

The Gender Youth Migration Initiative

A UNESCO Online Initiative on Migration

With the support of



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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What is the Gender Youth Migration Initiative (GYM)?

The Gender Youth Migration Initiative (GYM) is a UNESCO Online Initiative on Migration, within the framework of UNESCO's Internal Migration in India Initiative (IMII), launched in 2012.

UNESCO GYM (www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net) aims at bridging the gap and linking students, researchers, practitioners and decision makers working or interested in migration, enabling them to learn from each other and keeping them updated on new research and developments.

The web-portal now contains over 400 resources on migration, internal and international, with a primary focus on India and South Asia. These resources include research, data, policy, best practices, audio-visual, list of institutes and networks.

121 daily average reach

640 subscribers

Since June 2014:

91,840 total visitors

1.8 million pages visited

413 resources shared

What are the objectives of UNESCO GYM?

- ▶ Raise awareness on the need to prioritize migration, especially internal migration, in policy-making
- ▶ Advance knowledge on undocumented research areas on migration in order to support the design of better informed inclusive policies
- ▶ Support the development of a coherent legal and policy framework on migration
- ▶ Promote existing policies and creative practices that increase inclusion of all sections of the migrant population in society, particularly children and women
- ▶ Contribute to changing the negative perception of migrants in society



The Millions Who Cannot Exercise their Rights

With an estimated 763 million internal migrants and 244 million international migrants, there are over one billion migrants in the world.¹ If we consider the number of persons who are directly and indirectly impacted by migration, including migrants' families and communities of origin, transit and destination, countless millions more need to be added. Evidence suggests that climate change will impact migration through its influence on a range of social, political, economic, technological and demographic drivers, which themselves affect migration.²

Migration is a significant process in Asia, which accounts for 43% of all international migrants and 37% of all internal migrants.³ Today there is an Indian diaspora on every continent, especially in the United Kingdom, Malaysia, United States, South Africa and Saudi Arabia. The number of Indian emigrants worldwide is estimated at 15.6 million.⁴

In India, the constraints faced by internal migrants are many, and similar to those faced by international migrants: lack of

formal residency rights; lack of identity proof; lack of political representation; inadequate housing; low paid, insecure or hazardous work; extreme vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and sexual exploitation; exclusion from state-provided services such as health and education; language barriers; and discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender.

A gender perspective on migration in India is imperative, since women have significantly different migration motivations, patterns, options and obstacles than men. Children are also a particularly vulnerable group and face disruption of regular schooling, adversely affecting their human capital formation and contributing to the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

The rising contribution of cities to India's GDP would not be possible without migration and migrant workers. Migrants are indispensable, and yet invisible actors in socially dynamic, culturally diverse and economically prosperous societies.

¹ UN DESA 2013; UN DESA 2015, ² UNESCO and Government Office for Science 2014, ³ UN DESA 2016; UN DESA 2013, ⁴ UN DESA 2015



