Delhi – The Migration Capital of India

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Abstract: **In India, rural-urban migration has been found to be substantial in the context of urban poverty, urban slums and informal sector employment. Much of these are attributed to the rural-spills. Very often the concept of smart city is strongly related to the widespread of technology, to be more specific, mobile applications etc. completely forgetting the essence of a city with its connected problems. The real challenge of the huge population migration from rural areas to cities will be great challenge for the so called 'Smart Cities', the cities that are moving towards modernization on account of advent of Information Technology. Given the diverse geographical and cultural characteristics of the country it is quite natural to expect that rural-urban migration rates will be varied across states and even within the states This paper is an attempt to understand the rural-to-urban migration flows with reference to Delhi, the capital city of India. The paper measures the rate of growth of population in Delhi and compare it with the other metro cities of India. It also tries to assess the states/region that majorly contribute to the migrating population in Delhi on one hand and on the other hand examines reasons for the population mobility**

Keywords: **Migration, Rural-to-Urban Migration, Population Mobility, Population growth Rate**

I. INTRODUCTION

Migration of people from one geographic location to another for some or the other reason is an inevitable phenomenon. Rural to Urban migration is a response to diverse economic opportunities across space. Historically it has played a significant role in the urbanization process of several countries and continues to be significant in scale, even though migration rates have slowed down in some countries (Lall, , Selod, & Shalizi, 2006.).The World Economic Forum has released a report taking a deep dive on migration and cities, exploring the types, causes and patterns of migration, the most affected corridors and cities, the impact on urban infrastructure and services, the solutions that can be employed and how cities can seek to future proof themselves to address this growing challenge. (World Economic Forum In collaboration with PwC, October 2017)

Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another to live and work. There are different concepts of human migration viz. Internal Migration, External Migration, Emigration, Immigration and Return Migration. Internal migration is moving within a state, country, or continent whereas External migration is moving to a different state, country, or continent. Emigration refers to leaving one country to move to another while Immigration refers to moving into a new country. Return migration denotes moving back to where one came from. Seasonal migration means moving with each season or in response to labour or climate conditions. The current study is based on Internal Migration in the context of capital city of India, New Delhi

Now, why do people move? People move for many reasons that are called push factors and pull factors. Push factors include leaving a place because of a problem, such as a food shortage, war, or flood. Pull factors include moving to a place because of something good, such as a nicer climate, more job opportunities, or a better food supply. In short, we can say that some of the major reasons for human migration are displacement by a natural disaster, lack of natural resources, the state of an economy, and more. A region's economy, climate, politics, and culture are greatly affected by migration to and from the area. (World Economic Forum In collaboration with PwC, October 2017)
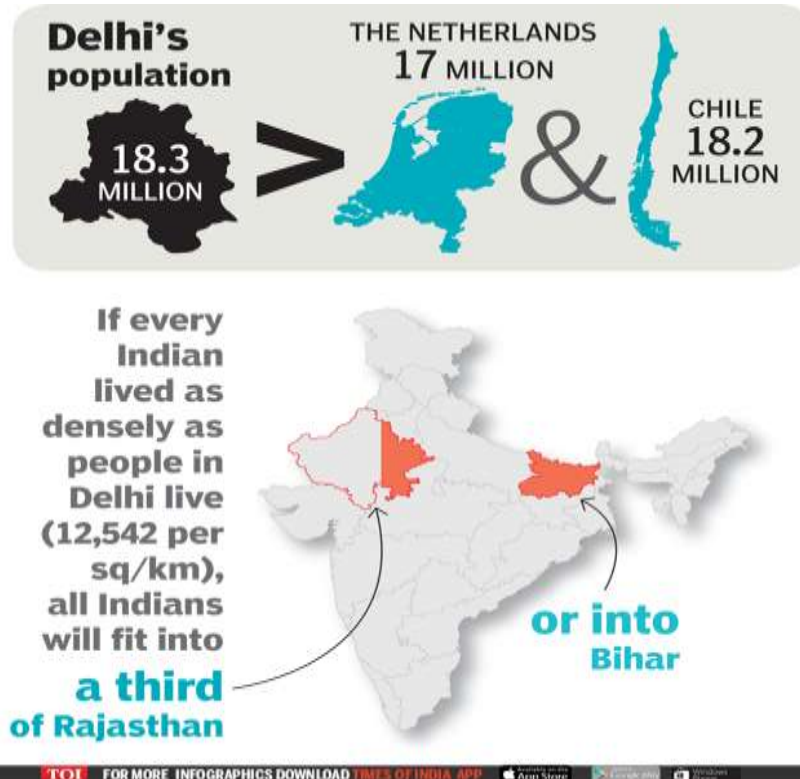
II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Population in both rural as well as urban India is growing rapidly but rural India is not able to provide sufficient employment and jobs. Returns from agriculture are low and not enough to sustain the needs of a family. Some landholdings become so small that these become uneconomical. This is the result of father dividing his property among his children instead of giving it to the eldest like in England. With the rise in population the landholdings become even smaller. Better connectivity and construction of roads have facilitated migration. People also migrate for education and women migrate after marriage.(Kaur, Published on 2014)

