

THEORIES OF MIGRATION & THEIR RELEVANCE

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INTRODUCTION

Migration refers to movement of people between regions or countries. It is the process of changing one's place of residence and permanently living in a region or country. According to the Demographic Dictionary of United Nations, "Migration is such an event in which people move from one geographical area to another geographical area. When people leaving their place of residence go to live permanently in another area then this is called migration". When foreigners move to India and settle it is called immigration where as Indians proceeding abroad termed as emigration. Immigration means migration occurring within an area only. While out-migration means migration out of the area. Both types of migration are called internal migration occurring within the country. Migration from Orissa to Surat is in-migration for Surat, while it is out migration for Orissa. During any time period, the total number of persons coming into the country and people going out of the country for residing is called gross migration. The difference between the total number of persons coming to reside in a country and going out of the country for residing during any time period is termed as net migration. Internal migration means the movement of people in different states and regions within a country from one place to another. External or international migration refers to movement of people from one country to another for permanent settlement. Brain drain refers to the migration of highly qualified, trained and talented persons from one country to another country. It adheres to outflow of human capital from developing countries to developed countries.

The present paper makes an ingenious endeavour to delineate various theories of migration and exploring the relevance of those theories.

Demographers have propounded various theories and constructed models of migration from time to time. E.G. Ravenstein in his research paper. 'The laws of Migration' postulated seven laws epitomised as.

1. Migration and Distance

- a. Majority of migration is for short distances and its number decreases with increase in distance.
- b. Persons migrating to distant places, migrate to commercial and industrial centers of their own choice.

2. Migration by Stages

- a. The migration towards commercial and industrial centers is firstly on sample basis, which takes the form of migration streams. Later on these migrants settle down at these centers.
 - b. Migration is in plenty towards fast developing cities. Persons from outside occupy the nearby cities and areas of these centers.
 - c. Process of dispersion and absorptions have reverse ratio.
3. **Stream and Counter Stream:** Every migratory stream produces a counter stream simultaneously.
 4. **Urban- Rural Differentials in propensity to Migrate:** Urban people once settled migrate less than the rural people.
 5. **Predominance of Females in Short Distance Migrants:** Females prefer to have short distance migration.
 6. **Technology and Migration:** Migration increases with technological development.
 7. **Dominance of Economic Motives:** Inspite of ever increasing migration caused due to bad and repressive laws, heavy taxation, detrimental climate, undesirable social environment etc. It is influenced by the instinct of economic prosperity.

Everett S. Lee Theory of conceptualisation: E.S. Lee in his book 'A Theory of Migration' has attempted to conceptualise the factors that determine the decisions to migrate and the process of migration into four categories.

1. **Factors associated with the area of origin:** There are many factors which motivate people to leave their place of origin to outside area. They are push factors.
2. **Factors associated with the area of destinations:** There are very attractive forces at the area of destination to which the proportion of selectivity migrants is high. According to Lee such forces are found in metropolitan areas of a country. Pull factors are present in such areas.
3. **Intervening Obstacles:** There are intervening obstacles like distance and transportation which increase migrant selectivity of the area of destination. These obstacles have been slackened in modern times with technological advances. Lee also refers to cost of movements, ethnic barriers and personal factors as intervening obstacles.
4. **Personal Factors:** It is the personal factors on which the decision to migrate from the place of origin to the place of destination depends. It is an individual's perception of the pull and push forces which influence actual migration. He has characterized these forces into pluses and minuses respectively. Pluses are pull factors and minuses are push factors. In between them are zeros which balance the competing forces.

Lee has formulated three hypotheses relating to

A. Volume of Migration: The volume of migration is determined by the following factors

- a. The volume of migration changes with the degree of areas included in the given territory.
- b. It varies with the diversity of the people.
- c. It is related to the difficulty of surmounting the intervening variables.
- d. It varies with the economic fluctuations.
- e. Both the volume and rate of migration increases with time if not checked strictly.
- f. Both volume and rate of migration vary according to the state of progress in a country or area.

