Gendered Migration and transitory urbanisation

JYOTSNA SRIVASTAVA
Research Scholar
MCPR, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (U.P.) India

ABSTRACT

This research paper is an attempt to understand issues related to women migrants and shifting pace of urbanisation which is bearing social implications on migrants over their identity, culture and status. This paper draws primary information from a observational- pilot study done in area of Varanasi slum (Nagawa). The paper is based on the notions of Newton's Gravity Model, implies that larger places attracts more ideas, people than smaller places and Places closer together have greater attraction for one another, which in turn describe the degree of interaction between two places. Rapid urbanisation and Globalisation have intensified women's participation in economics, resources, opportunities, risks and this indeed affects their movement and decision of the movement at receiving and origin destinations. Women, those are economically productive are more vibrant to take decision of movements, finance and security. The study confer that migrant women have to struggle at both places, with the policies and aspirations. Urbanisation has produced variety of opportunities or ventures for migrant women but, at the same time differentials of violence, injustice and deprivations. Political structure often doesn't comply with necessity of migrant women because of their associational role to men and other reason is, directly not participating in (recognised) economic sphere.

Key Words : Urbanisation, Migration, Gender, Interaction, Deprivations, Globalisation

INTRODUCTION

"This paper is drawing attention on the pace of urbanisation and how it is impacting the migrant women of Varanasi native place Nagawa. It is a part of pilot study, in order to get sense about the internal (local) migration"

Development is becoming the most used or overused word these days. One of most mentioned parameter of development is Urbanisation, a process that is immensely producing its far reaching changes on communities and places. Urbanisation is an increase in population and economic activities in the urban areas which leads to further development of towns and agglomerates to contain this rising population. It is a cause and effect of heightened economic progress in a region. Though migration is the key factor, other aspects such as the demand for economic employment, better educational opportunities, health facilities and higher standard of living act as major propellants contributing to the upward trend in urbanisation (Census of India, 2011).

Migration is a geographical movement that is occurring at a variety of scales: intercontinental (between continents) intra continental (between countries on a given continent), and interregional (within countries). One of the most significant migration patterns has been rural to urban migration-the movement of people from the countryside to cities in search of opportunities. This paper is focused on the internal migration

Internal Migration is a process contributing to urbanisation haphazardly. Migration is the demographic process that links rural to urban areas, generating or spurring the growth of cities. The resultant urbanization is linked to a variety of policy issues, spanning demographic, economic, and environmental concerns. Growing cities are often perceived as agent of

development, opportunities and amenities. Urbanization is often accompanied by increasing disparities in socio-economic well-being, both between and within cities, and argues for these effects to receive more systematicattention to establish trends and differentials across space and through time. Migration process has different scale of movement one which is very pronounced is Circulation from rural to urban place which is often repeated and understood as Floating Population.

The "New Migration" includes circulation. Migrants oscillate between origin and destination. From various parts of the world circulatory migration patterns have been identified. Often these circulatory movements are timed with the agricultural season. . Landing a "good" job in one year may lead to a longer stay in the destination. This is just another way of managing the informal-formal sector issue.

Data coming from various field sites suggest that the conventional demographic profile of the rural-urban migrant may be shifting as well. Migrants are still young. While many are male and single, there seems to bean increasing fraction of migrants who are female and a larger pool of family migrants. Major impetus for the New Migration is economic restructuring. Many countries have reoriented their economies in the direction of more free market activity. To argue that this trend is universal or that the movement is to an unfettered marketplace would be silly. Nevertheless, in several important ways the shift is on, and population distribution is a manifest component of this shift.

Review of literature:

Migration from rural to urban areas generates a series of concerns, including worries about social adaptation, environmental and economic stress of the migrants themselves. Since migration feeds urbanization, and since urban growth is associated with industrial development (pollution) and land consumption, migration is often held culpable in environmental degradation. Although the link is there, it is not clear how strong that link is. Direct public policies regarding environmental conditions, the underlying infrastructure for transportation, and the national level of income may have much more to say about the amount of insult visited upon the environment than the amount of rural-urban migration per se. As income rises, so does consumption of consumer goods, transportation, and land. These all can lead to more pollution and sprawl in any city. But as the level of income

raises so does the demand for a cleaner local environment, and so there is an element of feedback in all of this.

