

Class 8
Geography
Chapter-3
Part-1

Migration

KEY CONCEPTS

- ✦ Migration.
- ✦ Types of migration - immigration, emigration, rural-urban and urban-urban.
- ✦ Impact of migration on socio-economic structure of the society.
- ✦ Brain Drain causes and impact.

Migration refers to the movement of people from their native place to another place. It constitutes an important factor in redistributing population over time and space. When people move from one place to another, the place they move from is called the *place of origin*, whereas the place they move to is called the *place of destination*. The place of origin shows a decrease in population whereas it shows an increase in the place of destination.

According to the data compiled by the UN refugee agency, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), five countries accounted for two-third of all refugees in 2017: Syria (6.3 million); Afghanistan (2.6 million); South Sudan (2.4 million); Myanmar (1.2 million) and Somalia (986, 400). The total number of people forced to flee their homes rose from 42 million in 2007 to 68.5 million by the end of 2017. This means that one in every 110 people in the world is displaced. This figure of 68.5 million displaced people includes 25.4 million refugees, 40 million internally displaced and 3.1 million asylum seekers.

Migration can be forced or *voluntary*. When people migrate for better job opportunities, it is *voluntary migration*. Some migrations, though voluntary, are forced by circumstances, such as famines, epidemics and wars. Some people are forced to migrate because of fear of being

persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social or political group. There are people who are forcibly expelled or taken away as prisoners. All these people who migrate in such conditions and are unable or unwilling to return to their homeland are called refugees.

When refugees ask for protection in places other than their native place, it is up to their place of destination to decide whether or not to give them refuge. Such refugees whose claim has not been finally decided are called asylum seekers. So, every refugee is initially an asylum seeker but every asylum seeker may not be recognised as a refugee.

TYPES OF MIGRATION

Migration may be permanent, temporary or seasonal. When people migrate to another place over a long distance for living there for a long period of time, it is called permanent migration.



Migration of People

However, the seasonal movement of labourers to work in the fields or *transhumance*, i.e., seasonal movement of pastoral people with their flock of animals to warmer pastures in winter and their return in summer are examples of **temporary migration**. Migration may take place from rural to rural areas, rural to urban areas, urban to urban areas and urban to rural areas. Based on these criteria, migration is of the following types:

Internal Migration

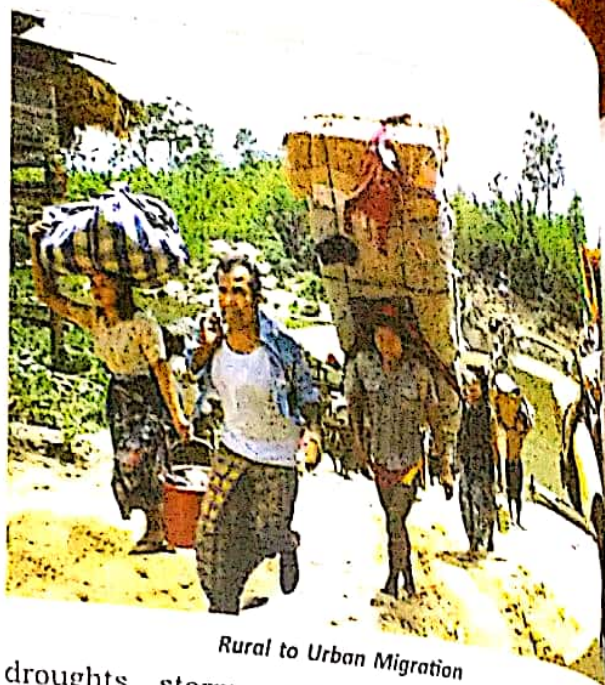
When a large number of people migrate from one region or state in a country to another region or state within the same region or country, it is known as **internal migration**. This type of migration happens when people move from rural to urban areas like from villages to towns or cities and from small urban areas to large urban areas like from towns or small cities to bigger cities or metropolitan cities.

External Migration

When people move from one country to another country, it is called **external migration** or **international migration**. This type of migration may be intracontinental i.e., between countries in the same continent. When Indians migrate to China, Japan and UAE (within Asia) it is *intracontinental migration*. However when people from India migrate to the USA, Great Britain, any European country or Australia, it is *intercontinental migration*. When people move to any other country, they are called **emigrants** by the people of their own country. But in the country to which they migrate they are known as **immigrants**. Such type of migration is known as *emigration* and *immigration*, respectively.