Majority of the cities in India, especially the Metropolitan cities are facing daunting issues of over-population due to migration from the peripheral rural and/or semi-urban sectors. Migration from rural areas to urban areas has increased in past few years in India.(The Economic Survey of India , 2019) estimates that the magnitude of inter-state migration in India was close to 9 million annually between 2011 and 2016, while (Census 2011)pegs the total number of internal migrants in the country (accounting for inter- and intra-state movement) at a staggering 139 million. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the biggest source states, followed closely by Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal; the major destination states are Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Delhi being the Capital of India generates enormous job opportunities for labourers, skilled and unskilled workers. So, people who are not paid well or who do not have enough job opportunities in their native land or the ones who are looking for growth and better job opportunities are attracted towards Delhi. Women generally relocate after marriage(Kaur, Published on 2014). Migration to Delhi is benefiting migrants in terms of better wages and better lifestyle but this mass migration is somewhere inversely impacting the Capital. Delhi now has a greater number of slums, unauthorized area, JJ clusters and jhuggis. It is estimated that more than half of the population of Delhi resides in unauthorized colonies and slums which lack even basic facility of water drainage. The crime rate and other social issues have increased manifold in Delhi. Though it cannot be said with certainty that migration is the whole sole reason for all this but definitely there is a connection among all these.(Kaur, Published on 2014)

The **economy of Delhi** is the 13th largest among states and union territories of India. The nominal GSDP of the NCT of Delhi for 2017-18 was estimated at ₹6.86 lakh crore (US$99 billion) recording an annual growth of 8.1%. Growth rate in 2014-15 was 9.2%.In 2017-18, the tertiary sector contributed 85% of Delhi's GSDP followed by the secondary and primary sectors at 12% and 3% respectively. The services sector recorded an annual growth of

7.3%.("Delhi Budget Analysis 2019-20", Retrieved 11 March 2019.)Delhi is the largest commercial centre in northern India. As of 2016, recent estimates of the economy of the urban area of Delhi have ranged from $167 to $369 billion ranking it either the most or the second-most productive metro area of India.(Wikipedia, 2019). Delhi is one of the fastest growing cities in the world, reaching over 18 million this year from just 400,000 in 1901. By 1951 Delhi along with Chennai and Hyderabad became the million-plus cities. In 2001 Delhi had approximately 45 percent migrants and its population increased by 215,000 through natural growth and 285,000 through migration. the population of Delhi grew by nearly 1,000 a day in 2016. (Times of India, March 23, 2018). By 2020, it is expected to be the third largest city after Tokyo and Mumbai. It struggles with its rapid growth and is facing substantial pressure to improve commercial and residential infrastructure. (World Population Review, 2019)The world's best-known demographer Kingsley Davis had in a treatise on India in 1951 regarded the country as a relatively immobile society estimating that three out of every ten Indians migrate internally. But in the last one decade the Capital is seeing increased influx of people from other states as well. The widening development gap between the rural and urban areas has largely spurred the migration. Moreover, lower profits in agriculture and high returns from industry is pulling people towards cities(Kaur, Published on 2014).

