CHAPTER IV

Concepts and Definitions. Uses in Migration Studies
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Demographically it is inevitable to study the phenomenon of migration particularly in Less Developed Countries for unbalanced growth among their regions. This observable, dynamic and major social phenomenon has impact at all levels of developmental activity. Migration above a threshold level with respect to time creates new problems and may aggravate existing problems both in the areas of origin and areas of destination. The disturbance of age old socio-economic system (simulating ecological balance) requires government interventions, policy modifications and considerable outlay in excess, to restore equitable and balanced growth. There are various views regarding migration. One of it states that migration is inherently unfortunate, particularly in less developed countries. Another states that migration is a universal concomitant of socio-economic development, producing many desirable (and in long run indispensable) social and economical consequences. So various views are there regarding migration. Sometimes contrasting in nature to decide its


desirability and undesirability. But these are relative thinkings based according to the study in which the definer is interested.

Under Developed countries are experiencing rapid population growth with sharp rise in urban population and urbanization. Fertility (Actual bearing of children by a couple of average) being increasingly brought under control, migration seems likely to account more and more for differential growth rates between rural and urban places and for changes in population composition too\textsuperscript{3}.

History of migration is as long as the history of humanity. Human race had to migrate and more from one place to another place for better life and more welfare\textsuperscript{4}. This dynamic phenomenon of movement of population from one place of residence to another occurs through time at different rates and in response to numerous forces. People move from one place of residence to another occurs through time at different rates and in response to numerous forces. People move from one place to another for an extended duration even in absence of catastrophic events. Migration can be undertaken under demographic pressure because of political coercion or in response to

\textsuperscript{3} United Nations Report on Migration 1985, pp. 181-206
\textsuperscript{4} Ibid.
socio-economic changes. Excluding temporary migrations and urban-urban migrations, the estimates show that about 330 million persons shifted residence from rural to urban places and majority being from under developed countries. Therefore, the interest in migration research studies has increased.

Now, a days, irregular migration is creating too many problems in most of developing countries. Every year thousands of rural people stop productive activities and leave villages towards the cities. Most of them live in areas surrounding the cities in slum areas in very bad conditions, hoping to get better life. They create too many economic and social problems for these countries. Migration has effect on age and sex structure of population and other variables of population like mortality, morbidity and fertility.

Migration does not always operate in a balanced manner i.e. to say without disturbing the local conditions. If the migrants pour into a region in excessive number and with rapid rate, they are bound to create various economic and social problems, such as


unemployment, housing shortage and creation of slums
accompanied by variety of sanitary problems, health and
nutrition problems, problems for public welfare
department, lowering of per capita income, increase in
crime rate and variety of other associated problems.
Thus, the impact of migration in, both, places of origin
and destination is always a key interest to planners and
administrators.

Migration is one of the main factors in increase or
decrease of the population in a country of course in a
particular specified area. The other variables of
population like mortality, fertility etc. are also
affected. So, it is one of the main aspects of
population science worth studying in Sociology. Social
demography which makes study of population from
sociological point of view is one of the important
branches of sociology.

Migration:

Migration is a significant movement i.e. it has
demographic consequences such that the move has involved
a shift across a definite administrative boundary. Every
move to another town or across a country or district line
will include as migration. To stress it in little detail
migration must be sustained movement is not casual, to
say a holiday is not a migration, nor is a temporary visit on a business. Lastly, it is taken into consideration that the source of data had similar basis of migration because of basis of collection of data of the reference study and our study varies it is worthless to relieve or to quote their findings.

**The significance of migration study**

If we look at the density of population in industrial cities, it shows astonishing figures. There is no doubt that this population concentration is unbalanced distribution of individuals and practically disturbed the social life of the people. Intensity of diseases is spreading rapidly. Certain communicable diseases are taking upper hand, to exemplify malaria, tuberculosis and filarian’s etc. are becoming more endemic with high morbidity rates. Newer problems of sexually transmitted Diseases (STD) and that no AIDS (Acquire Immuno Deficiency Syndrome) is likely to spread very rapidly. Migrants exposed to alien environment, away from their families and likely to go to prostitutes and may become drug addicts. Increasing transport, within the city to transfer people in and around the city or to the centre where it is their main place of work becomes a great problem. Basically, the distance between
the place of work and their residential place is too long because in the well developed central area it would be hard as well as non-affordable for poor migrants. So naturally majority of them use public transport system to reach their places of work, creating problem of transportation. Obviously it must be dealt in a well planned and systematic manner.