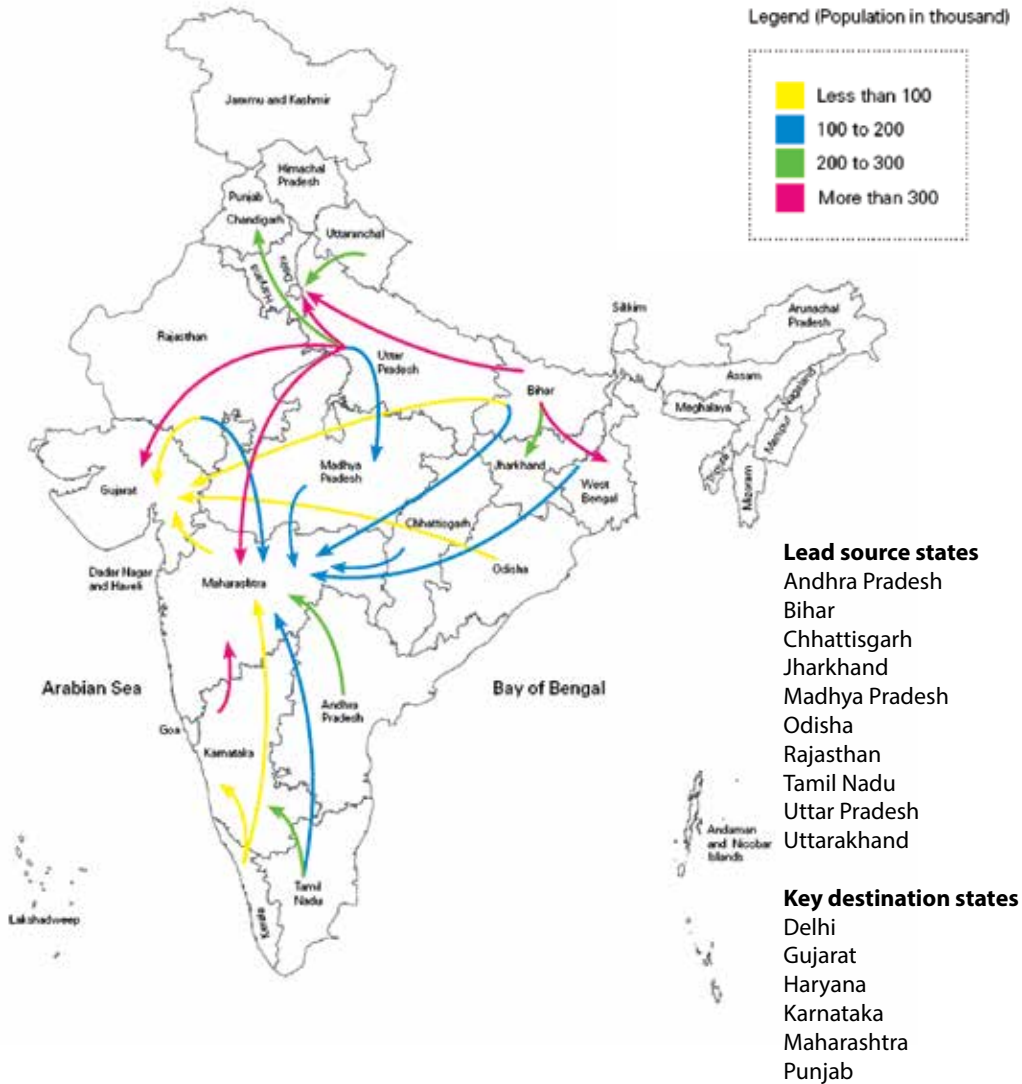
Facts and Figures

- ▶ South Asia accounts for over 1.8 billion persons or nearly 25% of the world's population, and for 38 million international migrants or nearly 16% of the total international migrant population (UN DESA 2015)
- ▶ Nearly 5 million people from South Asia migrated to India in 2015, including 3.2 million from Bangladesh, 1.1 million from Pakistan, 543 000 from Nepal and 155 000 from Sri Lanka (UN DESA 2015)
- ▶ In South Asia, internal migration accounts for a large population: 44% in the Maldives (Census 2014), over 30% in Bhutan (Census 2005), 21.5% in Pakistan (Memon 2005; Pakistan Integrated Household Survey 1998-99), over 20% in Sri Lanka (Census 2012), above 14% in Nepal (Sharma et al 2014; Census 2011), and nearly 10% in Bangladesh (Census 2011)*
- ▶ India's total population stands at 1.21 billion (Census 2011)
- ▶ India's internal migration accounts for a large population: over 450 million people comprising 37% of the population (Census 2011) – as compared to international migration: 15.6 million (UN DESA 2015)
- ▶ Nearly 69% of internal migrants in India are women (Census 2011). While marriage is given as the prominent reason by women for migration, women who move for marriage constitute a large share of the female workforce (NSSO 2007-2008)
- ▶ About 15 million children in India are estimated to be internal migrants (Daniel 2011; Smita 2011)
- ▶ About 30% of internal migrants in India belong to the youth category (15-29 years age group) (Rajan 2013; Census 2001)
- ▶ Estimates of circular-seasonal migration in India vary from 15 million (NSSO 2007-2008) to 100 million (Deshingkar and Akter 2009)
- ▶ The Indian domestic remittance market is estimated at USD 10 billion (Tumbe 2011)

* Data are not strictly comparable across countries due to differences in method and type of data collection



Major Net Migration Flow in India (duration 0-9 years), 2001



Bhagat and Mohanty, 2009.



Myths and Facts

MYTH

Migrants are a drain on society and a burden for the economies of the destination.

FACT

Migrants contribute cheap labour for manufacturing and services and in doing so contribute to national GDP, but this is not recognised. Far from being a drain and burden, migrants are in fact providing a subsidy.

FACT

Poor migrants typically do the 3-D jobs (Dirty, Dangerous and Degrading) which locals do not want to do; this is different to 'stealing jobs'.

MYTH

Migrants steal jobs from the local population.

MYTH

Internal migration can be stopped

FACT

Migration and urbanisation are an integral part of economic development and societal transformation, and historical experience has shown that it cannot be stopped.

FACT

While marriage is given as the prominent reason for female migration, women also migrate for employment. This is not reflected in the Census or NSSO as they allow only one response under "reason to migrate".

MYTH

Women's migration in India is mostly for marriage and associational reasons (as members of a migrating family).