There is another demographic component of the comparison. It is useful to remember that a large fraction, may be nearly half, of urban growth is generated just by natural increase of the urban population. Thus, stemming urban ward migration will not stem urban growth. This reminds us that in the absence of migration but in the presence of positive population growth rates, there is more "population pressure" in both urban and rural areas. Migration may be more implicated than its true demographic contribution would warrant. Not that the increasingly intensive use of rural and quasi-rural areas can lead to soil erosion, deforestation, and the like. So it is formally expected increase in use of available resources which follows resource constraints, reckless civic amenities and overburdened infrastructure.

The other major area of concern in urban ward migration is that of the absorption of migrants into the host community. Migrants have always generated apprehension about their ability to mix into the receiving society. Migrants are seen as adapting slowly or not at all. Empirical evidence runs counter to this. Many studies of immigrant adaptation in the United States, the first generation exhibits substantial differences from the native population along socioeconomic lines: income, education, language ability, etc. By the second generation, however, differences are narrowed considerably. Even if one does not adjust for background characteristics, the second-generation gap is modest compared to the first-generation gap. But when one does adjust for the (usually lower) level of resources for members of the second generation, the gap narrows even more. Work with nationally representative longitudinal data on immigrant achievement in school illustrates the point. Once we control for family characteristics (parental presence and supervision, socio-economic status) and starting point in school, the trajectory of subsequent school achievement does not differ for immigrant children.

Feminization of migration inculcates a pattern of higher percentage of women's participation in ongoing geographical movement. This pattern has produced social, economical and political changes in fabric of society, induced acceptability or contradictions. Since women are ready to work for any wage, they are in great demand, contributing to feminization of labour migration. No doubt theses labour market changes have had impact on rural-urban migration. Many middle and upper middle

class women migrate to cities for improving their educational credentials and also to get suitable employment apparently in a quest for social advancement and also to enhance their status in the marriage market. Among the semi-literate, young girls migrating to towns/ cities to work in export processing units, garment industry, electronic assembling and food processing units is continuously on the increase in the recent year. To augment family income, families which have some land holding in the rural area, send the daughters to work mostly as domestic servants where they are safe in the custody of a mistress. First the elder daughter is sent out and she is replaced by the second, third and so on, as one by one get married. The wife instead of staying back in the village prefers to join her husband in the hope of getting some employment in the destination area. Family migration among agricultural wage labourers who have no land or other assets to fall back at times of crisis is becoming increasingly common. Moreover in the poorest groups male dominance is generally tempered by women's contribution and marriage works in a more inter-dependency mode (Shanthi, 2006).

Pattern and causes of women migration are changing in India. An increasing proportion of women are moving towards urban areas, particularly to big cities for reasons other than marriage. The femininity ratio of urban population is continuously improving in India. The femininity ratio of migrant population is found to be higher than femininity ratio of non-migrant population. A very high incidence of marginalization and invisibility of labour and employment among migrant women is found than in migrant male.

Distribution of workers among employment related women migrants by occupational divisions showed that majority of women workers were found to concentrate in the bottom and top of the occupational hierarchy. Majority of the illiterate and semi-literate migrant women were clustering in occupational categories of transport, production and related works and service works. The women with educational level above matriculate 5 were heavily concentrating in professional, technical and related works and clerical categories. Cities with a higher proportion of rural women migrant workers have a heavy concentration of women migrant workers in low grade, low paid, informal sector jobs whereas cities with urban women migrants have an overwhelming proportion of migrant women workers in professional, technical and related workers categories (Gupta, 1993)

Objectives of Study:
– To get the sense of rural- urban Migration Stream in Varanasi area.
– To reflect on how migration is affecting gender's identity, status and empowerment.
– To investigate the role of migration process in urbanisation, its impact on locals.
– To evaluate how social adaptation and acceptability take place in Migrants women.

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary and primary data. Secondary data are taken from Census, 2011, VDA (Varanasi Development Authority).

Primary data collected in Nagwa Area of Varanasi, through participatory observation method by visiting 50 women (migrant) personally. The area of study is chosen with the concern of Urbanisation. The Area Nagwa spread nearby BHU, A premier Educational Institute, Which directly affects the livelihood and migration prospects of many.

