

# A Geographical Study of Migration in Himachal Pradesh

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## Abstract

Migration is a key factor in population research. Migration takes both time and space and it is equally essential to research migration on all these aspects. Since 1991, this study is an effort to analyse changes in immigration trends in Himachal Pradesh. Migration patterns have significantly altered since the age of Globalization. These shifts in migration patterns were all the more apparent in a mountainous country like Himachal Pradesh, where the migration level before the 1990's was relatively low. In order to examine changes in migration pattern during this time, census data for 1991 and 2001 were analysed. The migratory patterns have been observed to alter unforeseen in the hill country. Migration in absolute terms is still relatively low, although the shift observed over the last years of the census is considerable.

**Keywords:** Migration, Patterns, Volume, Change.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Migration takes both time and space and it is equally essential to research migration on all these aspects. To understand how the movement of persons varies, a study of the changes in migration patterns is essential. Only if changes in migratory patterns have been adequately recognised will future population redistribution plans be accurate. Migration patterns have significantly altered since the age of globalisation. Globalization has resulted in structural changes, leading in turn to economic changes in general. The impact of these changes on the migration process is all the more noticeable in a mountainous country such as Himachal Pradesh where migration had been quite low until the 1990s. The volume of migration has not only changed, but also nature and patterns. The current research analyses the modifications described above. For carrying out the research, census data were utilised.

## 2. CHANGES IN PATTERNS OF IN-MIGRATION

Migration in Himachal Pradesh has not historically played a key role. The migration to Himachal Pradesh has been deterred by montagnard terrain, low urbanisation and lack of industry. But Himachal Pradesh's potential for employment has grown through the development of some industrial clusters, state connectedness and road networks, a thriving tourist and hospitality sector, and sophisticated horticulture. In the last two decades, therefore, the number of immigrants has significantly risen. During the intercensal decade 1991-2001, this research study highlights the changes in pattern of migration in Himachal Pradesh. The change in the volume of Himachal Pradesh immigration between 1991-2001 is seen in Table 1. In Himachal Pradesh, the total volume of interstate immigrants grew from 0.23 million to 0.35 million between 1991 and 2001. (Table 1). During the 1991 and 2001 censuses, that represented 4.58% and 5.77% of the total population of the state (Census of India 1991 and 2001). As a result, Himachal Pradesh's proportion of the migratory population was not particularly significant. In Himachal Pradesh, there was an increase of 48.14 percent between 1991-2001 in the volume of immigrants. However, this shift was not consistent in every region of the state because of spatial inequality in physical conditions, the disparities in economic possibilities and the closeness between the countries. The amount of immigrants in various districts of Himachal Pradesh has changed. In Bilaspur district, the biggest (456.93 percent) rise in immigrant volume was recorded (Table 1). Bilaspur district shares bordering Punjab neighbouring state. So many women moved to border regions of the Bilaspur district from across the border. There are several industrial units in the Bilaspur district, but some of Himachal Pradesh's biggest industrial ventures. ACC Cement Factory, for example, is one of the country's biggest and older industrial facilities. Other

areas where the shift in migration volume was more than the national average included Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahul & Spiti and Solan. Before the 1990s, these areas were quite undeveloped. These have been investigated later more than before. This was due to advances in the civil engineering profession. The districts are now linked to the nation as a whole. Wherever possible, airports and helipads were built. Furthermore, there was an encouragement to cultivate income crops which need work. Immigration fulfils this need for work. Despite the physiographical and climate obstacles described above, an important increase in inter-state immigration has been made since the employment potential of the two areas has increased rapidly in the intercensal decade 1991-2001.