B. Streams and counter streams of Migration: The following factors determine streams and counter streams of migration.

- a. Migration tends to take place largely within well defined streams.
- b. For every major migration stream, a counter stream also develops.
- c. The efficiency of the stream and the counter stream tend to be low if the place of origin and the place of destination are similar.
- d. The efficiency of the stream will be high if the major factors in the development of a migration stream are minus factors at origin.
- e. The efficiency of stream will also be high if the intervening obstacles are great.
- f. The efficiency of a migration stream changes with economic conditions of a country, being high during prosperity and low during depression.

C Characteristics of Migration: The following are the characteristics of migrants:

- a. Migration is selective.
- b. Migrants who respond primarily to minus factors at origin tend to be negatively selective.
- c. Migrants who respond primarily to plus factors at destination tend to be positively selective.
- d. Considering all migrants together selection for migration tend to be bimodal.
- e. The degree of positive selection bears a positive relationship with the intervening factor.
- f. The characteristics of migrants tend to be intermediate between the characteristics of the population of the place of origin and those of place of destination.
- g. The higher propensity to migrate at certain stages of the life cycle is important in migration selection.

Lee concludes that migration is always selective and influenced by both pull and push factors. Areas having push factors are first selected for migration. It is generally the pull factors which lead to migration to urban areas rather than push factors although intervening obstacles influence migration.

DUNCAN'S THEORY

O.D. Duncan in his book, 'The Theory and Consequences of Mobility of Farm Population' has presented a theory regarding the mobility of population engaged in agriculture. His theory is the combination of microscopic and macroscopic active forces in the process of migration. According to Duncan, whatever effects are created by changes in structural factors of the country, the same effects are caused by migration. For achieving many structural aims, migration is the functional alternative to social change. The following factors are responsible for migration.

- a. Economic and Technical Causes: They relate to the changes occurring in the technique of production, in methods and structure of agricultural operations, market structure, price situation, specialization, production and in relative changes in the wage level.
- b. Social Causes: The social causes are development of institutional structure, policies regarding public and production, development of transport and communication system, population growth, increase in knowledge and its expansion, class conflicts and competition disarrangement resulting in social degradation and structure of administration, changing needs of maintenance of family etc.
- c. Personal Causes: Personal causes incorporate unsatisfied needs, increase in the intelligence of persons and expanding horizon of knowledge, health, emotions of alienation, views regarding neighbours, imagination power, nature, emotions etc.
- d. Natural Causes: The natural causes relate to environment and atmosphere, frequent recurrence of diseases, floods, earthquake, droughts, malaria, hookworm, seasonal changes, land erosions etc.
- e. Other causes: Miscellaneous causes which influence migration are labour problems, strikes, riots, increase in real wealth, exploring new resources etc.

STANDING'S THEORY OF MATERIALISM

Standing Guy in his book 'Migration and Modes of Exploitation: Social origin of immobility' and mobility presented this theory in 1981. According to this theory, the size and level of migration are determined by the relation of production of society, nature of wealth, land ownership system and factors controlling the growth of forces of production in a society. He has mentioned about migration occurring during the transition period between the end of the feudalistic production and commencement of the capitalistic production. Industrial development taken place in the capitalistic system has been possible due to migration. Migration causes annihilation of class relation of old types and gives birth to new type of class structure, the capitalist labour class. On account of migration there exists an industrial reserve army which keeps the wage rate at low level in the short period. The possibility of exchanging the supply of labourers in new trades and new areas has increased which is responsible for the origin of a disciplined labour class. In the long run surplus population which originates during the process of capital formation makes labourers more progressive, increases their work efficiency and motivates them to work for longer hours.

Thus standing has explained the process of migration with reference to different economic systems and modes of production and how the nature and streams of migration take place in the light of Karl Marx theory.

LEWIS' MODEL OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION: Prof. W.A. Lewis in his article 'Unlimited Supplies of Labour' has delineated the process of migration from rural to urban areas in an underdeveloped economy. There exists two sectors i.e. modern sector and indigenous sector. The capitalist sector is defined as that part of the economy which uses reproducible capital, pays capitalists for the use thereof and employs wage labour for profit making purposes. The unique feature of a capitalist sector is that it hires labour and sells output to earn profit. The subsistence sector is that part of the economy which does not use reproducible capital. Labour is abundant and disguised unemployment emerges. The marginal productivity of labour in the agricultural sector may be zero or even negative. To solve the problem of disguised unemployment, Prof. Lewis has recommended the capitalist or industrial sector to be expanded by transferring labour from the subsistence or rural sector to the capitalist sector. He assumed that the supply of labour is perfectly elastic at the subsistence wage. Since the supply of labour is unlimited, new industries can be established or existing, industries can be expanded without limit at the current wage i.e. subsistence wage by withdrawing labour from the subsistence sector. When people migrate from the subsistence sector to the modern sector, the wages should be higher in the capitalist sector than in the subsistence sector by a small but fixed amount. In the Lewis model, migration is the result of concerted effort on the part of the state to transfer surplus rural labour to the industrial sector by developing the latter for capital formation.