The problem of food and quality of life of people, their needs are becoming day by day difficult to cope with and at the same time complicated. The National aim of rising POLI (Physical Quality of Life Index) which is direct measure of quality of life of the people is hampering. Though the determinants of POLI i.e. Life expectancy at birth, literacy level and infant mortality rate may show relative improvement after migration, the average Physical Quality of Life Index of that city remains at lower level, which could have attained a somewhat higher value. The rural-urban migration in which rural people come to the cities and leave their family, place and social form of rural life for good wages or better life and or to seek new opportunities creates new problems.
In general, migration is believed to be associated with growth and regional imbalance of population distribution. For instance, large streams of migrants from rural to urban areas are likely to result in the growth of urban places. Similarly, an expansion of economic activities in urban places tends to create a host of job opportunities and adds prosperity to the region or city. This leads to increase in wages in urban areas. The migrants, on the other hand, are attracted to these prosperous and growing urban places, mainly due to high wages and job opportunities.

Migration also brings many problems such as, psychological diseases, deviated morals like depressive psychesis, monia and even schizophrenia. Moreover due to migration many slum are established leading crimes, drug addicts, prostitution etc.

Thus considering these problems and finding a key to the problems in the form of solutions, a systematic and scientific study of migration becomes highly un-avoidable. Before undertaking systematic study of rural - urban migration, it is necessary to study many important points such as concept of migration, factors in migration, types of migration, selectivity in migration, differential increase in rural-urban population, various
theories of migration policies relating to the control of internal migration, review of some empirical studies on migration, impact of migration, social problems at the place of origin as well as at the places of destination etc.

In the present chapter, I am stressing on important points such as concept of migration various definitions and critical analysis of the definitions, factors in migration, types of migration, selectivity in migration as well as increase in world population.

Concepts of Migration

This peculiar word 'Migration' has been defined by many Demographers in variety of ways indicating the basic aim of their own research and study and sometimes facilitating their objective indirectly.

We want in this section to try and to set out some basic features and definitions of the migration process; these will be discussed and refined further in the course of the chapter, but they should provide some initial indicators to help us outline the rather complex, social process that we are discussing. Part of its complexity arises from the fact that migration is a matter as
mentioned earlier, studied by a number of different disciplines — demography, economics, sociology, geography, etc. — each of which tends to place its own gloss on the topic. Still to add in the complication, the word migration has come to mean differently in different countries of this world. Though migration statistics can not be compared across different countries, researchers in this field have computed a "Standard" set of concepts which help in defining the term appropriately and also help the "collection of data and lasting of the hypothesis".

The movement, temporarily or permanently, from one physical location to another or a population Temporary migration implies that the place of permanent residence is maintained while the migrant is away for a period of work in another country or another part of the country. Such migration may occur or a regular or seasonal basis as with transhumance or harvest migration. Permanent migration implies a clear change of residence based on a decision to move. Clearly there may be some interminacy between these two categories and in many instances temporary migrants may end up as permanent.

Periodization:

Migration is usually measured over a specific period of time in order to assess its effect. Often this may be governed by other population interests such as the dates of the decennial census. The extent of change in a population between two periods is a product of a combination of three factors, birth rate, death rate and migration. The migration so measured is always the net migration, since it constitutes the net effect of migration only and does not record the number of moves that have taken place but have been cancelled out by counter-moves, nor temporary or seasonal moves that have taken place within the period in question or under consideration of study.

