INTRODUCTION

Migration is one of the overriding processes of population which alter the size, and composition of population of a region or country. Excluding natural increase it is the only phenomenon which can bring a change in the population of a country. An area can gain population only through fertility of its people or by migration and it can lose population through mortality among its inhabitants or by migration, thus being embraced by central position the effects of migration on population growth are bi-directional while that of fertility and mortality are unidirectional. There are various types of migration based on administrative boundaries crossed, period of stay and motivation behind migration. Generally migration is classified as internal (within the national boundaries) and international (across the national boundary). Further internal migration on the basis of administrative boundaries may be intra-district, inter-district, inter-state or inter-regional. On the basis of stay, there are short-term and long-term migrations. On the basis of motivation, migration has usually been considered as economic migration, social migration, retirement migration etc. On the basis of environment of origin and destination, migration is classified as rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban and urban-rural.

Migration is usually fueled by a combination of pull and push factors operating at the place of provenance and destination. Thus migration occurs in response to changing economic, social or political conditions. Declining opportunities, political instability, fragmentation of land holdings, lack of infrastructural facilities, weakening of place ties may stimulate out-migration. While expanding opportunities, industrialization, potential for
advancement, urbanization act as pull factors to attract people from other areas.

Migration is a cause as well as effect of socio-economic transformation and has sincere consequences both upon the area of provenance and destination as well as the people who involve in the process of migration. It can either depopulate or overpopulate a region or country depending upon socio-economic, political, environmental conditions of the area of their departure and arrival and the people involved in migration process. Migration leads to socio-economic development. It is frequently regarded as a major symptom of basic social change. Migration is an essential element of normal population adjustment and equilibrium and helps to reduce regional socio-economic disparities. It can also change ratio of rural/urban population as well as age and sex structure of the people of a region. Sometimes it also adversely affects both the area of their origin and destination. Migrants at the place of their arrival cause some environmental, social and political chaos which lead to overall deterioration of quality of life. Heavy migration creates urban unemployment, scanty housing, inadequate water and electricity supply, poor sanitation, shortage of transport and other services. It also affects the place of departure by drawing away their more dynamic people. Thus, a study of migration problem is of greater importance to planners for preparing schemes for national economic development, urban housing, medical and educational development and population policy implementation.

Thus keeping in view the advantages and disadvantages of migration processes to the human society, it is vital for geographers and scholars of
other disciplines to formulate plans which could be implemented by concerned government authorities so that equilibrium may be obtained and disparities between various regions may be minimized. In this study attempts have been made to have an account of internal migration in Bijnor district. This very dissertation which is precursory work to the proposed doctoral research on 'Structural Analysis of Internal Migration and Socio-Economic Transformation in Bijnor District, Uttar Pradesh', has been attempted under five chapters, excluding the introduction.

The first chapter of this dissertation outlines the conceptual framework of internal migration along with its various implications on migrants and their areas of departure and arrival. Chapter second attempts to identify various determinants of internal migration viz., physical, economic, social and demographic. A critical review of the available literature on internal migration in India and abroad is examined in chapter third. Chapter fourth discusses different sources of data and the study area. The last chapter i.e., fifth analyses the patterns of internal migration in Bijnor district and also puts proposed plan for doctoral thesis.