Theorization:
The gravity model of migration is a model, derived from Newton's Law of Gravity, is used to predict the degree of interaction between two places (Rodrigue *et al.*, 2009, 16). Newton's Law states that" Any two bodies attract one another with a force that is proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them."

When this model is used geographically, the term bodies and masses are replaced by locations and importance respectively, where importance can used in sense of population numbers, gross domestic product, business or other variables. The Gravity Model of Migration is therefore based on idea that as the importance of one or both of the location increases, there will be increase in movement between them. The farther apart the two locations are, however, the movement between them will be less. This scenario is known as Distance Decay

The basic gravity model is as follows:

$$M_{ij} = k \frac{P_i * P_j}{d_{ij}^2}$$

where:
M_{ij} = gravity model prediction of migration between

origin i and destination j

P_i = population of origin State i

P_i = population of destination State j

d_{ij} = distance from origin i to destination j

k = a constant that adjusts the gravity model estimates so that the total numbers of actual an estimated migrants are approximately equal.

Here is the justification how the spatial interaction between Varanasi and other nearby areas like Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra Balia and Jaunpur Varanasi is becoming a centre stage of all the economic, social and political activities in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Growing urbanisation is the very reason why Varanasi is becoming a hub. Spatial interaction between Varanasi and nearby areas is increasing day by day. Varanasi is bigger place and distance between them reducing due to availability of transport facilities. For example Chandauli is just newly founded city in southern part of Varanasi itself. People from this area come to avail better facilities than what they have at their native place, which form a grater interaction cycle between these two places. These interaction lies with money, products, ideas, business, education, opportunities, health facilities and other economic activities. As the interconnectedness of the world accelerate , the number and intensity of these interaction

The peripheral area of Varanasi is growing rapidly. Migrants those who can afford to buy plots, are started living. New residential areas are notified by local administration every year. Those who are poor can't afford to live or buy better places, started making their illegal colonies in open areas near railway tracks, Stations. Slums are mushrooming like never before. Hereby, in this paper has study of one slum in Varanasi.

The study area:

Varanasi (also known as Kashi or Banaras) is one of the oldest living city in the world, with a continuous history dating back 3,000 to 5,000 years. It is known as cultural and spiritual capital of India. Varanasi (82°56'E – 83°03'E and 25°14'N) is located on the left crescent-shaped bank of the Ganga river. The city is a part of 'Varanasi Urban Agglomeration' (VUA). Due to increasing population growth and rapid development of Varanasi by 1991 it became million city. Rapid urbanization has increased urban problems in Varanasi city. Lopsided urbanization, faulty urban planning, and urbanization with poor economic base and without having functional categories led to some basic problems in the city like, housing, slums, transport, water supply and sanitation, water pollution and air pollution, inadequate provision for social infrastructure etc.

The area of the study Nagwa has been known for its high population density and low per capita income. The uneven distribution of population also plays an important role in causing of rural out migration. The rural area of Varanasi district in eastern Uttar Pradesh has primarily been an agrarian economy, but due to uncertainty of rainfall it is not a totally dependable source. Therefore out migration has proved to be a good source of income for villages are improving their economic status.

FINDINGS

Complexities created by trajectory of Urbanisation:

Decision of migration has different reasons like poverty, gender based violence, discrimination, inheritance rights, family disruption or unification, conflicts, disasters. Slum life has never been easy for the poor migrants insofar as housing and living conditions are concerned. The area nearby Ganges line where most of the migrants live is filthy, less airy, and stinks because of sewer connecting to the river. Even the house doesn't have proper ventilation. My concern lies with the "outsider" women. They strive hard for the role of homemaker as they have responsibility of sharing expenses. For women, the burden of poverty is more acute due to gender based discrimination. When these women got married, they do not owe security for themselves, in form of money or materials. Whatever they haves belong to their husband. So they have to be bonded with husband's decision making. Living condition of widows is worse as they socially do not claim inheritance right over property if they are not having children. Lack of access to safe, alternative housing is the often a major factor keeping women trapped in violent situation.

