



## DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION, MIGRATION, URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AN INDIAN METROPOLIS: A CASE STUDY OF CHENNAI CITY

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### **Abstract**

*Migration has been a historical process shaping human history, economy and culture. It re-emerged as a strong force shaping cities and urbanization since the time of industrial Revolution in India, and is closely associated with urban transition influencing the demand and supply of labour, economic growth and human wellbeing. Indian urbanisation has proceeded as it has elsewhere in the world, as a part and parcel of economic change. Low agricultural productivity per hectare and higher differences in rural-urban literacy levels exhibited higher degrees of this demographic divergence. An occupational shift from agriculture to urban-based industry and services is one part of the change. Formed by these shifts are Chennai, Mumbai and other major cities. Agricultural woes have expedited urbanization. Most of the tier 2 cities in the country developed in this particular way. Urban areas are integral to India's growth and development, accounting for around two-thirds of the country's GDP. A transformation in migration can also be observed from rural to urban and from migration to immigration. This paper examines the Demographic Transformation, Migration and urbanization in Tamil Nadu State with particular reference to Chennai Metropolis. A survey was carried out amongst 300 respondents drawn from within the Chennai metropolis.*

*The Data required for the study has been collected from both the primary and secondary sources. The results of the study revealed that Rural-Urban Migration have had greater impact on both economic and social aspects of the respondents.*

**Key Words:** *Rural-Urban Migration, Demographic Transition, Urbanization, Development, Poverty, Agriculture.*

### **Introduction**

Migration and urbanization are direct manifestations of the process of economic development in space, particularly in the contemporary phase of globalization. The pace of urbanisation can be increased by boosting agricultural productivity and rural literacy, reducing rural natural growth rates and reversing the demographic divergence. Urbanisation is thus an important process through which poverty can be reduced, a point underscored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent speech at the launch of the Smart City projects. Over the period 2011-2050, the world's urban population is projected to double increase from 3.6 billion to 6.3 billion. Much of this increase will be in the cities and towns of developing and less developed countries. Advanced economies undergo three transitions during their development: 1. They transition from a rural to an urban economy. 2. They transition from low income growth to high income growth. 3. Their demographic transition from initially high fertility and mortality rates to low modern levels. The timings of these transitions are correlated to the historical development of most advanced economies. Developing countries have urbanized rapidly since 1950. To explain urbanization, standard models emphasize rural-urban migration, focusing on rural push factors (agricultural modernization) and urban pull factors (industrialization and urban-biased policies). When the demographer Kingsley Davis asked a question on India's relatively slow pace of urbanization over five decades ago, he proceeded to answer that question on the basis of the "relative slowness of economic development in India." Since then and especially in the past two decades, India's economic growth rates have risen but the question asked by Davis continues to be relevant. Stealing a march on Gujarat and Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu has emerged as the most urbanised State and as per the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC 2011), of the total households in the State 42.47 per cent are in urban areas. According to SECC data released in July 2015, more than 62% of rural households in the country qualified as deprived. Due to the fast paced development taking place in the urban area, it has become the hub of all the major activities. This has attracted a huge influx of the people to Chennai for various purposes, such as employment, business, education etc. This has given the city its cosmopolitan character, with people from different caste, community, religion and regions residing in its heart. Considerable proportion of migrated population particularly in large and metropolitan cities lives in marginal settlements, slums and squatter areas with limited infrastructure services threatening health, environmental degradation, traffic and other problems of urban areas. The study describes the factors contributing towards rural to urban migration. In rural areas, less employment opportunities, low wages, drought, lack of basic amenities, landlessness, social factors act as push factors and more employment opportunities, higher income, better wages, better facilities activities as pull factors towards urban migration.

### **Review of Literature**

In the following section researcher has given a brief review of literature in order to understand the issues in rural-urban migration and Urbanization

**Sarma(2005)** reported certain burning problems related to supplies of utilities, transportation of people, livable space in the residential area, social infra-structure, open space, social interaction arena, pollution etc., of Dhaka city of Bangladesh.

A study by **Henderson (2006)** shows that urban overcrowding is really an issue; it ought to affect economic growth rates in a robust, consistent fashion. And it does. Not only is there an optimal degree of urban concentration that varies with country income, but departures from optimal concentration result in substantial growth losses. Overcrowding countries can reduce overcrowding by investing in interregional transport infrastructure - in particular, increasing the density of road networks.

**Navarro (2010)** found that urban peripheries in many developing country cities lack basic local public goods like pavement, water, sewerage and electricity. The author estimated the impact of slum infrastructure upgrading using an experiment in urban road pavement provision in Mexico.

Globally, **Henderson (2010)** found a strong positive relationship between level of urbanization and per capita income across the countries. Further, the history of economic growth vindicates that no country has achieved high income level or rapid economic growth without substantial urbanization.