Source: (Times of India, March 23, 2018)

(Economic Survey 2016-17, 2017) predicted an increasing rate of growth of migrants in India over the years. The numbers show that internal migration has been rising over time, nearly doubling in the 2000s relative to the 1990s. One plausible hypothesis for this acceleration is that the rewards (in the form of prospective income and employment opportunities) have become greater than the costs and risks that migration entails. Higher growth and a multitude of economic opportunities could therefore have been the catalyst for such an acceleration of migration.

Delhi has experienced unbridled economic and demographic g rowth over time. As the cityhas evolved the issue of population and migration has continued to be the core issue from the point of planning and governance. The issue of migration into Delhi assumes enormous significance through its deep impact on city and state politics. This paper studies the spatial dynamics of population change and migration pattern in Mumbai and its adjoining areas.

Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the study were:

1. To measure the rate of growth of population in Delhi and its population density.
2. A comparative analysis of population growth rate and population density of Delhi with other metro cities of India.
3. To assess the population migrated from different states to Delhi on the basis of their origin and destination.
4. To study and analyse the various reasons for migration in the context of Work/employment, Business, Education, Marriage, move after birth, Move with households and others.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on census data and it is aimed to know how far Delhi's population is affected by migration from other Indian states. Migration is such a complex issue that its study demanded a thorough collection of information that truly represents the total migrant population of Delhi. India has a long history of conducting population censuses since the late 19th century and 2011 census was the fifteenth census conducted since then. The present study is, however based majorly on 2001 census data.
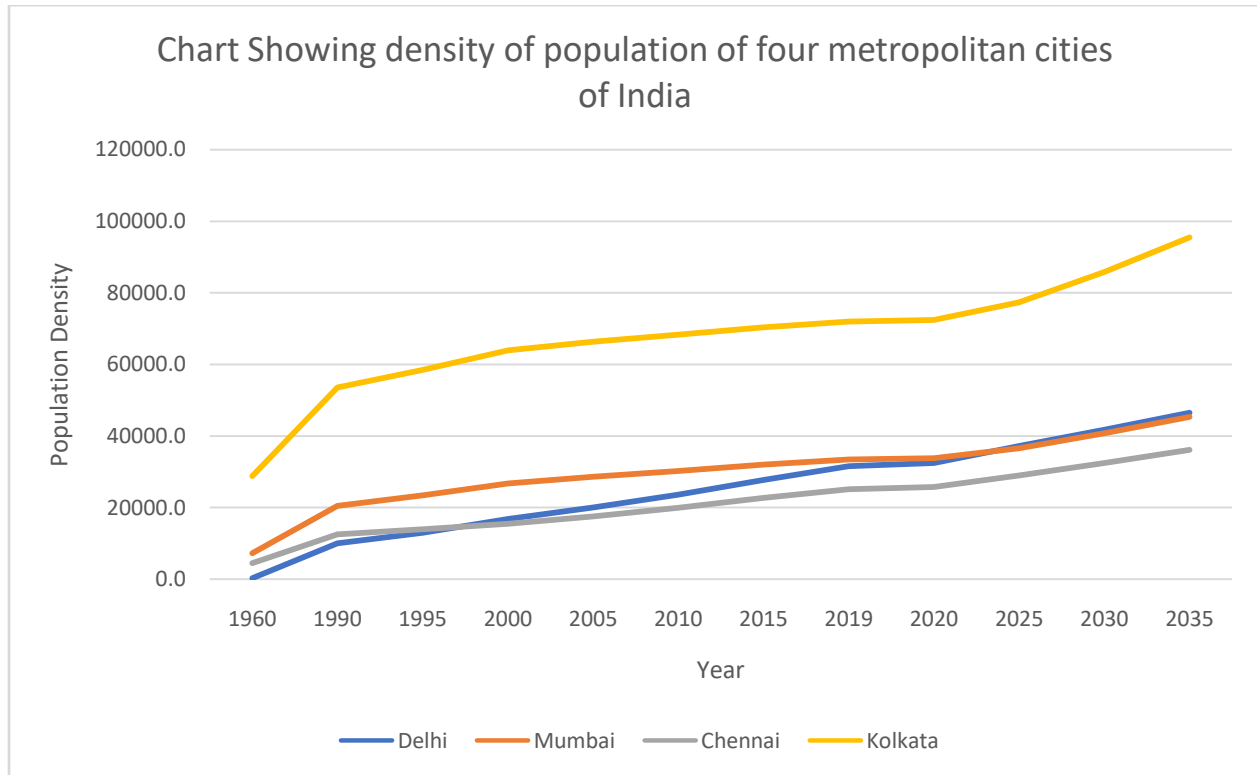
IV. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Population Density is the number of people living per sq.km. and is calculated as population divided by total land area. The geographical area of Delhi is the largest followed by Mumbai. Kolkata is the smallest among the four cities (World Population Review.com). The population density of the four metropolitan cities has been showed in Table I.

