or group of people over a defined boarder to begin a new permanent or semi-permanent habitation. In developing countries, there are basic differences in the migration process. In developing countries like India, migration largely takes place not due to pull factors of the destination, but because pull factors like poverty, unemployment, displacement, natural calamities, and underdevelopment at the origin place. In developing countries, migration is still observed as a survival strategy. Both migration and development are growing areas of interest.

Most of the time it has been observed that migration has a negative impact on development. It is still the subject of debate. But when we talk about the prosperity of the people, it leads to migration. Prosperity is a symbol of development, but not underdevelopment. Voluntary migration is a free will, initiative, and desire of a person to live in a better place and to improve their financial status. Voluntary migration is also related to the prosperity. Prosperous people move to well-developed destinations to avail better facilities than the origin place. In India the tribal migration has mostly occurred because of displacement. But in Himachal Pradesh, the problem of displacement is negligible. The present study deals with voluntary migration among tribal people. The study was conducted with special reference to the Pangwala tribe in Himachal Pradesh in India. In this study an attempt has been made to analyze the opinion of prosperous migrants and their contribution towards their origin place. The study will reveal the answer to the question and will help academicians, researchers and policy makers.

Minimizing the migration among tribal communities is a major challenge. This is more complicated in developing countries. Special focus has been made by the different governments in India to provide quality of basic services to its citizens nearby. Rural areas are the main focus of governments. Tribal communities are also one of them. This study is important in terms of the prosperity among tribal communities. This is one of the important aspects of this study. All the studies were conducted on negative parts of the migration. Voluntary/prosperity migration is a positive part of migration, as prosperity is the sign of development. There should be prosperity among people, but people should also take their origin place in consideration.

THE TRIBES

Indigenous tribes are the oldest residents of India. For thousands of years, tribal communities have been overpowered by superior groups of society. The land of the tribal people was snatched and they were forced to live into the hills and wilds. Tribal communities were also compelled to work for their tyrants without any wages or incentives. Presently, there are more than 40 million tribal people in the country and they require special attention from the government at different levels. Even today, they live in scattered areas and isolated from the main national culture. The tribes are suffering consequences because they either remain deprived of or educational negligence.

The term ‘Scheduled Tribe’ first came into sight in the Indian Constitution. Article 366 (25) defined “Scheduled Tribes” as “such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution.” Article 342 of the Indian Constitution; deals with the specification procedure of scheduled tribes to be followed.

Tribes in India

The tribal population contributes 23.7 percent of the total population of the country. The sex ratio of the tribes was 990. It is quite good compared to the country. The census 2011 revealed that there were 940 females per 1000 males in India. Most of the tribal population lives in hard and hilly areas of the country.

Tribes in Himachal Pradesh

There are twelve districts in the Himachal Pradesh. Kinnaur and Lahoul and Spiti (L & S) districts are declared as scheduled areas. The tribal population is scattered throughout the Himachal Pradesh. Chamba district has the highest tribal population of 135500 people, followed by Kangra 84564 people, Kinnaur 48746, Lahaul and Spiti, 25707, Solan 25645, Kullu 16822, Mandi 12787, Sirmour 11263, Bilaspur 10693, Shimla

8755, Una 8601 and Hamirpur district have the lowest tribal population among all with 3044 tribal people. The total tribal population of Himachal Pradesh is 392126.

Pangi (The Study Area): An Overview

Pangi is one of the development blocks of the Chamba district and is the most backward tribal area of Himachal Pradesh. This is a hilly and poorly developed remote area. The total area of is 1,601 square kilometers area with a population of 18868 (2011 census). Pangi is divided into 16 panchayats (local self-governing bodies) with 54 inhabited villages. Pangi is a snow-bounded area and remains disconnected from other parts of the world for about 6-7 months due to high snow density and natural disasters in the winters. The population resides in Pangi is at elevations of 7,000 feet to 11,000 feet. The sex ratio of Pangi is 970, and the population density is 15 per square kilometer. The total literacy rate of the area is 62.37 percent among which 72.16 percent males and 52.26 percent females. There are 22 health institutions in the study area that provide basic health care facilities to the people, but the high level of health services is negligible.