Rural to Urban Migration

This is the most common form of internal migration. People migrate from villages to cities in search of job opportunities, higher income and better standard of living. In India, states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, and Delhi attract large number of migrants from other states, especially Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The main reasons for their migration to these cities include poverty, high population pressure on the land, lack of basic facilities like health care, education, etc. Besides, natural disasters like floods, landslides,



Rural to Urban Migration

droughts, storms, earthquakes, tsunamis and local conflicts also induce people to migrate to cities. Most of these migrants are initially men. However, after working for some time they also bring their families to the cities.

Rural to Rural Migration

People migrate from one village to another village in search of better prospects related to availability of land, water for drinking and irrigation and other facilities like healthcare, education, markets and short distance to the nearby cities. Often women migrate from rural to rural areas when they get married in another village.

Urban to Rural/Suburban Migration

This type of migration is also known as '*reverse migration*'. It takes place when the size of population reaches a point where it becomes more than the carrying capacity of a city. This leads to shortage of resources, congestion, pollution, unhygienic living conditions, growth of slums and traffic jams. Consequently, people living in the cities shift to the sub-urban areas where land



Ever since a Civil War broke out in Syria in 2011, 5.6 million Syrians have fled the country as refugees and another 6.1 million are displaced within Syria. The migrants have taken refuge in neighbouring countries like Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. They have also gone to the USA and some European countries.

DO YOU KNOW

There are athletes and sports persons, who as part of their country's contingent, go to a foreign country for participating in an International Sports event and never return back. After the end of Second World War, nearly every Olympic Games has included a rush of athletes seeking asylum in the host country.

For example, athletes from Cameroon, Uganda and Rwanda disappeared from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games held in April 2018. In fact, 200 Commonwealth Game athletes and official remained in Australia after the games and applied for asylum with another 50 people stayed on illegally. These were largely from African countries including Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda and Cameroon.

is in plenty, houses are spacious, there is lots of greenery around, traffic snarls are absent and it is easy to commute to the city for work or other activities. Some workers, who cannot afford the high costs of city life, move to nearby villages from where they commute to the cities daily, usually by public transport. Most of suburban migration takes place around big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Shanghai, Bangkok, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Urban to Urban Migration

This type of migration is usually seen in the highly developed countries of the world. People move from one city to another city, generally for better employment opportunities. For example, IT professionals living in Delhi move to Bengaluru for better job opportunities and improving their standard of living.

Climate Refugees

These are the migrants, who are forced to leave their homes due to sudden or long-term changes to their local environment. Such changes include droughts, desertification, sea level rise, disruption of seasonal weather patterns like the monsoons. Climate refugees migrate to another country or they may migrate internally within their own country. The people of Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea have been forced to relocate to another place as the rising sea levels are swallowing their land. As such, they have become climate change refugees.

CAUSES OF MIGRATION

People migrate from their native place to another place for many reasons. These reasons are broadly categorised into two groups — Push and Pull Factors.

Push Factors are the factors that cause people to leave their place of residence or origin. These include the following:

- * Lack of job opportunities, low income from agriculture and other activities;
- * High population pressure on land, low yield of crops and shortage of food;
- * Lack of basic amenities like clean drinking water, power supply, health care, education, transport, etc.
- * Natural disasters like floods, landslides, droughts, famines, earthquakes, cyclonic storms and tsunami.
- * Wars.
- * Persecution of people due to wars, race, religion, social and political beliefs.

Pull Factors are the factors that attract people to move to the places other than their native place. These include the following:

- * Better job opportunities, availability of regular work and higher wages.
- * Better opportunities for education, health care and sources of entertainment.
- * Favourable climate.
- * Peaceful and comfortable location.
- * Lower risk of natural disasters;



Climate Refugees from Carteret Islands

□ Answer the following questions -

1) What is meant by 'migration'?

2) What is temporary and permanent migration? Give an example of each.

3) What is forced migration? Give an example of a country from where people are being forced to migrate to neighbouring country.

4) What is meant by 'reverse migration'?

5) Who are called 'refugees'?

Give a geographical reason for each of the following -

Every refugee is an asylum seeker.

A software engineer migrates to Bengaluru from Kanpur.

7) State any two pull and two push factors that make people to migrate from the rural to urban areas.

□ Distinguish between the following-

1. Internal and External Migrations.
2. Emigration and Immigration.
3. Push factors and Pull factors.

□ Fill in the blanks.

1. Due to migration of people, the place of origin shows a _____ in population.
2. _____ are the refugees whose claim for refugee has not been approved by the country to which they want to migrate.
3. _____ is another name for urban to rural migration.
4. _____ are the migrants who are forced to leave their homes due to sudden or long-term changes in their local environment.