

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

The Gender Youth Migration Initiative

What is the Gender Youth Migration Initiative (GYM)?

The Gender Youth Migration Initiative (GYM) is a UNESCO Online Initiative on Migration, launched in 2013 within the framework of UNESCO's Internal Migration in India Initiative (IMI).

UNESCO GYM (www.unescogym.org) aims at bridging the gap and linking students, researchers, practitioners and decision-makers working on or interested in migration, enabling them to learn from each other and keeping them updated on new research, policies, resources, training, workshops, conferences across the world.

180 daily average reach

775 subscribers

Since June 2014:

137,485 total visitors

2.1 million pages visited

506 resources shared

GYM now contains over 500 resources on migration, internal and international, with a primary focus on India and South Asia. These resources include research, data, policy, monthly newsletters, best practices, audio-visual, and lists of institutes and networks.

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. The drivers of migration are wide-ranging, and include social, political, economic, technological, demographic and environmental factors.²

Migration is a significant process in Asia – with the region accounting for 43% of all international migrants and 37% of all internal migrants – as well as in South Asia.³ Today there is a South Asian diaspora on every continent, with an estimated 38 million South Asian emigrants residing worldwide.⁴

The constraints and challenges faced by internal migrants are many, and similar to those faced by international migrants: lack of formal residency rights and identity proof; lack of political representation; inadequate housing; low paid, insecure or hazardous work; 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 exacerbated by negative media portrayals.

Migrants constitute a heterogeneous group segmented along the lines of gender, caste, class, ethnicity, language and religion. A gender perspective on migration is essential, since women have significantly different migration motivations, patterns, options and obstacles than men. Children are a 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 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would not be possible without migration and migrant workers. In 2007, 229 South Asian cities, which make up 18% of the region's population, contributed to 31% of its GDP.⁵

Migrants' inclusion is an integral part of sustainable development based on cultural diversity, social cohesion and human rights.

¹ UN DESA 2013, UN DESA 2015; ² UNESCO and Government Office for Science 2014; ³ Calculated using UN DESA 2016, UN DESA 2013; ⁴ UN DESA 2015; ⁵ McKinsey Global Institute 2011



Facts and Figures for South Asia

International Migration

- ▶ 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)
- ▶ Within South Asia, cross-border migration accounts for 26.2% of the total international migration of the region (Srivastava and Pandey 2017)
- ▶ The major international migration corridors in South Asia are Bangladesh–India, India–Pakistan and Afghanistan–Pakistan, which together account for over 70% of the cross-border migration within the region (Srivastava and Pandey 2017)
- ▶ In 2015, South Asia received USD 117.6 billion in international remittances (World Bank 2017)