There is only one higher educational institution in Pangi and no higher level of technical institution is available. Roads and transportation systems are also poorly developed. There is only one Telecom Company that provides cellular services to people in limited areas of Pangi. Most of the areas are out of its network coverage. Internet facilities are also negligible, which is a major hurdle to communication within and outside the Pangi. Post offices are available in the study area. There are three branches of different banks. The Pangwala tribe is found only in Pangi. The total population of Pangi is 18868, among which 17016 are the tribal population, which is more than 90 percent of the total population of Pangi. During winters, people experience a shortage of power supply, even after 1695 KW power potential in Pangi.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A report on “Society for Regional Research and Analysis” (2010) submitted to the Planning Commission of India on the Issue “Migration of Tribal Women: Its Socio-economic Effects- An in-depth Study of Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, M. P. and Orissa”. The study focused on regional and seasonal variations in migration and forms of migration. The study was conducted with the aim to evaluating the socio-economic position of tribal women, factors responsible for migration, economic opportunities for migrant women and their exploitation in different forms. There were a total of 2100 samples in the study. Primary and secondary data were used in this study. The study found that circular, rural-urban migration and distress migration are the main forms of migration among tribal women in the study area. Non-availability of sufficient educational institutions causes illiteracy, ignorance and backwardness among them. Unemployment, poverty and lack of basic facilities are major problems for tribal women. Tribal communities are not able to avail their daily needs out of their income and are compelled to sell their property to meet their routine expenses.

Veerabhadru, B. and Subramanyam, V. (2013) conducted a case study on “the displaced tribal people of the Peddagedda reservoir of Konda dora, Manne dora, and Nooka dora tribes”. The anthropological ethnographic methodology is used to collect the required data in this study. The study is empirical in nature and comprises both semantic and scientific explanations of the study. The study highlighted the problems of displaced tribal communities that are displaced for several reasons. Forced migration and occupational changes have been highlighted. The researchers explained that from seven tribal villages in Peddagedda of Vizianagaram District about 184 families have been affected and displaced due to the construction of a medium irrigation project in the area. Affected families by this irrigation project have been recuperated in the colonies near the reservoir. Among the affected families, fourteen families were migrated to earn their livelihoods. Displaced

tribes were compelled to shift their traditional occupations. This leads to social exclusion. Because of all these affected tribal communities face various challenges like landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalization, food insecurity, increased morbidity and mortality, loss of common resources and social disarticulation.

Sali and Astige (2015) carried out a study focused on the reasons and consequences of migration in India. The main aim to carry out this study was to investigate the problems and challenges of migrant workers and the factors responsible for their migration. The researcher found that lack of employment opportunities, low wages, and drought, lack of basic amenities, landlessness and social factors are push factors in rural areas. Labour migration has become a universal phenomenon. Recent developments have made numerous socio-economic changes among the migrants. Most of the migrated people live in marginal settlements, slums and squatter areas, which cause diseases, environmental degradation of urban areas, traffic and other problems of urban areas. The study reveals that migrations are an act of push and pull factors. People have no job opportunities and other basic amenities. They push them to migrate to urban areas to grab better job opportunities, good salaries, and more income and good medical and educational facilities.

Bala (2017) conducted a study on Migration in India: Causes and Consequences. The study is theoretical in nature. The objective of this study is to view the idea of migration, its causes and effects in India. The study explains the elements that are liable for migration in India. There are least opportunities for employment, low wage rates, drought, lack of basic facilities, landlessness among people, and some social reasons in rural areas responsible for migration to urban areas. The researcher has also explained in this study that the majority of migrants in big cities live in small settlements, slums, and unlawfully occupied uninhabited areas, with the least infrastructure threatening to health issues, environmental issues, and other issues of urban areas. Some suggestions given by the researcher are, increase in finance and human resources in migration affected areas, promotion of public private partnership, provision of safe and secure banking facilities for migrants to enable transfer of their wages, focus on national development plans, ensure minimum social security, frame special strategies for migrants within public services, sustainable implementation of development strategies in backward areas and revision of the “Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act (1979)”.