FEI-RANIS MODEL ON RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION:

John Fei and Gustav Ranis in their article entitled, 'A Theory of Economic Development' have postulated the process of rural urban migration in UDCs. The model is related to an underdeveloped economy having surplus labour but scarcity of capital. The process of development involves transfer of surplus labour from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector to augment productivity from zero to wage level equal to the institutional wage in agriculture:

Assumptions

- a. Land is fixed in supply.
- b. Population growth is taken as an exogenous phenomenon.
- c. There is dual economy consisting of a stagnant agricultural sector and an active industrial sector.
- d. Agricultural activity is characterized by constant returns to scale with labour as a variable factor.
- e. The output of the agricultural sector is a function of land and labour.
- f. The output of the industrial sector is a function of capital and labour.
- g. If population increases above the point where marginal productivity of labour becomes zero, labour can be shifted to the industrial sector without loss in agricultural output.
- h. The real wage in the industrial sector remains fixed and equal to the initial level of real income in the agrarian economy.

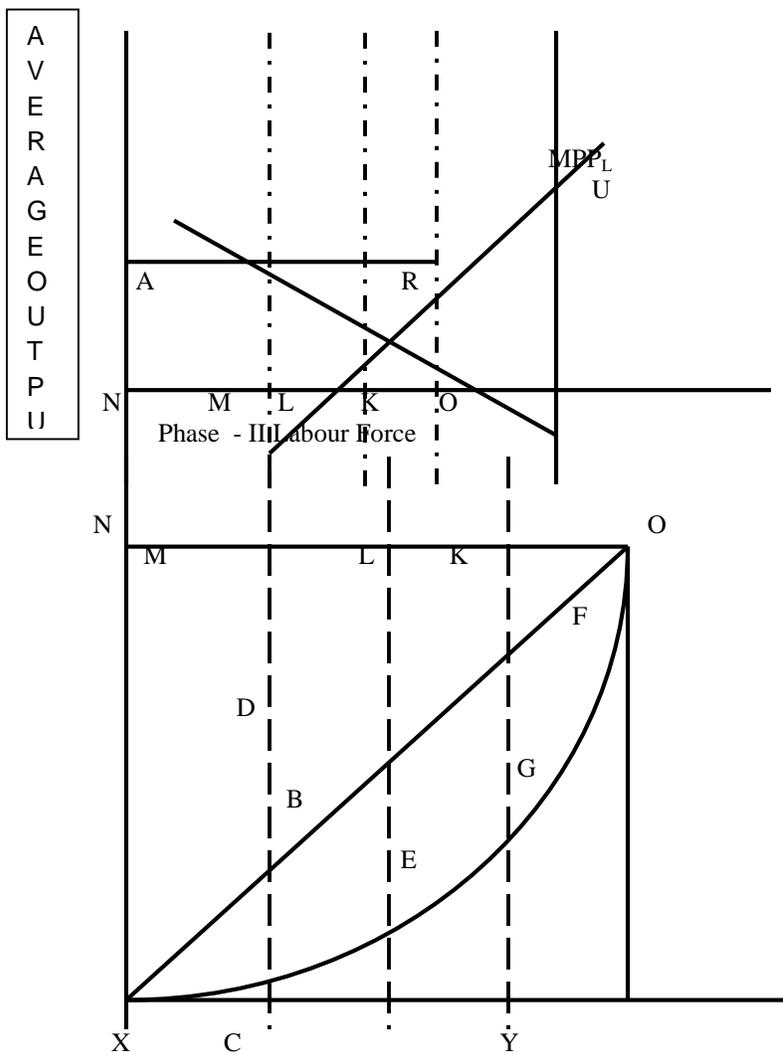
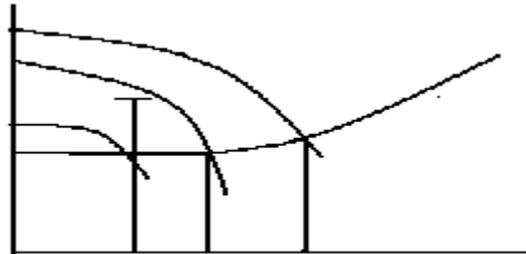
The Model:

The model analyses the development process in three phases.