Immigration:

This term is used to describe a process of entry into a country or within it to a different administrative district. The extent to which this process is formalized varies. In some countries, every change of residence must be reported to the police and other authorities and forms part of the continuous registration process. In some countries like Thailand there are no formal registration mechanisms for internal migrants, apart from electoral registers, but changes may be indicated by factors
associated with residential change. International immigration tends to be formalised with border controls at entry and distinctions between categories of entrant made in terms of willingness of the country in question to give permanent, temporary or visitor status to different types of migrants. Migrants may be excluded because of lack of skills, age, nationality, race, health, lack of funds, or for criminal or ideological reasons. The result of this is production of full statistical data.

**Emigration:**

This covers movement away from a residential location either within the same country or to another country. For the reasons given under immigration above, there are often no official records of this process as such within the country. The same in general is true of those who emigrate to another country and most countries do not keep established records of the number of their nationals who are living in another country. Some information may however be available for specific administrative purposes such as taxation. Certain categories of emigrant remain in contact with their country of origin through their embassy in the country of residence.

**Accommodation and assimilation:**

These two terms are linked and try to describe the process whereby immigrants in urban area become
established in a new location. There is varying degree of acceptance and gradually migrants learn the requirements of living in the new environment, learning a new language or a little modified urban language, specific pronunciations and specific new words. Adaptation to alien customs and social practices. It is a highly complex process but it will vary according to the migration. Whether it is of long or short duration, as will the provision of official aid, help of their urban relatives and government schemes to help the immigrants to make necessary adjustment. Clearly the whole question is coloured by the attitude of the immigrant himself and the society to which he has come at both an important and a formal level.

Voluntary Migration:

Voluntary migration involve move in which the decision to migrate is entered into as a free alternative available to the individual. Clearly that decision may be subject to many influences and factors in the individuals 'market situation' but it is not formally constrained.

Forced Migration:

Forced migration means, moves of necessity for protection of life and liberty of individuals. They may be political refugees, in all cases they are people who are imperilled by remaining where they are, in their own judgement or that of others. It can occur on regional basis due to natural calamities. At international level, the extent to which their exit is regarded as legitimate by potential receiving country (region) varies and conditions of their admission as immigrants and it may also vary between those who are specifically considered to be political or religious exiles and those who are avoiding penalties for criminal offences or escaping taxation penalties in their area of origin.

Internal Migration:

Internal migration involves moves within a country or prescribed area, normally it does not involve formal controls at border points but it does imply movement across administration boundaries.
International Migration:

International migration means individuals or families moving across national boundaries to establish themselves in a different country. Migration always implies change of residence. Such migration normally involves changing place of employment but this does not follow in case of some of those living near boundaries who may be able to commute daily to their place of work in the original country of residence.

Return Migration:

The term Returns Migration indicates a return and resettlement of a migrant population in their original country or region of residence. Such returns may occur quite soon after the original move or occur at specific stages in the life cycle such as retirement stage.¹⁰

According to concise Oxford Dictionary of Migration, migration means "Move from one place (country or town) to another."¹¹ As per above notion migration is the movement from one place to another place within a country or outside it. The definition is simple but it does not imply the duration of movement, relation with

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administrative boundaries etc. It gives very broad idea of migration without any specification. So, such a definition of migration will be deficient for our study because of lack of specifications so that we can clearly point out who are the subjects for our study or from which population sample should be drawn to test the hypothesis.

**Definition of Migration/Migrant**

A migrant is defined as a person who has changed his usual place of residence in a specific area to another place in which a minimum distance is transgressed during a particular time period.\(^{12}\)

As per the concept used by the National Statistics Office, migration is the process of changing place of residence between villages of non-municipal areas within 5 years before the survey period. The move within the same village of same municipal is not identified as migration\(^{13}\). This definition of 1985 seems quite advanced. It gives due value to the place of origin, duration of residence and also to the administrative block. Hence, migration is residential movement, not short moves which do not involve a major change or re-

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adjustment to a new community such as move in the same town. Above definition given by Donald Boque adds one more significant point to it i.e. social re-adjustment. Because it is a dynamic process. The adjustment in a new community should occur which is naturally absent when a person moves in the same town.

Edgar Kant defines migration in a simple way taking two characteristics namely the duration of stay and place of residence as follows:

"Migration may be defined as a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence."