Sharma, Archana (2018) conducted a study on “Changes in Patterns of Inter-State In-Migration in Himachal Pradesh: A District-wise Analysis”. The study was based on secondary data. A period of two decades (1991-2001) was analysed in the study to observe the migration pattern. The magnitude of migration in Himachal Pradesh was low before the 1990s, because of low urbanisation, mountainous topography, and less industrialisation. A substantial change in the migration pattern was observed in Himachal Pradesh during the study. The number of in-migrants has increased during the study period i. e., from 0.23 million before 1990 to 0.35 million in 2001, which contributes 5.77 percent to the total population of the state. The increase in number is 0.12 million (1.19 percent of the total population of the state). Different districts of Himachal Pradesh have different patterns of in-migration. District Bilaspur has the highest percentage of in-migration (456.93 percent). This is because the Bilaspur district shares its border with Punjab, and females migrated across borders. The Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh experienced negative in-migration. This district is the most backward among all twelve districts in Himachal Pradesh. Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour and Una districts has low in-migration volume than the state of Himachal Pradesh.

Research Gap

Various studies have been consulted and reviewed during this study. Many studies have been conducted on migration overall in the globe. Very few studies have been conducted on tribal migration. The field of tribal migration is negligible from the research point of view in Himachal Pradesh. Existing studies on tribal migration have been conducted with reference to forced migration, displaced migration, labour migration, etc. No study has been conducted on voluntary/prosperous migration with reference to tribal migration. This is one of the different studies on tribal migration. The study was conducted with respect to voluntary/prosperous migration.

Selection of the Problem

The issue of migration is one of the major challenges for governments. This is not only a problem among tribal communities but also a problem of rural communities in India. Migration is a worldwide problem. The tribal areas in Himachal Pradesh have not developed up to the mark. There is a lack of basic facilities in these areas. The geographical conditions of the tribal areas in Himachal Pradesh are not favorable. The availability of road networks is very low, and existing road networks are poorly developed. So it is very difficult to perform developmental activities in these areas easily. There is a lack of quality of public as well as private services. People are migrating from tribal areas to the areas with better facilities. People are shifting from traditional or primary professions like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, etc., to modern professions. That is why; researchers have selected this problem for the purpose of the study.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study deals with the issue of the migration of tribes in Himachal Pradesh. The study deals with migration only from the tribal area (hilly) to urban areas (plain). Rural (hilly) to rural (hilly) migration was excluded from the study. There are many reasons for migration like social, economic, political, and religious, etc. This study mainly focused on the prosperity aspect of migration. The religious reasons for migration are negligible in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh. This study was also restricted to internal migration within the state. National and international migration was excluded from the study. The push and pull factors of the migration were studied.

Area of the Study

Chamba is a developing city. The Chamba district has the highest number of tribal populations in Himachal Pradesh. The Pangwala tribe is part of the Chamba district. The Pangwala tribe has migrated to Chamba, Shimla, and Kullu districts for various reasons. People have permanently migrated to the Chamba and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh and temporarily migrated to the capital city of Shimla (mostly for higher education). The study was restricted to the Chamba. Only voluntary migrants have been taken into consideration in the study. Other migrations, such as religious, political, forced, marriage, and displacement, etc. have not been included in the study.

Importance of the Study

This study is mainly important for policymakers because the migration of tribal people is a major problem not only in Himachal Pradesh but also in India. People are moving to other parts of the state as well as the country in search of employment and to avail better facilities, like quality of education for their children, good health care facilities, etc. People are not getting better facilities at their doorsteps in rural areas. After completing this study, it will be helpful for policymakers. During this study, the researchers has analysed the opinions of prosperous migrants and their contribution towards their origin place.