Table I: Population Density of the four Metropolitan Cities of India (Persons/Sq.Km.)

Year	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai	Kolkata
1960	303.6	7316.7	4494.8	28830.3
1990	10068.9	20475.8	12516.6	53532.6
1995	13023.9	23426.2	13930.5	58498.5
2000	16836.8	26759.2	15477.2	63888.6
2005	20055.1	28599.7	17551.6	66317.8
2010	23592.2	30257.6	19967.6	68306.3
2015	27753.1	32011.5	22716.1	70354.5
2019	31544.1	33452.2	25143.8	71976.5
2020	32501.0	33827.1	25753.8	72439.3
2025	37194.8	36607.5	28957.9	77293.8
2030	41779.7	40723.3	32428.1	85773.7
2035	46507.6	45314.6	36093.4	95435.0

Source: Survey Calculations

Fig:1.1: Chart Showing density of population of four metropolitan cities of India

Source: Developed by the authors

The Fig 1.1 shows an increasing trend of the population density of Delhi and is projected to be at par with Mumbai by the year 2035
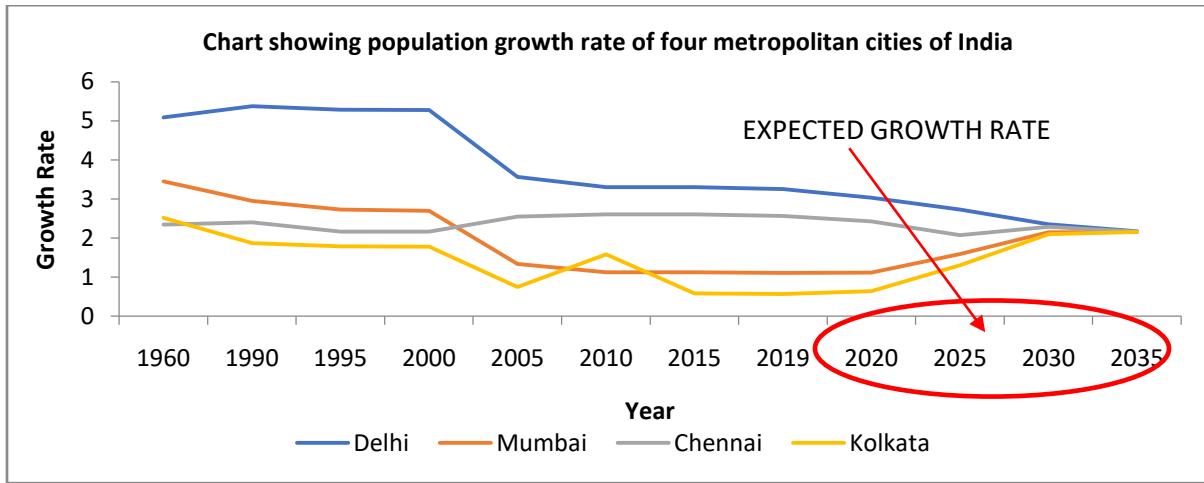
Population growth in the Table II includes net changes from internal and external migration.