**International organization for migration (IOM 2015)** reported that Urbanization transforms space and place, generates agglomeration economies creating favourable conditions for the market forces to boost productivity and economic growth. In this process various spatial flows like the flow of goods and services, capital, labour and information are the natural outcome of economic growth. Higher is the rate of economic growth higher will be the types of spatial flows. Labour mobility is the expected outcome with increasing economic development and urbanization.

A study by **Kumar and Bhagat (2017)** shows that apart from the role of migration and remittances in poverty reduction, studies on India show the positive impact on building assets and improving the access to education and health care.

### **Objectives of The Study**

The research study is intended to focus on Demographic transformation, rural-urban migration and urbanization in Chennai metropolis, with the following objectives:

1. To find out the demographic growth of the study area.
2. To examine the socio-economic status of the migrants and
3. To analyse the urbanization in Chennai metropolis.

### **Methodology of The Study**

A case study design is adopted in this research where Chennai Metropolis is chosen as a case study. The data for this study mainly collected in areas where most of the people have migrated from rural areas. This study this been carried out with the help of collection of the primary and secondary data. The primary survey is mainly of the observations and interviews through the questionnaire methods. In this questionnaire, there are 32 questions about the year of migration, age of the respondent, gender of the respondent, educational qualification, current job, area of specialization, monthly income, native place of the respondent, the living and working condition, reason for migration, motivation for migration, distance of the migration with other related questions of the migrants. These questions were asked from 300 migrated people in the 10 zones of the Chennai City Corporation areas under random sampling method. Secondary data were obtained from existing literature. The analytical tools and techniques have been used for analysis and interpretation of data.

### **The Result and Discussions**

#### **The Demographic Transition**

Chennai is one of the four major metropolitan cities in India, and is located in the southeastern part of the country. The average rate of population growth of the city is 25 % per decade and this is recurrently reducing the green-covered area in the city. Chennai with current population of 8,551,768 (8.5 million) is one of the largest cities of South India. The Population density of Chennai is 26,903, which is currently largest in the state of Tamil Nadu. Chennai has witnessed a tremendous growth in its manufacturing, retail, health care and IT sector in the last 10 years. It is regarded as India's fourth largest city after Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Being a major business hub of the state, Chennai has witnessed a rapid growth in its Population. Chennai has become an important destination for trade and tourism in recent years. It has evoked as a city with tremendous potential for industrial growth because of its economic viability and available infrastructure. The state government departments are geared towards increasing trade and commerce links with other countries and developing greater industrial growth. This entire boom in the trade and business of Chennai city accounts largely for its rapidly growing population. More business and job opportunities in the city lure people from in and around Chennai to come and settle here.

Major multinationals have already set up their branch offices in Chennai leading to more people being hired by these companies. So Population of Chennai has grown rapidly in the last 20 years due to its major industrialization and tremendous growth. Current Population of Chennai is estimated to be 8,551,768. Chennai urban agglomeration with a total population of 10,108,888 (1 crore) is regarded as one of the most populous areas of South India. According to UN Mega Cities 2016 report, Chennai is ranked at No. 30 in most populous urban agglomeration in the world. Tamils and Telugus form the majority of Population in Chennai. Tamil is one of the widely spoken languages in Chennai. English is also spoken throughout the city. Hinduism is the dominant religion with 81.3% of the total population in Chennai. Muslims (9.4%) and Christians (7.6%) are also present in the city. Jains with 1.1 population and other religious groups forms the remaining population. People of various religious and ethnic groups live together happily in the dream city of Chennai. Urban Population in Chennai metropolis: urbanization in Chennai metropolis India from 1881 to 2017 and details the percentage of the entire population, living in urban areas are given below.

**Table 1: Growth of Population in Chennai**

Year	Share of urban Population	Growth Rate (%)
1881	405,848	10.4 %
1891	452,518	11.5%
1901	509,346	12.6%
1911	518,660	1.8%
1921	526,911	1.6%
1931	647,232	22.8%
1941	777,481	20.1%
1951	1,416,056	82.1%
1961	1,729,141	22.1%
1971	2,469,449	42.8%
1981	3,266,036	32.3%
1991	3,841,398	17.6%
2001	4,343,645	13.1%
2011	7,088,000	63.2%
2012	7,318,458	-
2013	7,546,960	-
2014	7,773,773	-
2015	8,002,269	-
2016	8,233,084	-
2017	8,551,768	-

**Data Source:** Figures provided by Census of India

The above table-1 shows increasing trend in urban population in Chennai metropolis. In 1881 urban population was 10.4% and in 2011, it increased to 63.2%.

**Table 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents**

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	220	73.33
Female	80	26.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field survey.

Survey data revealed that 73.33 percent of the respondents are males while 26.67 percent were females. This shows that male migrants constitute the majority among the migrants in Chennai Metropolis.

**Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents**

Age Group ( years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
15 – 25	108	39.33
26 – 35	78	26.00
36 - 45	54	18.00
46 - 50	32	10.67
Above 50	18	6.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field survey.