V.C. Sinha and Zacharia write in their book "Elements of Demography" that, "the students of social sciences can well go ahead with the situation of their relentless thirst and pursuit of the concepts of migration. Though the term - Migration - proves to be some what vague and not apt, the social science helps in at least distinguishing - permanent migration, temporary migration, seasonal migration, short distance moves etc." It clearly mentions that though it is hard to define the term migration precisely, the students of demography can get idea of type of migration, duration


of migration. This is what practically needed to resolve the problem created by migration.

Robert Wiseman and Roseman try to define migration as a special process, a phenomenon of general interest to the sociology and Ethology. A simple migration act involves a group (or a person), who leave a geographical location and move to another location. In this definition the basic similarities between human and animal migration behaviour have been pointed out. Roseman in a recent paper identified these basic similarities. This defines a simple migration stream, one which posses almost all of the five fundamental special concepts as identified by Nystuen and Papageorgiou. These five concepts are:
(a) Points;
(b) Distance;
(c) Direction;
(d) Connection; and
(e) Time


Of these points, distance and direction are assumed to be necessary and sufficient for a description of the most restricted type of spatial systems. A person is generally considered as a migrant if he moves from one point to another point which are separated by a distance, but are connected by some kind of connection and transportation network. This makes the necessity of connection, two points, the distance between them and the duration of migration to be essential for definition of migration.

Originally the word 'Migration' means "the movement of individuals or groups from one place to another or from one country to another country".

The two sub-processes of migration namely Emigration and Inmigration are taken into consideration by D.P. Sexena to define migration. He refers Emigration to moving out of the place of origin and Immigration to moving into the place of destination. He says that 'Emigration is a sub-process with-in the wider process of migration which generally refers to movement or shift of people from their native place to a new place. The

complimentary process of a migration is immigration which means reaching the place of destination. If seen in deeper way he tried to define the sub-process in a superficial way. Factors such as time, place, point etc. are not paid due concentration. We can say that for initial study this may act as a guideline definition.

Bhaskar D. Mishra, in his book "An Introduction to the Study of Population", states that, "A migrant who travels from the area of origin to the area of destination, is an immigrant or inmigrant with respect to the area of destination and is an out-migrant or Emmigrant with respect to the area of origin. He aptly describes the relativity of migration phenomenon. Immigration of one place or area or region will be at the same time Emigration to another place.

The International Labour Organization conference at Geneva in 1922 had likewise emphasized the following common points in the meaning of the term "Emigration" and 'Emigrant' which have been quoted by D.B. Saxena. They are:

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1. The journey must be undertaken with a view to a lengthy period of residence abroad or in another region.

2. The journey must be undertaken with a view to earning livelihood at the place of destination.

3. The journey must be taken under certain conditions as to transport.

4. The journey must be made to certain countries/regions to the exclusion of others.

5. The journey must be the subject of a special control.  

These criteria indicating the term 'Emigration' and 'Emigrants' take in detail the length of period of residence prime objective of the migrants, transport, selectivity of the area of migration and a control over it. Accordingly the tabulation and analysis of the data collected during study, becomes easy and precise so that from such understandable data various peculiarities can be picked out and conclusions can be drawn easily. The meaning given by I.L.O. Conference to the word

'Emigration' will help in our study. This will also exclude the persons who do not fulfill all above five conditions. But this excludes the notion of forced migration where earning is not a problem but life is. Natural calamities can induce migration which has not been considered here.

According to D.P. Saxena, Emigration involves, "Three main conditions of place, purpose and duration of stay. The place of destination in this contest is an industrial and urban centre, the purpose is the earning for a living and the duration of stay is living at the place of destination for at least two months at a stretch. In this way, rural emigration for the purpose of the present study maybe defined as Movement of an individual or group of individuals from a rural surrounding to an urban industrial centre within a particular country or outside it. Chiefly, for the purpose of earning a living involving a stay at the place of destination for at least two months at a stretch."

In other definition, "Migration is a relatively permanent moving away of a collectively called migrants from one geographical location to another, preceded by decision making on the part of the migrants on the basis of a hierarchically ordered set of values or valued ends and resulting in changes in the international system of the migrants." 

