CHAPTER - II

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK
AND THEORIES RELEVANT
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RELEVANT TO MIGRATION

Migration and Dispersion are natural phenomena, widely familiar both in the world of plants and in the animal kingdom. In the case of human beings, Anthropology has recorded nomadism as a stage preceding settlement, as communities. Even after their settlement as communities, human beings have been experiencing temporary, seasonal or permanent migration from their original habitat.

The implications vary in terms of factors such as the nature of the boundary, the reasons for migration, the nature of the recipient society, the magnitude of migration, and the distance that the migrants traverse. Migrants carry with them a socio-cultural baggage which among many things consists of (a) predefined social identity (b) a set of religious beliefs and practices (c) a framework of norms and values, governing family and kinship organization (d) food habits and (e) language.

Human migration is conceptualized under the rubric diaspora. Etymologically, the term diaspora is derived from the Greek composite verb 'dia' and the infinitive 'speirein' literally meaning 'to scatter', 'to spread' or to 'disperse.' The word diaspora was originally used to refer to the dispersion
of Jews after the Babylonian exile in 586 B.C. and to the aggregate of the Jewish communities scattered in exile outside Palestine. In current parlance, the term is applied to describe any group of people who are so dispersed. Moreover the migrants like the Jews are not cut off from the land of their breed. They retain a physical or mental contact with their homeland. often characterized by what is called the myth of return.

Article 13 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted on December 10, 1948, by the General Assembly of the United Nation’s addresses both internal and international migration. It states first: “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state” and second: “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country”.

In 2005, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) described voluntary migration as “the movement of people from poor and failing states to rich and stable ones, and a movement as inevitable as water running downhill”. The darker side of migration is involuntary or forced migration which is the relocation of people from one country or region to another against their wishes. They fall under several categories such as:

Refugees: People living with a well founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.
Asylum Seekers: Seeking protection from wars and other dangerous situations in their home land.

Internally Displaced Persons: They are victims of involuntary internal migration rather than forced international migration.

Development Displaces: This type of involuntary migrant is a person pushed from his or her home by the country's large scale development projects.

Environment Disaster Displacees: Victims of national or manmade disasters fall into this category.

People - Trafficking and smuggling: These are two aspects of the clandestine and in the case of people trafficking, it is the involuntary movement of people across borders. Other types of human migration include nomadism, tourism and commuting.5

Asians migration to the United States form one aspect of a dynamic, global social process that has seen peoples from Asian nations create new communities in diverse destinations. Over the last decade, Asian Americans have overtaken Hispanics as the faster growing minority population in the United States. For the nation as a whole, the Asian American population increased from 3.7 million in 1980 to 7.3 million in 1990. This doubling comes on top of the 140 percent increase recorded between 1970 and 1980.6
Oberoi and Singh have observed that, “under any set of opportunities, it is not by accident that some individuals choose to migrate and some to stay. Those who migrate have distinctive characteristics, and evaluate the grounds for going or staying differently from those who stay”.

A person who chooses to move is forced to mix with people of different backgrounds, diverse value systems and sometimes conflicting interests, thereby bringing a social change. As such migration can be viewed as an independent variable and becomes a major cause of social change. It is a two way process, a response to economic and social change and also a catalyst to change for the origin and destination of the migrant.

Social Science research on immigration has given several reasons as to why immigration to the United States is most sought after. “At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the United States found itself occupying a new and unprecedented position – it became the world’s superpower and the most important locus of the new technology driven information economy.”

Immigration to the United States was not a process, but an event. It did not have an actual “start” date, nor will it have an “end” date. Still immigration reached its peak from 1900 to 1915 when nearly 15 million people entered the United States. That is as many as in the previous forty years combined. This influx or flowing in of foreigners to the shores of the United States changed
the nations face forever. “In the later part of the twentieth century, the number of international migrants more than doubled”.

There have been migrating movements always, sometimes voluntary, sometimes planned and sometimes forced. “Deportation and evacuations, exile and forcible repatriation, compulsory transfers and panic stricken flight” are an essential part of any nation. In the past the distances travelled were short but with new modes of travel, vast distances have been covered. Sometimes there have been enforced geographical dispersals of people, such as the Jews. These are the Diasporas. Sometimes peoples have been assimilated and absorbed in a host culture. Sometimes there is a refusal to have permanent settlers. There are four main patterns of modern migration.

*The Classical model*, which fits the United States Canada and Australia. These are the countries which encourage migration and see immigrants as future citizens.