Findings from the study showed that 39.33 percent of the respondents fell within the age group of 15-25 years, 26 percent are within the age group of 26-35 years, 18 percent are within age group of 36-45, and 10.67 percent are within the age group of 46-50 while 6 percent are within the age bracket of 50 years and above. It can be deduced that 83.33 percent of the migrants are in their middle ages.

**Table 4: Marital status of Respondents**

Marital status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Married	102	34.00
Unmarried	198	66.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey.

Data indicate that a large majority of migrants are single as survey results revealed that 34 percent were married, 66 percent were unmarried while 13 percent and 7 percent were divorced and widowed respectively.

**Table 5: Educational Status of Respondents**

Educational Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	22	7.33
Primary	46	15.33
Secondary	62	20.67
Higher secondary	90	30.00
Degree	80	26.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey.

Findings from the study also indicate that 15.33 percent of the respondents have been to primary school, 20.67 percent have attended secondary school, 30 percent have attended higher secondary school, While 26.67 percent have attended tertiary institutions like universities and Polytechnics/colleges of education. About 7.33 percent of the respondents have no Education. This shows that most of the migrants are literates.

**Table 6: The Motivation which made the Respondents to Move to Chennai City**

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Interviews	120	40.00
Relatives	104	34.67
Friends/Employer/Others	76	25.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey.

From the Table - 6 shows that the motivation for migration ranges of migrants are mostly higher through interviews 40 percent and through relatives 34.67 percent. The other motivations to move to Chennai are through friends, by employer and other motivations are 25.33 percent. Hence, the main motivation is interview for job purpose and through relatives for job, business and marriage purposes. The other motivation purposes of friends, by employer and others are lesser percentage out of the 300 migrant respondents.

**Table 7: The Main Reason for Migration from Rural To Chennai City**

Description	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Job	216	72.00
Business	36	12.00
Marriage	20	6.67
Other reason	28	9.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey.

Table - 7 shows that the reason for migration are mostly for Job 72 percentage, for Business 12 percentage and for Marriage 6.67 percentage. All other reasons for migration of Education, Employment, Family problem, Parent transfer, Individual transfer are less than 10 percent this is out of 300 respondents of migrated people. Hence, the main purpose of migration is job.

### Opportunities of Migration

1. **Labour Demand and Supply** - fills gaps in demand for and supply of labour; efficiently allocates skilled and unskilled labour; cheap labour, disciplined and willingness to work.
2. **Remittances** - provides insurance against risks to households in the areas of origin; increases consumer expenditure and investment in health, education and assets formation.
3. **Return Migration** - brings knowledge, skills and innovation (these are known as social remittances).
4. **Skill Development** - migration is an informal process of skill development. It enhances knowledge and skills of migrants through exposure and interaction with the outside world. New skills are learnt from co-workers and friends at the place of destination.

### Migration and Inclusive Urban Policies

Internal migration in India is many times larger than international migration. Critical issue is how to reduce the impact of push factors and augment the impact of pull factors so that return on investment in human capital could be maximized? Many have argued that it would be inappropriate to prevent migration as it plays a very important role in development and in fulfilling human aspirations. Preventing migration could even be counterproductive (UNDP 2009; World Bank 2009; UNESCO 2013; Foresight 2011). The recent UNESCO (2013) publication highlighted that the policies and programmes facilitating integration of migrants at the destination remain weak at best or non-existent and suggested the inclusion and integration of migrants in development. However, it is necessary to emphasize that migration is very intrinsic to the path of human development, but its impact is also place specific (de Haan 2011). Policies that lower the costs of migration, eliminate discrimination against migrants, and protect their rights can reap even bigger gains for development (Sutherland 2013). A continued understanding of urban transition is also essential for developing an appropriate spatial strategy of urbanization which is just and sustainable. In the context of India, there is a need to integrate migration in urbanization and development policies.

### Results

Urbanization increases Economic Growth and globalization, and the standard of living, and Good Education of the people but this creates disparity in the market, owing to the large demand of the growing population and the primary sector struggling to cope with them.

### Conclusion and Suggestions

In conclusion, rural-urban migration is an inevitable consequence of both asymmetric policies and economic development favoring urban areas. As more and more people arrive in the urban centre, there will be insufficient jobs for them and the unemployment rate will increase. There will be more workers chasing too few jobs. This will lead to straining the resources of the government. Rural-urban migration brings pressure on urban housing and the environment. As migrants arrive from rural areas they live on the streets and makeshift sub-standard accommodation before establishing themselves.

This study derives that rural to urban migration is a function of push and pull factors that are in rural areas, increasing of population did not have job facilities, reasonable income, and basic amenities. The pull factors of better job facilities, good salary, and more income, medical and educational facilities are attracting the rural people to move to the cities like Chennai city. The push factors of no job facilities, low salary, less income, drought, less medical and educational facilities are the factors that push the rural people from rural to urban migration.

Our analysis thus suggests that a boost to agricultural productivity in the poorer Northern States will reduce India's demographic divergence and foster rapid urbanisation by changing the rural-urban fertility divide.

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