Nagwa is situated on the bank of Ganges where semi-permanent residential migrants from nearby rural areas. In search of better lives for themselves and their family, they are going through the ordeal of life. Migrant women, coming from rural areas often seeks to increase or supplement their income from agricultural activities. Rural migrants often have properties and housing at origin place. They lack cash amount which drawn them to work in unorganised sector. Another reason of moving to cities is due to marked disparity between the rural and urban income. This led migrants to bargain for their wage,

income than the locals. Census of 2011 reveals that there are 770 female per 1000 males are coming to Varanasi.

Urbanisation is often associated with greater independence, freedom and opportunities for women. Ashish Nandy once remarked about our growing cities that new aspects of social organisation which have replaced traditional ties, yet we can't reject the prevalence of traditional aspects in the functioning of family, caste, kinship and religion in urban settings. It's true in the context of migrant women who want new opportunities but demanding old securities as well. Many young girls are interviewed about their education and aspiration. They want to be independent, a job better than what their parents did but wants their parents to arrange marriage for them. They want to get married to a person having job, home and property, living in better area than this slum. These new girls are enjoying freedom but the same time they wish to carry on with old values from parents. Many are adhere to "urban fertility norm" as they have sense that children are clearly less useful in urban settlements, as unit of labour and producers than in rural setting, are more expensive to feed, house.

Gender based discrimination pushed women to migrate to cities. There are also single women who are living on their own by working as domestic maids. They left native place due to violence of husband, in-laws. However they get support of other women.

Homemaker women (migrants) often have associational role in decision of moving to the city. They owe primary responsibility to household chores and children. They turned to follow smaller familial status. Smaller families and the dispersion of extended families in contemporary urbanised societies have in combination also reduced the level of kinship support system available to these women. This disconnection led them to develop a support system with neighbourhood women.

Employment opportunities in urban area vary greatly with different job profile for women and men, so the wage differential. Often women are less paid to the same job what men do. There is also one observation taboo or differential treatment to women for "only men's job" is slowly mitigating.

Overcrowded housing and poor living create a fertile ground for the development of violence. This sense of insecurity in city streets separate residential areas into higher- income and lower-income groups, which is reducing sense of community and forming areas with dissimilar incomes, costs and security levels.

Suggestions and Conclusion:

A study done by economic and social commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, 1991) observed that "migration from rural to urban areas continues at a rapid pace in many countries of the region, and it was often beyond the capacity of towns, cities and metropolitan areas to cope with the increasing numbers . This lacuna and haphazard features of capacity is main reasons of backwardness in urban area.

Migrant women play their associational role and are facing high risk of violence and constraint of violence. Their mobility and leadership often reflect deep gender based opportunities and discrimination likewise. Suggestions to improve measures of their identity, status and social adaptations, as follows:

– There is need of enforcing women's inheritance rights and equal rights to marital property. Social awareness about inheritance right needs to be propagated.

– Investment in slum up gradation programme is time calling. Slums are production rural-urban migration where poor migrants aspire for better life. By ensuring women's effective participation in policy making and its implementation.

– Providing security of tenure, as a matter of priority to women and their family living in slums.

– Combating gender based violence and educating about it by effective legal remedies.

– Ensuring joint ownership of house land and property, equal rights between men and women.

– Improvement in access to basic services safer environment for women living in slums.

– Providing economic opportunities, skill development programme to migrant women to empower them.

– Spatial differentiation are creating more ruckus in growing urban cities as some places are grown widely and some places are remain deprive of drops of development which results into massive urbanisation towards the developed area.

The rural- urban migration in Varanasi is rapidly growing. People from nearby area are coming to city to avail better opportunities and amenities. Varanasi is not a metropolitan city which also have migration stream to bigger city because of available means for easy movement. It's becoming hub for nearby areas for being more economically and politically active in present, even historically as well. Gender dimension of migration is an

important phenomenon for slum based migrant women. There is differential treatment for gender status. Migration is empowering women in decision making because of economic independence. At the same time it is tough for those who are depended on partners and guardians. Social adaptability and acceptability is very crucial area which impacting their behaviour and identity which confer them for the optimistic approach. Growing population and urbanisation amenities have disproportional relation, which need better attention from policy making perspective.

REFERENCES

Afsar, R. (2011). Contextualizing Gender and Migration in South Asia: Critical Insights. *Gender, Technology & Development*. **15**(3) : 389-410.

Azcona, G. (2009). "Migration in Participatory Poverty Assessments: A Review." Human Development Research Paper No. 56. United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report Office, New York.