In the first phase, disguised unemployed workers, who are not adding to agricultural output are shifted to the industrial sector at the constant institutional wages.

In the second phase, agricultural workers add to the agricultural output but produce less than the institutional wage they receive. These workers are also shifted to the industrial sector. If the migration of workers to the industrial sector continues a point is ultimately reached when farm workers produce output equal to the institutional wage.

In the third phase farm workers produce more than the institutional wage they receive. Thus the surplus labour is exhausted and the agricultural sector becomes commercialized. These three phases are explained below.



Agricultural Labour

In panel (3) the labour force in the agricultural sector is measured from right to left on the horizontal axis ON and agricultural output downwards from O on the vertical axis OY. The curve OCX is the total physical productivity curve (TPP) of the agricultural sector. The horizontal portion CX of the curve shows that the total productivity is constant in this region so that the marginal productivity of MN labour is zero. Thus MN labour is surplus and its withdrawal to the industrial sector will

not affect agricultural output. The allocation process in three phases is depicted in panel (2) where the total labour force is measured from right to left on the horizontal axis ON and the average output on the vertical axis NY. The curve NMRU represents MPP_C in the agricultural sector.

In Phase I NM workers are disguised unemployed. Their MPP is zero as exhibited by NM portion of the MPP curve in panel (2) for CX portion of TPP curve of panel (3). This surplus labour force NM is transferred to the industrial sector indicated as OM in panel (1) at the institutional wage $OW=NM$.

In phase II after NM, the MPP of agricultural workers begins to rise in panel (2) as reflected by the rising portion of the MPP_L curve from OM to OL in panel (1). When workers migrate from the agricultural to the industrial sector, agricultural output declines. As a result there is shortage of agricultural goods leading to rise in their prices relative to industrial goods. This leads to the worsening of the terms for the industrial sector, resulting in rise in the nominal wage in the industrial sector. This is fulfilled by making investment in the industrial sector which shifts the MPP curve PT outwards to P_1H to P_2Q in panel (1). The nominal wage rises above the institutional wage OW to LH and KQ. This is indicated by the upward movement of the supply curve of labour from WT to H and Q as ML and LK workers gradually shift to the industrial sector in panel (1). The movement on the supply curve of labour WTW_1 from T upwards is 'the Lewis turning point'.

When Phase – III begins, agricultural all workers start producing agricultural output equal to the institutional wage and ultimately more than the institutional wage they receive. This is reflected by the rising portion RU of the MPP_L curve in panel (2) which is higher than the institutional wage $KR=NW$. Consequently Ko of labour will be transferred from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector at a rising nominal wage above KQ in panel (1). This leads to the exhaustion of the surplus labour in the agricultural sector which becomes fully commercialized.

Fei and Ranis pointed out that as agricultural workers are shifted to the industrial sector, there begins surplus of agricultural commodities. This leads to the total agricultural surplus (TAS) in the agricultural sector. The excess portion of the agricultural output over the consumption requirement of the agricultural labour force at the institutional wage in the TAS. The amount of TAS is a function of the number of workers shifted to the industrial sector in each phase of the development process. The TAS measured in panel (3) of the figure by the vertical distance between the line OX and is TPP curve OCX. In phase I when NM labour is transferred (panel 2), the TAS BC. In phase II as ML and LK workers (panel 2) are shifted to the industrial sector, DE and FG amount of TAS arise in (panel 3).