Objectives of the Survey

1. To analyze the availability of basic facilities in tribal areas in Himachal Pradesh.
2. To study the push and pull factors of migration.
3. To provide a compiled scientific document and data to the state on tribal migration, including migration trends and its impact (with reference to Pangwala tribe).
4. To assist the formation of policies and programs for the affected people at the origin place, with the help of this compiled document and data.
5. To suggest measures to minimize the migration of tribal people in Himachal Pradesh.

HYPOTHESIS

- 1) That the basic facilities are not up to the mark in the tribal areas in Himachal Pradesh.
- 2) People are not getting employment according to their skills at their door steps in the tribal areas.
- 3) The migrants under the study are prosperous and are financially empowered.

COLLECTION OF DATA

For this study, the data were generated through primary and secondary sources. The primary data were generated with the help of a schedule, interview, and discussion conducted with the respondents. Due to time constraints and long distance between the study area and research point, there was no other easy way to collect the primary data. Secondary data were obtained from libraries, books, journals, theses, and magazines. Various government publications of India and Himachal Pradesh were also consulted. The departments dealing with the issues of tribal development were also consulted.

Sampling Method and Sample Size

To conduct this study, samples were selected from among the people who had migrated permanently and constructed their houses outside their origin place. The samples were selected with the help of snow ball sampling techniques as there was no accurate and authentic record of migrants with the administration. The samples were selected only from district headquarters Chamba; because this is the home district of the migrants and most of the people have migrated here. There were a total of 32 samples. The sample size was small because this was a pilot survey for a research project.

Analysis of Data

With the help of different methods, the required information was collected from the selected sample respondents. The collected data were classified into different variables and presented in the tables below. The results were analyzed and interpreted.

Analyses of Push Factors Responsible for Migration from Origin Place

The analysis of the information collected from the interviewed respondents some of the important pull factors came out that were responsible for voluntary migration from the origin place of the migrants.

Table No. 1. Information Related to the Profession of the Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Government Employee	27	84.37
Working in Private Sector	00	00.00
Retired from Government Sector	2	06.25
Own Business	01	03.13
Unemployed	00	00.00
Any Other	2	06.25

Total	32	100.00
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Source: Obtained from the field survey

Table 1 reveals that out of total the 32 respondents; more than 84 percent of respondents were employed in the government sector, 6.25 percent were retired from the government sector, 3.13 percent had their own business, and 6.25 percent had any other (government contractor) employment status. None of the respondents were unemployed.

Table No. 2. Place of the Profession of the Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
At Origin Place	04	12.50
At Destination Place	21	65.62
No Opinion	07	21.88
Total	32	100.00

Source: Obtained from the field survey

The data in the above table depicts that there were only 12.50 percent respondents had profession at their origin place. 65.62 percent of the respondents were working at their destination place, while 21.88 percent of the respondents had no opinion with regard to the place of profession because they were already retired from their job.

Table No. 3. Basic Facilities at their Origin Place

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very Poor	23	71.87
Poor	06	18.75
Good	03	09.38
Very Good	00	00.00
Excellent	00	00.00
Total	32	100.00

Source: Obtained from the field survey

It is evident from table 3 that the basic facilities at the origin place of the migrants were not up to the mark. 71.87 percent of the respondents opined that the basic facilities at the origin place were very poor. 18.75 percent respondents opined that the facilities were poor. Only 9.38 percent respondents opined that the facilities at their origin place were good, whereas there was no response in favour of very good and excellent.

Table No. 4. Education Status at their Origin Place

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very Poor	07	21.87
Poor	12	37.50
Good	11	34.38
Very Good	02	06.25
Excellent	00	00.00
Total	32	100.00

Source: Obtained from the field survey

The data shows in table 4 that the education status at the origin place of migrants was not excellent. Only 6.25 percent of the respondents opined that the education status was very good. 34.38 percent rated the education status at their place of origin good, 37.50 percent rated it as poor, and 21.87 percent of the migrant respondents rated the education status at their origin place as very poor.

Table No. 5. Health Status at their Origin Place

Response	Frequency	Percentage
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Very Poor	32	100.00
Poor	00	00.00
Good	00	00.00
Very Good	00	00.00
Excellent	00	00.00
Total	32	100.00

Source: Obtained from the field survey

The above data presentation in table 5 shows that their health status at the origin place of migrants has a poor condition. All the migrant respondents rated the health status at their origin place as very poor. Without better health care facilities, no one can save to minimize migration.