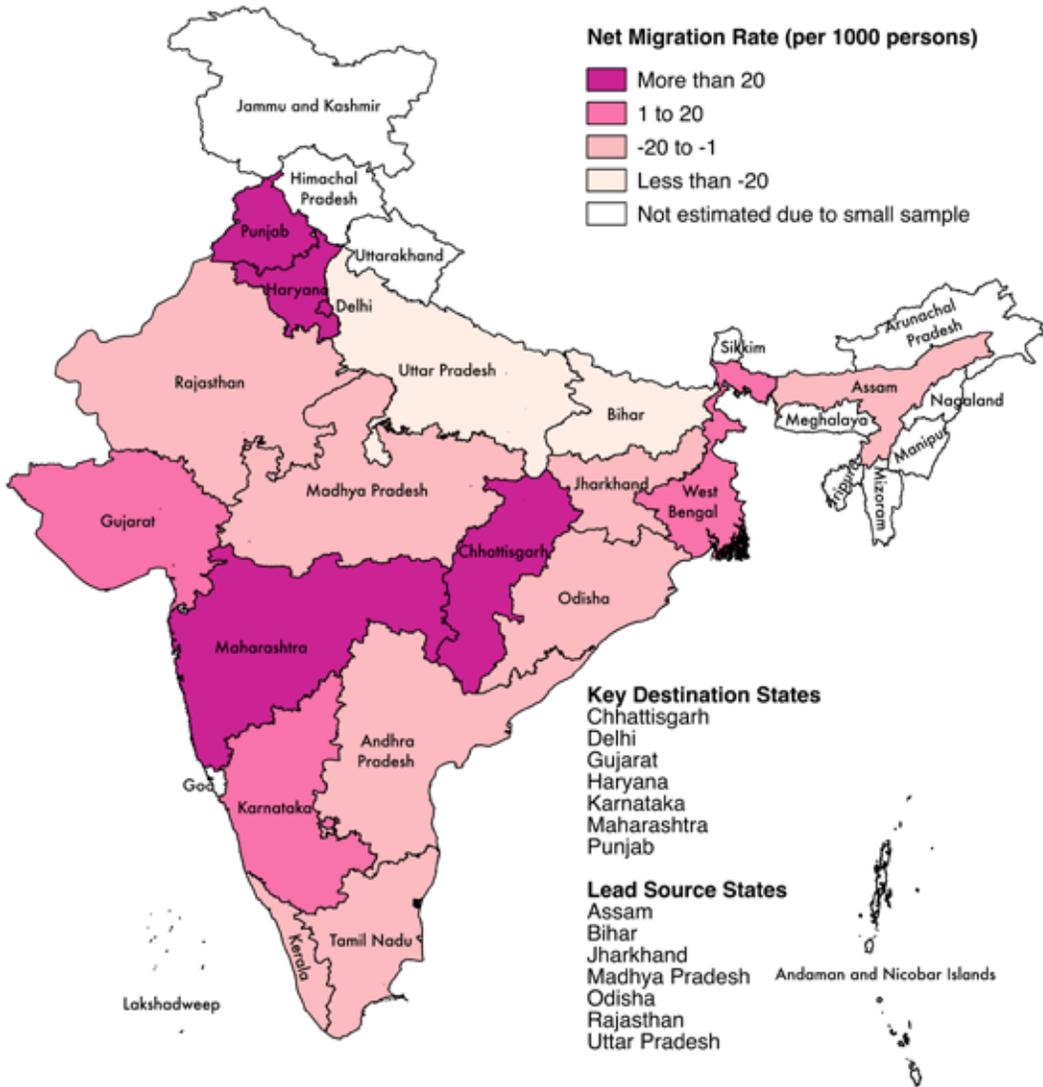
Internal Migration

- ▶ Internal migration also accounts for a large population in South Asia: 10% in Bangladesh (Census 2011); 32.5% in Bhutan (Census 2005); 37.5% in India (Census 2011); 44% in Maldives (Census 2014); 14% in Nepal (Census 2011); 6.5% in Pakistan (Census 1998) and 20% in Sri Lanka (Census 2011)*
- ▶ In sheer numbers, India is home to 454 million internal migrants (Census 2011)
- ▶ The most vulnerable migrants – circular-seasonal migrants – are estimated to reach 100 million in India (Deshingkar and Akter 2009)
- ▶ Nearly 69% of internal migrants in India are women (Census 2011), migrating for labour and for marriage
- ▶ 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)
- ▶ 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



Interstate Net Migration in India (per 1000 population) 2007–2008



Bhagat, R. B. 2016. Changing Pattern of Migration in India. Guilmoto, C. and Jones, Gavin W. (eds), *Contemporary Demographic Transformation in China, India and Indonesia*, pp. 239-254. Dordrecht, Springer.



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.

FACT

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

MYTH

Internal migration can 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

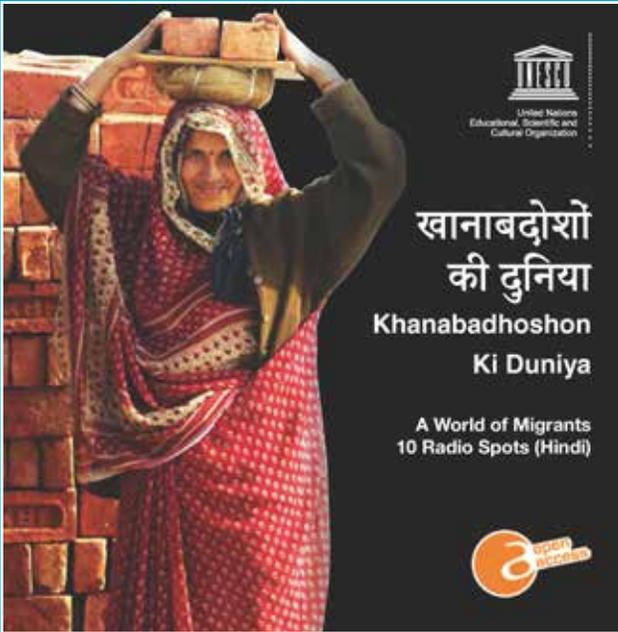
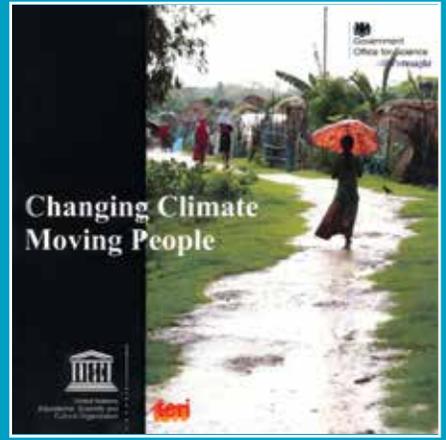
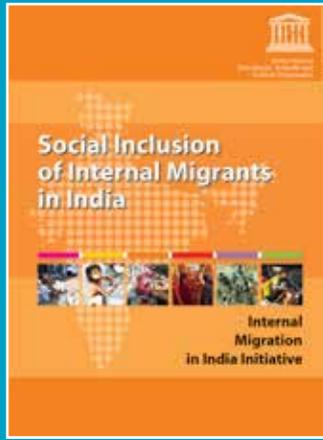


Ten Key Principles for Better Inclusion of Internal Migrants

- 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:
www.unescogym.org
www.unesco.org/new/en/newdelhi