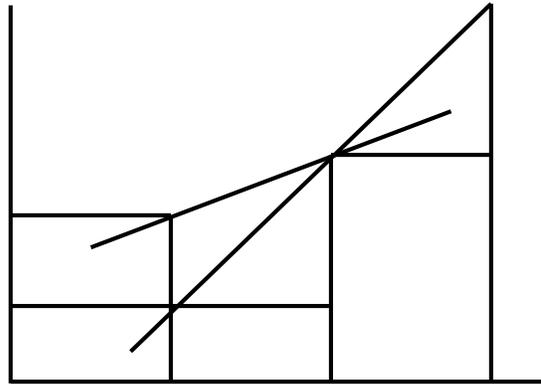
Harris – Todare Model of Rural – Urban Migration:-

Prof. J.R.Harris and P.M. Todaro in an article "Migration, Unemployment and Development :A two sector Analysis" in 1970 presented a model on rural – urban migration in underdeveloped countries. The core idea of the model is that labour migration in UDCs is due to rural urban differences in average expected wages rather than actual wages. The migrants consider the various opportunities of employment available to them in rural urban sectors and choose the one that maximizes their expected wages from migration. The minimum urban wages is substantially higher than the rural wage. If more employment opportunities are created in the urban sector at the minimum wage, the expected wages will rise and rural urban migration will increase. Expected wages are measured by the difference in rural urban income and rural agricultural income and the probability of a migrant's getting an urban job. In fact a migrant compares his expected income for a given time horizon in the urban sector with his prevailing average rural income and migrates if the former is more than the latter. Thus migration in Harris Tadaro Model is viewed as the income gap between the urban and rural sectors. But all migrants can not be absorbed in the urban sector at high wages. Many fail to find a job and get employment in the informal urban sector at wages which are even lower than in the rural sector. Thus they join the queue of the underemployed or disguised unemployed in the rural sector.

Assumptions:

- There are two sectors in the economy i.e. agricultural sector (A) and the urban or manufacturing sector (M).
- The model operates in the short run.
- MPL_A and MPL_M are determined by their respective technologies.
- Capital is available in fixed quantities in two sectors.
- There are L workers in the rural and urban sectors respectively.
- The number of urban jobs available L_M comprises $L - L_A$ alongwith an available supply of rural migrants.
- The urban wage is fixed at W_M and the rural wage at W_A , $W_M > W_A$.
- The rural wage equals the rural marginal product of labour and the urban wage is exogenously determined.
- Rural urban migration continues so long as the expected urban real income is more than that of real agricultural income.

The Model : Harris – Tadaro model has been depicted in the below figure.



In the above figure total labour force in two sectors has been measured along the horizontal axis. Employment in the agricultural Sector (A) to the right starting from O_A and in the industrial Sector (M) to the left starting from O_M . The left vertical axis from O_A upwards measures the MP and wages of labour in agriculture (MPL_A and W_A). The right vertical axis measures the MP and wages of labour in industry MPL_M and W_M . AA_1 is the MP of labour curve in agriculture. It slopes downward to the right as employment in agriculture (L_A) increases. Analogously MM_1 is the MP of labour curve in industry which slopes downward to the left as L_M increases.

W_M is the wage level at which $O_M L_M$ workers are employed in the urban sector. The remaining $O_A L_M$ workers are employed in the rural sector at $O_A W_A$ wage level. The rural urban wage gap is $W_M - W_A$ with W_M wage fixed. This wage gap attracts rural workers to the urban sector even in the face of urban unemployment and under employment. Despite this, the rural job seekers are willing to take their chance in the urban job lottery to trace out their favoured jobs. If the probability of getting the favoured jobs is the ratio of employment in manufacturing, L_M to the total urban labour pool, L_U , then the expression $W_A = L_M / L_U$. W_M shows the agricultural wage in which the potential migrant equates the urban expected wage and indifferent about job location.

The locus of such points of indifference is given by $I_1 I_1$ curve. The unemployment equilibrium point is indicated by Z. the equilibrium agricultural wage is W_A . The new urban-rural wage gap is $W_M - W_A$. $O_A L_A$ workers are working in the agricultural sector instead of $O_M L_M$ before migration. $O_M L_M$ workers in the manufacturing urban sector are still employed at the institutional fixed wage W_M . But $L_U = O_A L_A - O_M L_M$ migrants to the urban sector are engaged in low wage jobs in the informal sector getting less than $O_A W_A$ wage rate which they could have received in the rural sector.

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