UNESCO, 2013, Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India

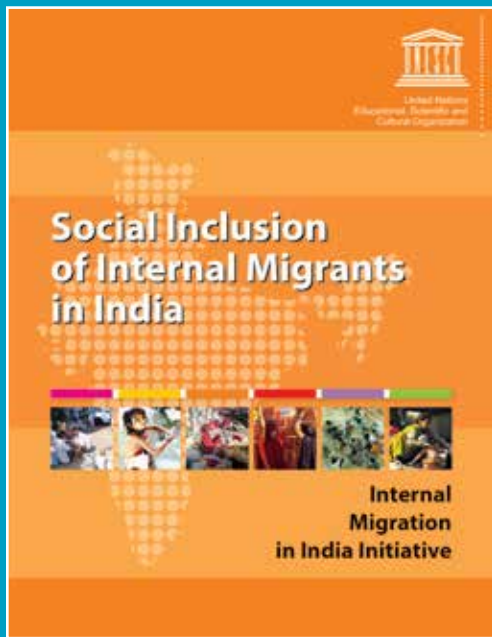
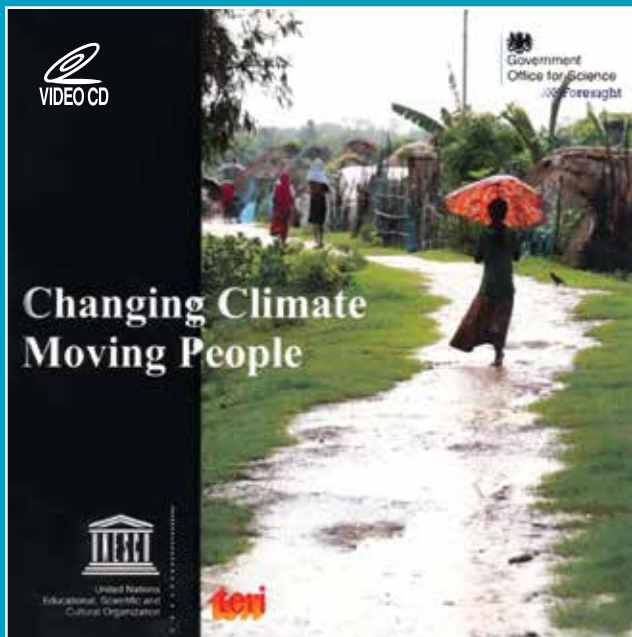
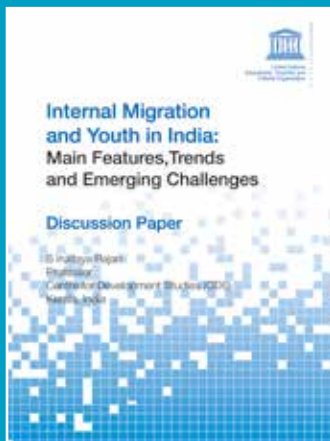
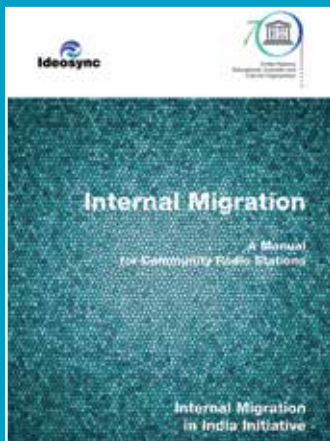


Ten Key Principles for Better Inclusion of Internal Migrants

- 1** Promote positive political discourse and avoid a prejudiced, negative portrayal of internal migrants
- 2** Build awareness for a better understanding of internal migrants' positive contribution to society
- 3** Adopt a human rights-based approach for internal migrant inclusion in society
- 4** Develop gender-sensitive and age-sensitive policies and practices for internal migrants
- 5** Create portability of social protection entitlements for internal migrants
- 6** Upscale successful innovative practices for better inclusion of internal migrants
- 7** Revise and strengthen data collection for the Census to fill knowledge gaps, especially related to circular and seasonal migration
- 8** Mainstream internal migration into national development, environmental and urban policies
- 9** Ensure policy coherence on internal migration and its cross-cutting impacts
- 10** Ensure democratic participation of internal migrants in society

UNESCO/UNICEF, 2012, National Workshop on Internal Migration and Human Development in India, 6-7 December 2011, Workshop Compendium, Vol.1: Workshop Report, New Delhi; Adapted from European Network Against Racism (ENAR), 2011, Toolkit Working on Integration at Local Level, Brussels, p.14.





For further information visit:

UNESCO GYM Portal: <http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/>

UNESCO New Delhi Office: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/newdelhi>

UN Women's Office for India: <http://india.unwomen.org>

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