Findings/Results of the Study (Push Factors)

These are some of the factors that were responsible to pulling people to migrate:

- The sample migrants were financially strong and the majority of them were working in the government sector.
- All the sample migrants were engaged in a good profession.
- Most of the migrants had jobs outside the origin place.
- The basic facilities at the origin places of migrants were not sufficient.
- Health and education facilities at origin places were not up to the mark.
- The children of the migrants were not getting quality of education at the origin place, because of poor education standards at origin place.

Findings/Results of the Study (Pull Factors)

These are some of the factors that were responsible to attracting migrants:

- ❖ The destination place that was selected for the study is the district head quarter of the migrants, and it is easy for the migrants to avail all the administrative facilities.
- ❖ Chamba a small and developing city and is not very much crowded, causing the attraction of migrants.
- ❖ The environment of Chamba City is neat and clean.
- ❖ The land cost in Chamba city is less than that in other places of the state.
- ❖ Chamba is not very much expensive place and it is easy to avail the facilities at a low cost.
- ❖ Easy to communicate with the rest of the world.

Role of Migrants in their Origin Place

It is found from the responses of the migrants that their role towards their place of origin is very gloomy. Most of them do not participate in social activities at their origin place. It is also found that some of the children of the migrants have not visited their origin places either even a single time or for a long time. The children of some migrants cannot speak their mother language. Migrants do not frequently visit their origin place. Most of the migrants do not support their family members residing in origin place in terms of finance. The socialization of migrants with people at their origin place is good but not very strong. This gloomy role of migrants towards their origin place causes more backwardness of the origin place. This is because prosperous people have migrated, and poor people cannot raise their genuine demands for development, may be due to illiteracy, lack of knowledge, or some other reasons.

DISCUSSION

The study was conducted on the issue of Voluntary Tribal Migrants and their Role in Origin Place: A Study of Pangwala Tribe of Himachal Pradesh (India). The above analysis reveals that the migrants were engaged in their different professions and had good financial conditions. This shows the prosperity of migrants. Prosperity of the people is a symbol of the development of that particular country or area. Lack of basic

facilities at the origin place of migrants is one of the major push factors. People migrate to developed places or cities to avail better facilities. By providing better basic facilities in rural as well as tribal areas, migration can be minimized. Health and education facilities at the origin place of migrants were not sufficient. People move towards other places where health and education facilities are excellent. Because of the awareness among parents regarding better education, people prefer to send their children out of origin place for better education. After getting better education, they get a job outside and do not come back to the native place. By providing job opportunities at their origin place according to their skills, their participation can be ensured in developmental activities. There is a need to pay special attention to the development of the tribal areas, so that migration can be minimized. Previous studies have not been conducted on voluntary migration among tribes. Hence, this is a very important study.

CONCLUSION

Tribal communities are isolated from the main stream and are also less developed. Migration among tribal communities is one of the biggest contemporary challenges in India. No doubt that tribal communities are the focus point of politics nowadays, but development is still far away from these communities. Governments are ensuring social protection to the most vulnerable groups. Even though it is not an easy task to ensure speedy development of the tribal communities, as there are many hindrances among these communities like illiteracy, under development, poverty, ignorance, unemployment, etc. Seasonal migration and occupational migration are more in trends among tribal communities. In this research, an attempt has been made to study the voluntary/prosperous migration among tribal communities in Himachal Pradesh and their role in their origin place. Voluntary migration is a willing migration. The prosperous people have migrated to live a good quality of life. This is not forced migration. Prosperity is a good thing, and everyone should be prosperous. The negative role of these prosperous people towards their origin place is a matter of worry. The government should frame a policy for migrant employees to ensure their services at their origin place for a minimum and fix tenure, so that their services can be taken for the development of their origin place. Some creative ideas should be invited from these migrants to develop the scheduled areas.

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