**Table 1: Himachal Pradesh: Change in Volume of In-migration 1991-2001**

| <b>Total</b>            |                |                |                |                       |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>State/ District</b>  | <b>2001</b>    | <b>1991</b>    | <b>Change</b>  | <b>Percent Change</b> |
| <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> | <b>350,834</b> | <b>236,830</b> | <b>114,004</b> | <b>48.14</b>          |
| Bilaspur                | 41,057         | 7,372          | 33,685         | 456.93                |
| Chamba                  | 13,290         | 14,563         | -1,273         | -8.74                 |
| Hamirpur                | 14,444         | 13,378         | 1,066          | 7.97                  |
| Kangra                  | 63,624         | 56,655         | 6,969          | 12.30                 |
| Kinnaur                 | 3,853          | 2,048          | 1,805          | 88.13                 |
| Kullu                   | 9,081          | 4,207          | 4,874          | 115.85                |
| Lahul & Spiti           | 801            | 423            | 378            | 89.36                 |
| Mandi                   | 16,091         | 12,181         | 3,910          | 32.10                 |
| Shimla                  | 38,340         | 26,603         | 11,737         | 44.12                 |
| Sirmaur                 | 31,674         | 25,458         | 6,216          | 24.42                 |
| Solan                   | 71,395         | 40,616         | 30,779         | 75.78                 |
| Una                     | 47,184         | 33,326         | 13,858         | 41.58                 |
| <b>Males</b>            |                |                |                |                       |
| <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> | <b>165,326</b> | <b>116,853</b> | <b>48,473</b>  | <b>41.48</b>          |
| Bilaspur                | 7,986          | 3,586          | 4,400          | 122.70                |
| Chamba                  | 7,070          | 7,907          | -837           | -10.59                |
| Hamirpur                | 8,118          | 9,537          | -1,419         | -14.88                |
| Kangra                  | 29,145         | 26,164         | 2,981          | 11.39                 |
| Kinnaur                 | 2,957          | 1,482          | 1,475          | 99.53                 |
| Kullu                   | 5,889          | 2,406          | 3,483          | 144.76                |
| Lahul and Spiti         | 724            | 363            | 361            | 99.45                 |
| Mandi                   | 9,071          | 7,301          | 1,770          | 24.24                 |
| Shimla                  | 22,431         | 14,364         | 8,067          | 56.16                 |
| Sirmaur                 | 13,470         | 11,139         | 2,331          | 20.93                 |
| Solan                   | 40,258         | 20,977         | 19,281         | 91.91                 |
| Una                     | 18,207         | 11,627         | 6,580          | 56.59                 |
| <b>Females</b>          |                |                |                |                       |
| <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> | <b>185,508</b> | <b>119,977</b> | <b>65,531</b>  | <b>54.62</b>          |
| Bilaspur                | 33,071         | 3,786          | 29,285         | 773.51                |
| Chamba                  | 6,220          | 6,656          | -436           | -6.55                 |
| Hamirpur                | 6,326          | 3,841          | 2,485          | 64.70                 |
| Kangra                  | 34,479         | 30,491         | 3,988          | 13.08                 |
| Kinnaur                 | 896            | 566            | 330            | 58.30                 |
| Kullu                   | 3,192          | 1,801          | 1,391          | 77.23                 |
| Lahul and Spiti         | 77             | 60             | 17             | 28.33                 |
| Mandi                   | 7,020          | 4,880          | 2,140          | 43.85                 |
| Shimla                  | 15,909         | 12,239         | 3,670          | 29.99                 |
| Sirmaur                 | 18,204         | 14,319         | 3,885          | 27.13                 |
| Solan                   | 31,137         | 19,639         | 11,498         | 58.55                 |
| Una                     | 28,977         | 21,699         | 7,278          | 33.54                 |

Although there was greater than the State average shift in migration, District Lahul & Spiti did not apply to female migrants (Table 1). Over a span of 10 years, just seventeen women moved to Lahul & Spiti. This is due of the extremely mountainous and tribal region. Intra-tribal marriages. Within the traditional arrangement, no sure, adjustments are being made, but intertribal weddings seem to be a long way off. There is also a poor percentage of female migrants, who move mainly due to marriage.