According to John Barron Mays migration means of the movement, temporarily or permanently, from one physical location to another of a population.

(a) **Temporary migration:**

Temporary migration implies that the place of permanent residence is maintained while the migrant is away for a period of work in another country or another part of the country. Such migration may occur on a regular or seasonal basis as with transhumance or harvest migration. This has been mentioned earlier.


(b) **Permanent Migration**:

Permanent Migration implies a clear change of residence based on a decision to move. Clearly there may be some indeterminacy between these two categories and in many instances temporary migrants may end up as permanent.

These notes and definitions do not comprehend all of the detailed and specific issues that I shall be dealing with, in the chapters which follow. They form an initial to clarify the dimensions of the problems of definition.

It would be fruitful to divide the migration phenomenon into two parts:

(a) Internal migration, or the migration of people within a nation or community.

(b) International migration, or the migration of people between nations.

**Types of Migrations**

There are many ways of classifying migration, according to destination, time i.e. duration of migration, causes, forms, external, legality, etc.
CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO TIME

(A) **Long Term Migration:**

Those migrations which need a long term of time to complete the process. No boundary has been set regarding time limit in years or in decades. Good example can be given of North American people to France in recent century.

(B) **Short-duration migration**

It is a sudden phenomenon happening in short duration. This migration occurs because of war and at the time of new Government establishment like the migration which happened after partition of India into two countries i.e. India and Pakistan.

(C) **Permanent Migration:**

The geographical local change of non-returns migrant from geographical place (area or country) to another geographical place (area or country) is called permanent migration.

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The earlier type of migration is permanent migration. The collective and family form of this type of migration which usually happens because of political and economic reasons are the origin of the most important historical events around the world.

Such a migration of permanent nature of individual and family, most commonly it is the reflection of fast socio-economical structural changes if it is not due to official necessity or political factors. It can be said that it is out come of in-equality in development level in different area.

Permanent migration is generally associated with considerable decline or breaking of relation with the origin of migration. Permanent migration can be in two forms direct and mono-stage of indirect and poly-stage.

(a) Direct migration (mon-stage) when a migrant leaves the original place of migration directly with the previous decision to the known place of destination and settles there.  

(b) Indirect (Poly staged) migration is that kind of permanent migration in which the ultimate place of destination is unknown to the migrant. This type of migration includes several stages of temporary settlement as long as the migrant finds the suitable place for permanent staying. Usually this type of migration can be recognised in Rural Migration\(^\text{28}\) Poly-stage form of migration plays a very effective roll for rural migrants in their adoption and adjustment to larger society. The ultimate place of destination in most third world countries is metropolis.

(D) **Temporary Migration:**

It is defined as change in geographical place of migrant for a definite and limited temporary period, with his idea to return to original place. This temporary period includes several weeks till few years. And, according to distance, it includes migration between two neighbouring villages till migration to another country.

(E) **Seasonal Migration:**

The alternate temporal change of the place between the permanent place of residence and other places

\(^{28}\) Ibid, p. 158.
(urban, rural, internal or external) to search a work is called casual migration. This type of migration is associated with changes in kind of activity in the destination place of migration. It has direct relation with the original profession of migrant and seasonal nature of that profession. Entirely, seasonal migration is common in rural area and among the farmers' family. The original forms of seasonal migration is individual and migrant has some definite speciality according to age and sex etc. Usually, the migrants of this type of migrations are men in their active years of their age. According to the different aspects of political and economical and developmental and planning policy, this type of migration is the best form of migration.

(2) Migrations according to Destinations

(A) Migration to the neighbouring area. This can be divided into two types:

(a) Migration without chance in their forms of economic activities. Rural-rural migration can be place here.

(b) Migration with change in their forms of economic activities, Rural-urban migration for employment in industries can be placed in this category.

(B) Migration to the distant area (Synonymars) with external migration) from one sector to another sector generally from Primary - Secondary - Tertiary. so, it is obvious that there is change in form of economic activities.