*The Colonial model*, which fits France, The Netherlands and the U.K. Generally migration to these countries has been heavily skewed to their colonies, giving them a kind of privileged position in as much as immigrants have potential citizenship rights.
The Guest Worker Models which fit Germany and Belgium. Generally migration here is temporary and without potential citizenship rights. This kind of migration is usually for work but the conditions of employment and potential security of work are much weaker.

The Illegal Models Most countries have some illegal migration. It is characterized by people living outside the official society and often forced to take up the lowest paid, most temporary and demanding work.

Theories of International Migration

Most of the world's developed countries have become diverse, multiethnic societies and those that have not reached this state are moving decisively in that direction. The emergence of international migration as a basic structural feature of nearly all industrialized countries testifies to the strength and coherence of the underlying forces. Yet the theoretical base for understanding these forces remains weak. The recent boom in immigration has therefore taken citizens, officials and, demographers by surprise, and when it comes to international migration, popular thinking remains mixed in nineteenth century concepts, modules, and assumption.

There is no single, coherent theory of international migration, only a fragmented set of theories that have developed largely in isolation from one another, sometimes but not always, segmented by disciplinary boundaries
current pattern and trends in immigration, however, suggest that a full understanding of contemporary migratory processes will not be achieved by relying on the tools of one discipline alone or by founding on a single level of analysis. Rather, their complex, multifaceted nature requires a sophisticated theory that incorporate a variety of perspectives, levels and assumption.

There are at least seven schools of migration theory,\textsuperscript{14} five from economics, the remainder from sociology and political science. These include Neoclassical Macro Economics Theory, Neoclassical Micro Economics Theory, the so called New Economics of Migration, Dual Labour Market Theory, World Systems Theory, Social Network Theory and Institutional Theory. None of these has attracted a consensus that see it as offering a coherent and convincing explanation of the international migration phenomenon.

**Neoclassical Macro Economics Theory**

Probably the oldest and best known theory of international migration was developed originally to explain labour migration in the process of economic development. According to this theory and its extensions, international migration, like its internal counterpart, is caused by geographic differences in the supply of and demand for labour. Countries with a large endowment of labour relative to capital have a low equilibrium market wage, while
countries with a limited endowment of labour relation to capital are characterized by a high market wage. The resulting differential in wages causes workers from the low-wage country to move to the high-wage country. As a result of this movement, the supply of labour decreases and wages rise in the capital-poor country, while the supply of labour increases and wages fall in the capital-rich country, leading, at equilibrium, to an international wage differential that reflects only the costs of international movement, pecuniary and psychic.

The simple and compelling explanation of international migration offered by neoclassical macroeconomics has strongly shaped public thinking and has provided the intellectual basis for much immigration policy.

**Neoclassical Micro Economics Theory**

In this scheme, individual rational actors decide to migrate because a cost-benefit calculation leads them to expect a positive net return, usually monetary, form of movement. International migration is conceptualized as a form of investment in human capital. People choose to move to where they can be most productive given their skills; but before they can capture the higher wages associated with greater labour productivity they must undertake certain investments, which include the material costs of travelling, the costs of maintenance while moving and looking for work, the effort
involved in learning a new language and culture, the difficulty experienced in adapting to a new labour market, and the psychological costs of cutting old ties and forging new ones.

The New Economics of Migration

In recent years, a new economics of migration has arisen to challenge many of the assumptions and conclusions of neoclassical theory. A key insight of this new approach is that migration decisions are not made by isolated individual actors, but by larger units of related people—typically families or households in which people act collectively not only to maximize expected income, but also to minimize risks and to loosen constraints associated with a variety of market failures, apart from those in the labour market. Unlike individuals, households are in a position to control risks to their economic wellbeing by diversifying the allocation of household resources, such as family labour. While some family members can be assigned economic activities in the local economy, others may be sent to work in foreign labour markets where wages and employment conditions are negatively correlated or weakly correlated with those in the local area. In the event that local economic conditions deteriorate and activities there fail to bring in sufficient income, the household can rely on migrant remittances for support.
Dual Labour Market Theory

Dual Labour Market theory, sets its sights away from decisions made by individuals and argues that international migration stems from the intrinsic labour demands of modern industrial societies. Piore has been the most forceful and elegant proponent of this theoretical viewpoint, arguing that international migration is caused by a permanent demand for immigrant labour that is inherent to the economic structure of developed nations. According to Piore, immigration is not caused by push factors in sending countries (low wages or high employment), but by pull factors in receiving countries (a chronic and unavoidable need for foreign workers). This built in demand for immigrant labour stems from four fundamental characteristics of advanced industrial societies and their economies.

