

Lecture Series on Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development Lecture 2 – Internal Migration: Key Trends and Policy Issues

Background

Population and development have close linkages. Population dynamics affect virtually all development parameters that are on top of India's sustainable development agenda. Still, population and development linkages are often not factored in development policies and programmes. In order to address this, UNFPA plans to catalyze a "network of practitioners" comprising of Government departments, academics/institutes, research institutes who can bring this relationship between population dynamics and sustainable development to the fore in public debate. This network of practitioners will be catalyzed through different mechanisms such as consultations, meetings, publications etc.

One key initiative in this direction is the UNFPA's Lecture Series on important themes such as urbanization, migration, demographic change and demographic dividend. The objective of this initiative is to bring all key relevant stakeholders on one platform for knowledge exchange to jointly identify policy recommendations for key themes in Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development. One theme is taken up for each session of the lecture series. UNFPA organized the First Lecture on 25 August 2017 in collaboration with UN-HABITAT. In collaboration with UNESCO, UNFPA is organizing the second lecture on the highly topical theme of on internal migration.

Abstract

Migration is an important feature of population dynamics. The location and movement of people are important considerations for policy planning. India is a country of migrants. As per the Census of India 2011, internal migration accounts for a large population of 454 million, or 37.5 percent of the total population. The divergent demographic transition across states in India will result in a youthful north and a greying south. This will give further impetus to migration between these regions and states. In addition to improving the life chances of migrants themselves, migrants contribute to the overall economic growth of the country. For example, as per some calculations, the seasonal migrants – approximated at 100 million – are estimated to contribute 10 percent to the national GDP.

Migrants constitute a heterogeneous group segmented along the lines of gender, caste, class, ethnicity, language etc. Migration leads to different life-experiences for migrants, depending on their background, migration process, living - working conditions at destination. But certain categories of migrants such as women, migrant children and forced migrants are particularly more vulnerable than other migrants.

The constraints and challenges faced by migrants in India are many: 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; and language barriers. Migrants are also vulnerable to discrimination, which is often exacerbated by negative media portrayals. The erstwhile Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), constituted an inter-ministerial Working Group on Migration to assess the impact of migration on housing, infrastructure and livelihoods. The final report – recommending necessary legal and policy framework to protect the interests of the migrants in the country – was released in March 2017. This lecture proposes to discuss key trends and major research and policy issues related to internal migration in India, and open up a discussion with experts about recommended policies and the way forward.

Programme Schedule

Internal Migration: Key Trends and Policy Issues

2:30 pm – 5:30 pm; December 1, 2017

Ford Foundation Meeting Room, 55 Lodi Estate, New Delhi

	SPEAKER / MODERATOR	TITLE	TIME & DURATION
Welcome Note	Devender Singh National Programme Officer, UNFPA		2:30–2:35
Introductory Lecture	Diego Palacios Country Representative, UNFPA	Migration: A Population Dynamics Perspective	2:35–2:50
Presentation	Marina Faetanini Section Chief, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO	GYM: A UNESCO Online Initiative on Migration	2:50–3:00
Keynote Address	Ravi Srivastava Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University	Migration: Trends and Perspectives	3:00–3:30
Keynote Address	Partha Mukhopadhyay Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), and Former Chair, Working Group on Migration, Government of India	Migration: Key Issues and Policy Perspectives	3:30–4:00
Discussion	Views and inputs by experts from the floor Moderated by Diego Palacios		4:00–5:00
Tea			5:00–5:30