(3) Migration according to causes

(A) Forced Migration: (Push factors)

As earlier mentioned in this chapter, it is mostly religious, social and political and in collective form. Examples are many but forced racial migration of Negroes from African contingent to American is typical of this type. Now a days, generally after wars and conflicts, as in Afghanistan, this type of migration is seen.

(B) Voluntary Migration (Pull factors)

It is of different forms individual, family, collective, internal or external because of different economic, social and cultural factors.
(4) **Migration according to its Farms**

It can be individual, family and collective.

(A) **Individual**

Usually it is temporary and seasonal and very rarely permanent motivation is in the form of research work, marriage, educational and training necessity.

(B) **Family Migration**

Migration of all members of a family from the place of origin is called family migration. The vital motivations in this form of migration are economical reasons. First of all, the head of family migrates and after sometime, remaining members of family join him in his area of distination. This is a perpetuating process, i.e. migration of one family is a cause of migration for other families from the place of origin. This form of continuous migration usually has the same destination and in the most cases, migrants come together in particular area which usually are named according to their common particularities (religion, race, geographical origin etc.).
(C) Collective Migration

The actual migrations which we can find in history since 17th century are collective migrations. This is due to special historical conditions like economical, geographical or political factors which had moved the large groups from one place to another place for staying there. Migration may be all at once or gradual with common destination.

(5) International (External) Migration:

Migration out of political boundaries of a country to another country is called international migration. It may be of different forms like migration between two neighbouring countries, between two non-neighbouring countries, or migration between two continents etc. It is rarely in collective form, and mostly it is in individual or family form. At international level, it become a problem now a days. G. Beijer says about brain drain "the modern pattern shows reversal of the trend; skilled labour and scientific personnel are moving from the less prosperus countries to the richest nations of the world and especially the United States" 30

(6) **Legal and Illegal Migration:**

(A) **Legal Migration:**

To move from one place of the earth to another place is the fundamental right of mankind. It has come in the charter of human rights, which states that, "everybody has right to leave any country including his own and to return to it. Now a days many laws are enacted to limit this right. In world population conference, which was held in 1974 in Bokharest, the reply of about 72 countries to the questionnaires which U.N.O. has circulated among them, was that they put restrictions on the permanent migration.

(B) **Illegal Migration**

When the migration takes place illegally, it is called illegal migration. Migrants play different tricks. Some of them enter the place of destination legally at first like tourists, students who enter a country for a short term but when this stay permission elapses, their stay becomes illegal. Some of the immigrants come under the protection of migration laws by false marriage, some of them are staying by forged documents, etc.
(7) **Internal Migration**

It can be take different forms as -

(A) **Urban-Urban Migration:**

Migration among cities of same country is called as urban-urban migration. It is usually of by an individual or family is based on centralization process.

(B) **Rural-Rural Migration:**

It usually happens within the same regional or racial cultural and geographical territory. It is mostly individual and some times because of marriage. Its other form is family migration which mostly is based on economic factors. This form of migration is undertaken by landless agricultural labourers. This type of migration is mostly the first step of continuous migration to the popular centres, if it is not the form of colonization.

(C) **Urban-Rural Migration:**

Migration from cities to the Rural area is called Urban-rural migration.
(D) **Rural-Urban Migration:**

Rural-urban migration includes all forms of migrations (individual, family or collective). Here rural migrants leave their place of origin and stay in cities. Rural-Urban migration is a phenomenon which has relation to the development of capitalism. It provides labour force needed for the industries. On the other hand surplus labour force on agriculture sector is shifted to the other economic sectors of the cities and these people send back money which is invested in agriculture. So the agricultural production is increased and agriculture sector can compete with the other economic sections in capital productivity and production ability. All developing countries are facing the problem of population explosion and rural-urban migration. Weak industrial sector in these third world countries cannot absorb all the migrated labour and so they are absorbed in service sector. This migration is accompanied with rapid growth of city population, fractional un-employment, growth of un-employment, growth of non-productive labour force, growth of criminal tendency became of cultural differences.

With the above discussion regarding the concepts and definitions used in migration studies, I will discuss regarding migration in Thailand in my next chapter.