Baneerjee, Arpita and Saraswati, Raju (2009). Gender Mobility: Women Migrants and Work in Urban India. *Economic & Political Weekly*, **44** (28) : 115-123.

Bhatt Wasudha (2009). The Gender Dimension of Migration in India: The Politics of Contemporary Space in Orissa and Rajasthan. *Development Practice*, **19** (1) : 87-93, (http://www.jstor.org/stable/27752013)

Boyle, P., Cooke, T.J., Halfacree, K. and Smith, D. (2001). A Cross-National Comparison of the Impact of Family Migration on Women's Employment Status. *Demography*, **38** (2) : 201-213.

Chant, S. and Pedwell, C. (2008). Women, gender and the informal economy: An assessment of ILO Research and suggested ways forward". Geneva: London School of Economics and ILO.

Curran, S.R. and Saguy, A.C. (2001). Migration and Cultural Change: A Role for Gender and Social Networks. *J. Internat. Women's Studies,* 2(3): 389-410.

De Haas, H. (2007). Remittances, Migration and Social Development: A Conceptual Review of the Literature." Social Policy and Development Programme, Paper No. 34. Geneva: UNRISD.

Deshingkar, P., and Akter, S. (2009). Migration and Human Development in India." Human Development Research Paper No. 13. New York: United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report Office.

Dhar, Ruby (2012). Women and Migration: A Cross-Cultural Analysis. *Social Change*, **42**(1) : 93–102 CSD 2012 SAGE Publications. (http://socialchange.sagepub.com)

Donato, K.M., Gabaccia, D., Holdaway, J., Manalansan IV, M., and Pessar, P. R. (2006). A Glass Half Full? Gender in Migration Studies. *Internat. Migration Review.* **40**(1) : 3-26.

Dayton-Johnson, J., Katseli, L.T., Maniatis, G., Munz, R. and Papademetriou, D. (2007). Gaining from Migration: Towards a New Mobility System." Paris: Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

De Haan, A. (2000). Migrants, Livelihoods, and Rights: The Relevance of Migration in Development Policies. Social Development Working Paper. 4.

Ghosh, J. (2009). Migration and gender empowerment: Recent trends and emerging issues. Human Development Research Paper No. 04. New York: United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report Office.

Jones, Adele (2008). A silent but Mighty River: The cost of Women Economic Migrant (*Comparative Perspective Symposium: Gendered Migration*). *J. Women Culture & Society*, **33** (4). The University of Chicago Press. (http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/528745)

Manchanda, Rita (2004). Gender Conflict and Displacement: Contesting 'Infantilisation' of forced Migrant Women. *Economic & Political Weekly*, **39**(37) : 4179-4186. (http://www.jstor.org/stable/4415535)

Martin, Susan (2007). Women, Migration and Development: Transatlantic Perspectives on Migration. No. 1. Washington, DC: Institute for the Study of International Migration.

Martin, S.F. (2004). Women and Migration. Consultative Meeting on 'Migration and Mobility and how this movement affects Women.' Malmo, Sweden: United Nations.

Pessar Patricia, R. and Mahler, Sarah J. (2003). Transnational Migration: Bringing Gender In". *The International Migration Review*, **37** (3) : 812-846, Transnational Migration: International Perspectives (Fall, 2003), pp. 812-846, (http://www.jstor.org/stable/30037758)

Piper, N. (2005). "Gender and migration." Policy Analysis and Research Programme of the Global Commission on International Migration. Singapore: Asia Research Institute.

Ratha, D., Mohapatra, S. and Scheja, E. (2011). "Impact of Migration on Economic and Social Development: A Review of Evidence and Emerging Issues." World Bank Report.

Rogaly Ben (1998). Workers on Move: Seasonal migration and Changing Social relations in rural India. *Gender and Development*, **6** (1) [Migration and Mobility] (March 1998) pp.21.29. Taylors& Fransic. Oxfam GB.(http://www.jstor.org/stable/4030331)

Satterthwaite Margret (2004). "Women Migrant' Rights Under International Human Rights Law." *Feminist Review* no. 77. Labour Migration: Women on the Move (2004). Palgrave McMillan Journals. (http://www.jstor.org/stable/1395911).

****