Solan (75.78 percent) was another district in which the amount of immigration grew higher than the state average. The causes for a greater growth of immigrant volumes were location and industrial development. Because of their physical closeness, a significant number of immigrants are recorded from the neighbouring Punjab and Haryana. For men, a significant number of job searchers go to the Solan area, which in terms of industrial activity and urban development has grown without parallel. For women, marriage migration is generally the case. The volume of immigration changes were lower than the state average in six districts, namely, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur and Una. District Hamirpur (7.97 percent) was much less than the state average, when only 1066 immigrants from all parts of the country were recruited in ten years. In Himachal Pradesh, the greatest literacy rate was found in the Hamirpur district according to the 1991 and 2001 census of India. These many intelligent people, especially men, are in the hunt of appropriate employment in other states. There is virtually little job opportunity in the district itself. Hamirpur District is renowned for its people's migratory trends. There is no commercial development of either agriculture or industry. For female immigrants, a change in the volume of women was above the norm for females due to migration from marriage. The districts of Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur and Una have recorded a shift in the volume of migrants less than the state average. Change was below the state average for gender in the Kangra, Mandi, and Sirmaur districts. Change in volume of men immigrant was higher than the state average in Shimla and Una districts. Although the volume of immigration changes were smaller, nevertheless the number of migrants was more than many other districts, because it was yet before 1991 when districts such as Lahul & Spiti, Kullu and Kinnaur were relatively unknown that the growth process in these districts began. Therefore, no sudden growth was seen in these areas. In terms of their potential for work, the volume of male immigrants in Shimla and Una districts has changed. Administrative activity and tourism improve possibilities for employment. District Una has several special economic zones that provide jobs and attract people. In Chamba District, which is one of the 250 backward areas in the nation, a negative shift in the amount of immigration was recorded. There is a socially disadvantaged caste and tribal community in around 45 percent of the district population. The economy's cornerstone is agriculture. Nothing can attract migratory people. Therefore, there has been a negative shift in immigrant volumes.

### **3. INITIATIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT**

The State urban development department and ULBs work together to develop groundbreaking technological resolutions on the state's urban falls; Integrated Urban Transport, Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, Urban Poverty, Urban Housing, Urban Planning, Financial Sustainability of ULBs and General Urban Governance[6]. In order to improve society, active Community involvement is guaranteed and different programmes address the problems:

#### **1. Smart city concept**

In the budget for 2014, "100 smart cities" were planned to become satellite cities of bigger cities and modernise the current medium-sized cities. The idea of clever cities is not well defined, but may include creative, cyber, digital, e-governed, business, intelligent, knowledge and the use of the ICT power[12]. In terms of governance and service delivery, smartness is to be considered. Basic infrastructure provision leads to a better quality of life in a sustainable environment. Requests Smart Solutions to provide a model of sustainable and inclusive development for other aspiring urban areas in the area. For the development, Dharamshala is designated.

#### **2. Swatch bharat**

Targets Municipal waste management in the Himachal Pradesh city with the aim of creating towns and cities free of garbage and providing a clean and polluting environment. Clean urban environments would attract visitors to boost urban residents' economic diversity and also generate ULB's income. Accepted principles are [6]:

- ❖ Highest Degree of Community Participation and community led management of MSW

- ❖ Segregation at source
- ❖ Waste to value through maximising recycling
- ❖ Endeavour to achieve zero land fill status
- ❖ Scientific land fill
- ❖ Polluters to pay

### **3. National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM), 2005**

The JnNURM's main goal is to build economically productive, effective, fair and responsive cities. The JnNURM is composed of two Urban Infrastructure and Management submissions (UIG) and Basic Urban Poor Services (BSUP). [6] The focus of the mission is: combined development of substructure services; safeguarding the links between asset creation and long-term sustainability maintenance; accelerate the investment course in urban infrastructure services; planned urban development including sub-urban areas, out-groups and urban corridors; renewal and refurbishment of the centre of towns; [6]

### **4. National Urban livelihood Mission (NULM), 2005**

NULM seeks to reduce urban poor families' poverty and vulnerability by allowing them to access lucrative self-employment and skilled salary possibilities and to lead, through strong grassroots institutions of the poor, to significant improvement in their lives. [6] NULM is focused on mobilising the community and empowering women. NULM imagines the universal mobilisation of urban poor families into economies and self-help credit groups (SHGs). The National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) approach is considered necessary to organise urban poor people within self-help groups, to develop skills leading to market based work and to open up self-employment ventures by ensuring an easy access to loans. A mission mode approach is considered necessary. In two stages, NULM is being implemented: Phase I (2013-2017) and Phase II (2017-2022). In Phase I, NULM targets all cities with a single lakh or longer population and district headquarters cities with less than a lakh population, as specified in the 2011 Indian census[6]. In rare circumstances, however, additional towns may be permitted at the request of the States. The Center and the States will be divided in a 75:25 ratio of funding. This ratio is 90:10 for the states of the North East and the category Special (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand). [6]