Table II: Population Growth Rate of the four metropolitan cities of India

Population Growth Rate (%age)				
Year	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai	Kolkata
1960	5.08	3.45	2.34	2.52
1990	5.37	2.95	2.4	1.87
1995	5.28	2.73	2.16	1.79
2000	5.27	2.7	2.16	1.78
2005	3.56	1.34	2.55	0.75
2010	3.3	1.13	2.61	1.59
2015	3.3	1.13	2.61	0.59
2019	3.25	1.11	2.57	0.57
2020	3.03	1.12	2.43	0.64
2025	2.73	1.59	2.07	1.31
2030	2.35	2.15	2.29	2.1
2035	2.17	2.16	2.16	2.16

Source: Survey Calculations

Fig 1.2: Chart showing population growth rate of four metropolitan cities of India

Source: Developed by the authors

From the fig 1.2, it is evident that the population growth rate is the highest as compared to the other metropolitan cities. The growth rate was maximum prior to the year 2000 and showed a sharp decrease during the period 2000-2005. From the year 2006 onwards, the population growth rate is more or less constant. It is also projected that by the year 2035, the population growth rate of the four metro cities would become more or less same.
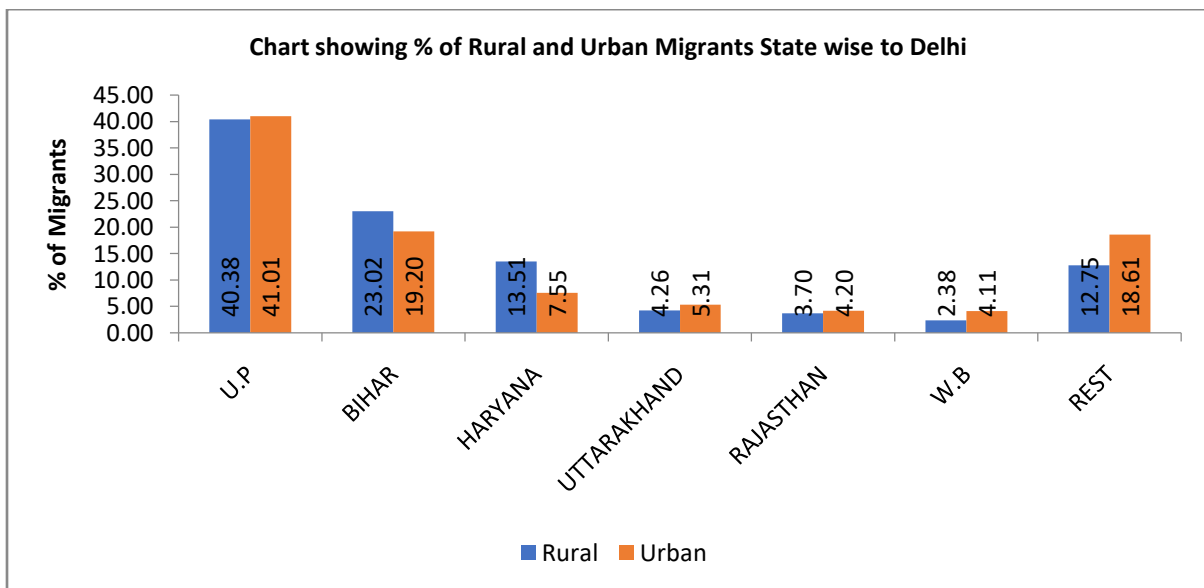
The total migrant population to Delhi from the rural and urban sectors of various states have been depicted in Table III below:

Table III: Migration to Delhi from various states

STATE	% Rural	% Urban
U.P	40.38	41.01
BIHAR	23.02	19.20
HARYANA	13.51	7.55
UTTARAKHAND	4.26	5.31
RAJASTHAN	3.70	4.20
W.B	2.38	4.11
REST	12.75	18.61

Source: Compiled by the authors from Census 2001

Fig 1.3: Chart showing migrant population to Delhi from rural and urban areas of various states.

Source: Developed by the author

Majority of the migrant population in Delhi is from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar and Rest of the states of India. Migration from West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand is the lowest. The migrant populations from Bihar and Haryana majorly comprised of people from rural areas. However, the migrant population from rural and urban area are more or less same in Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Haryana, Bihar and rest of the states of India shows the maximum gap in migration from rural area and urban area.

Delhi being the capital of India is a source of job opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers. So, the people who have not managed to get job opportunities in their native state or whose salary/wage are low or those who do not see any growth opportunity in their native land in terms of higher education are attracted towards Delhi hoping for better wage and better lifestyle. Females, generally relocate after marriage. The probable reasons for people from other states migrating to Delhi are summarised in Table IV

Table IV: Reasons for Migration

REASONS	U.P	BIHAR	HARYANA	UTTARAKHAND	RAJASTHAN	W.B
Work/employment	8.4	55.2	9.1	10.4	6.9	10.0
Business	43.9	13.8	22.2	4.6	9.4	6.2
Education	37.7	34.0	9.1	8.5	5.4	5.3
Marriage	51.3	11.7	20.8	6.7	5.7	3.8
Move after birth	54.7	20.5	7.7	5.1	8.0	3.9
Move with households	53.1	19.9	10.4	6.5	5.7	4.4
Other	49.4	24.1	9.6	7.3	5.1	4.4