World System Theory

Building on the work of Wallerstein, a variety of sociological theorists have linked the origins of international migration not to the bifurcation of the labour market within particular national economics, but to the structure of the world market that has developed and expanded since the sixteenth century. In this scheme, the penetration of capitalist economic relations into peripheral, non-capitalist societies creates a mobile population that is prone to migrate abroad. According to World Systems Theory, migration is a natural
outgrowth of disruptions and dislocation that inevitably occur in the process of capitalist development.

**Social Network Theory**

Migrant workers are sets of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants, and nonmigrants in origin and destination areas through ties of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin. They increase the likelihood of international movement because they lower the costs and risks of movement and increase the expected net returns to migration. Network connections constitute a form of social capital that people can draw upon to gain access to foreign employment. Once the number of migrants reaches a critical threshold the expansion of networks reduces the costs and risks of movement, which causes the probability of migration to rise, which causes additional movement, which further expands the networks, and so on. Overtime migratory behaviour spreads outward to encompass broader segments of the sending society.

**Institutional Theory**

Once International migration had begun private institutions and voluntary organizations arise to satisfy the demand created by an imbalance between the large number of people who seek entry into capital-rich countries and the limited number of immigrant visas these countries typically offer. This
imbalance, and the barriers that core countries erect to keep people out, create a lucrative economic niche for entrepreneurs and institutions dedicated to promoting international movement for profit, yielding a black market in immigration. As this underground market creates conditions conducive to exploitation and victimization, voluntary humanitarian organizations also arise in developed countries to enforce the rights and improve the treatment of legal and undocumented migrants.

**Migration Systems Theory**

The various proportions of World Systems theory, Social Network theory, Institutional theory and the Theory of Cumulative Causation all suggest that migration flows acquire a measure of stability and structure over space and time, allowing for the identification of stable international migration systems. These systems are characterized by relatively intense exchanges of goods, capitals and people between certain countries and less intense exchanges between others. An international migration system generally includes a core receiving region which may be a country or group of countries and a set of specific sending countries linked to it by unusually large flows of immigrants.

Theories developed to understand contemporary processes of international migration posit causal mechanisms that operate at widely divergent levels of
analysis. Although the propositions, assumptions and hypotheses derived from each perspective are not inherently contradictory, they nonetheless carry very different implications for policy formulation. Depending on which model is supported and under what circumstances, a social scientist might recommend that policy makers attempt to regulate international migration by changing wages and employment conditions in destination countries, by promoting economic development in origin countries, by establishing programs of social insurance in sending societies, by reducing income inequality in places of origin; by improving futures or capital markets in developing regions, or by some combination of these actions or one might advise that all of these programs are fruitless given the structural imperatives for international movement growing out of market economic relations.\textsuperscript{15}

International migration is described in an article published by Human Resources for Health as “the movement of people from one country to another to take up employment, to establish residence or to seek refuge from persecution, either temporarily or permanently”.\textsuperscript{16}

Once an individual has made a decision to live out of his home, he should learn to adjust and adapt himself to his new surroundings so that he is not alienated as the Other. Social Psychologists have therefore presented their ideas as how one should understand ones' own self to boost his own esteem.
Social Psychology of Identities

Tajfel developed the social identity theory which argues that individuals possess a need to understand and evaluate themselves. To do this they use a process named self - categorization, in which they perceive themselves as being members of a number of categorize and social identities. Such social identities originate from the particular groups that people associate with and categories themselves within. These social identities can include social group, gender and nationality and an individual can identify with many groups at the same time, for example, being an Asian, female, or a student. Another important aspect of social identity theory is that of self - enhancement: individuals attempt to enhance their self - esteem by viewing the groups they belong to as superior to other groups. A key feature of this theory is that the self image of individuals depends upon how positively they view the groups to which they belong.17

Future Trends of Migration

Castles and Miller suggest that migration is rapidly changing its forms at the end of twentieth century. They observe four key features for the next twenty years.18

a) The globalization of migration: more and more countries will be affected.
b) The acceleration of migration: growing in numbers in all major regions.

c) The differentiation of migration: a whole array of types-refugees, labour migrants, permanent settlers, all at the same time.

d) The feminization of migration: many more women will be playing a much larger role (until recently, it was mainly men who migrated in the first instance).

This growth is likely to result in many cultures confronting more and more ethnic diversity. As ethnic diversion grows there will be an increase in levels of racism. Racism – in thoughts and deeds – remains a serious social problem everywhere as people still contend that some racial and ethnic categories are better than others. Whatever be the specific projections a great change in the racial and ethnic profile of United States is felt to be underway. “It seems only a matter of time before white people will become minorities as a host of others emerge as the majority in the United States.” 19

Migration can therefore be defined as population movements and a study of the causes and conditions of such movements becomes mandatory to understand the changes created in society.
References


13. ibid. p.337.


19. ibid. p. 327.