### **5. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**

In particular for the poor and disadvantaged, the primary emphasis was on improving quality of life as a whole by providing essential services for residential and other construction facilities in cities such as water supply, sewerage and urban transit. The lessons of the last mission showed that infrastructure development has an effect directly on people's actual needs, such as providing taps and bathroom hookups. This implies that the development of facilities should be targeted, directly linked to providing improved services to people, as stated clearly, in his addresses at the Joint Parliamentary Sessions on 9 June 2014 and 23 February 2015, by the President of India. The Atal Mission for Rejuvenations and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is, therefore, intended to I ensure that every household has access to an assured water supply tap and sewage connection; (ii) increase the urban amenity value by developing green spaces and maintaining open areas in good condition (e.g. parks) (e.g. walking and cycling). [1] All these results are assessed by citizens, especially by women in the form of service level benchmarks, under the indicators and criteria established by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). The Centrally Sponsored System for 5 years will be administered by the AMRUT Mission.

### **6. Decentralized planning in Himachal Pradesh**

As deeply entrenched as the Gandhian economic thinking, the concept of decentralised planification. For the development of village economies, active involvement by people is guaranteed. This idea of self-supported local economies has been embedded in Vedic Indian philosophy. The idea of decentralised planning was accepted in principle, but the first step in the first five-year plan was made since the start of the country's planning period. [6] In the Himachal Pradesh district plan, a deliberate effort to create the district plans addressed poverty,

unemployment, inequality and infrastructure backwards. The decentralised planning process was phased in, and the following measures were made to guarantee that people and their representatives were properly included in the decision-making process.

#### **7. Member of Parliament Local Area Development scheme (MPLADS):**

A 1993-94 central sector scheme allowing M.Ps to propose modest, capitalist works requested by their constituents. [5] In this plan, each M.P. has the option to propose to the District Collectionist works Rs. 1.00 crore each year for the 1994-95 financial year, which in 2000-2001 was increased to 2 crores for each individual work not to exceed Rs. 10.00 lakh. The Department for Planning has been designated the nodal agency for this programme and is coordinating its implementation with the DCs involved.

#### **8. Mukhya Mantri Gram Path Yojna**

The objective was to establish connection from neighbouring motorway towns in 2002-2003. [5] Under this plan only Kochha roads would be metallized in rural regions, except the stipulation that tiny culverts/bridges would be built which would otherwise be required in order to provide the inhabitants in remote locations with smooth, all weather-related connection. In this respect, all Deputy Commissioners except tribal regions were given with a sum of Rs. 7.50 crore.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

What comes out of the study is that the patterns of migration in Himachal Pradesh have changed unexpectedly. Large part of Himachal Pradesh is highly mountainous and has remained secluded. Though with the advances made in the field of civil and geological engineering, most parts of the state have been connected via motorable roads, still reaching the mountainous areas is an exhaustive exercise. Further, harsh weather and lack of facilities make the living inconvenient. This is more so in case of tribal districts namely Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti which remained shrouded for centuries. Now with the connectivity via roads and dissemination of information through media, these districts have been explored. As far as change in patterns of in-migration is concerned, unpredictable percent change in volume of immigrants was reported in districts where either the developmental activities have started of late or industrial growth took place abruptly. Recent exploration of the remote districts namely Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahul & Spiti induced some migration where magnitude of migration used to be almost nil. Magnitude of migration is still quite low in absolute numbers, but change that has been seen over the past census years is incredible. Districts experiencing rapid industrial development were obvious to attract remarkable number of migrants because of unparalleled rise in employability. What can be conjectured is that magnitude of migration in Himachal Pradesh will obviously increase in the times to come but proportion of migrant population in mid and high zone of Himachal Pradesh consisting of districts Hamirpur, Mandi, Chamba, Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahul & Spiti will remain low. It is quite plausible that some of these districts might experience a negative change in volume of migration. District Shimla lying in mid and high zone is an exception in this regard. This is because of high level of development and the administrative importance of the district. Districts lying in Shivaliks near to the plains of Punjab and Haryana, will continue to experience high migration because they enjoy both locational and physiographic advantages.

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