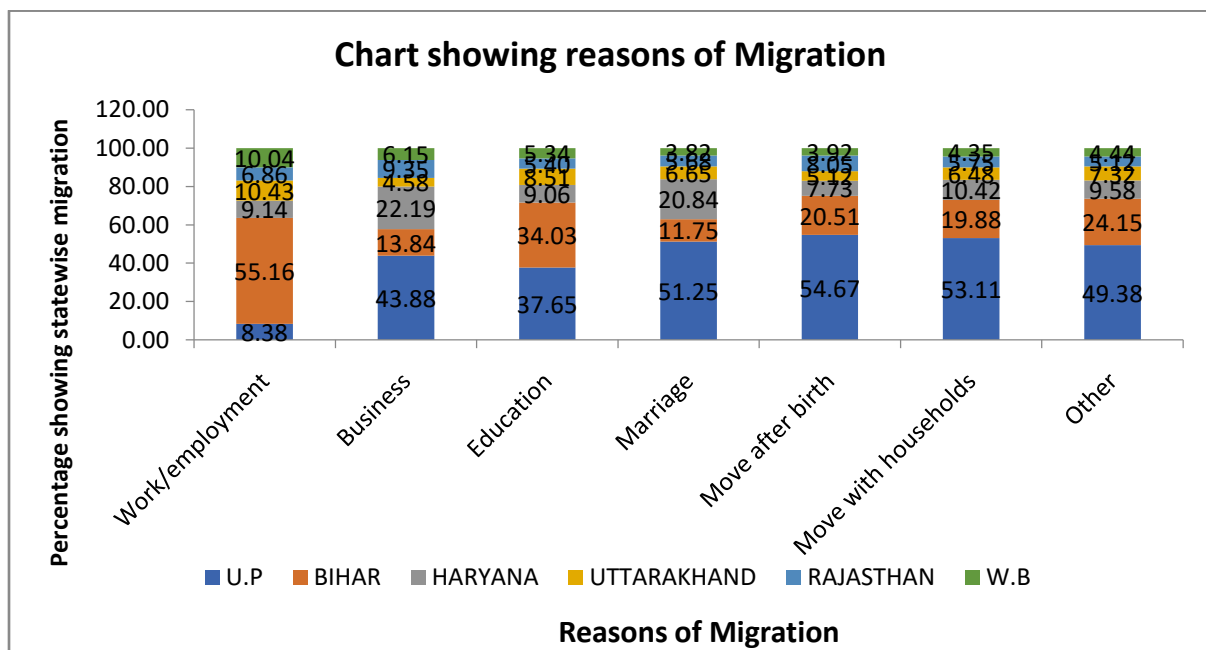Source: Survey Calculations

Table V: Ranking of States on the basis of reasons for migration

	REASONS FOR MIGRATION					
States	Work/Employment	Business	Education	Marriage	Move after Birth	Move with household
U.P	5	1	1	1	1	1
BIHAR	1	3	2	3	2	2
HARYANA	4	2	3	2	4	3
UTTARAKHAND	2	6	4	4	5	4
RAJASTHAN	6	4	5	5	3	6
W.B	3	5	6	6	6	5

Source: Survey Calculations

Fig 1.5: Chart showing reasons contributing to Migration from various states to Delhi

Source: Developed by the authors

V. CONCLUSION

The geographical area of Delhi is the largest followed by Mumbai. There is an increasing trend of the population density of Delhi and is projected to be at par with Mumbai by the year 2035. The population growth rate of Delhi is the highest as compared to the other metropolitan cities. The growth rate was maximum prior to the year 2000, however showed a sharp decrease till 2005 after which the population growth rate became more or less constant. The study also projected that by the year 2035, the population growth rate of the four metro cities would become more or less same.

It is found that majority of the migrant population in Delhi is from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar and Rest of the states of India. Migration from West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand is the lowest. The migrant populations from Bihar and Haryana majorly comprised of people from rural areas. However, the migrant population from rural and urban area are more or less same in Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Haryana, Bihar and rest of the states of India shows the maximum gap in migration form rural area and urban area. There is also a change in the composition of migrants in terms of interstate migration. Delhi being the capital of India is a source of job opportunities for skilled and unskilled workers. So, the people who have not managed to get job opportunities in their native state or whose salary/wage are low or those who do not see any growth opportunity in their native land in terms of higher education are attracted towards Delhi hoping for better wage and better lifestyle. Females, generally relocate after marriage.

Despite all the talk of "world class" city status, the real challenge for Delhi is to deal effectively with joblessness, homelessness and poverty. In particular, ho w areits slum dwellers to be provided with the necessities and improved quality of life. The irony of Delhi lies in the fact that there are several planning and administrative authorities each one having the responsibility of preparing a developmental plan, but needs to be effectively integrated. This needs to be done by the Delhi Government as urban development is a state subject in India. Many debates have taken place regarding the planning and development of Delhi. The idea of Delhi to become a smart city is very appealing to the policy makers, elite class and the political leaders but the required steps for any kind of urban planning process were either ignored or has not been effectively implemented.

The real challenge before the Delhi Government is not only to provide housing to the majority of its population with a very low level of income living in inhospitable slums but also the sustainability and security of income and livelihood of the slum dwellers. To begin with effective local governance backed up by bottom-up planning could perhaps provide some solutions and help in fulfilling the needs of the majority of the people living in woeful conditions.(Bhagat & Jones, May 2013)

Scope of further study

The research paper can be studied more extensively and comprehensively by including other factors leading to migration such as Poverty, lack of basic education facility, not wanting to follow the family tradition or family business etc. Secondly, the present study is majorly based on the Census 2001 data. Hence it provides a foundation for a research with the Census 2011 data as and when it would be released by the Government of India.

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