### MIGRATION: CONCEPT, TYPES & RATIONALE

***Dr Zahid H. Channa***
***Prof Dr Pervez A. Pathan***
***Dr Erum Khushnood Zahid Shaikh***

**ABSTRACT**

*Migration is conceived as human mobility from one place to another preferable place. The migration is broadly divided into two main streams. First one is voluntary migration that is migration by choice and second one is involuntary migration which caused by forced to leave the land of inheritance. This article explains the major causes of involuntary migration and its related different terms used around the world such as Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Development Displaces, environmental and Disasters Displaces, Smuggled People and Trafficked People. The Study reveals that major contribution of migration induced by conflicts and violence 28.8 million people in 2012 and during the five years (from 2008 to 2012) 143.9 million people migrated due to natural disasters, this figure taken from 125 countries. In addition, people are uprooted on the name of development projects which contributes 250 million in 1990s and also the figure highlighted that every year 15 million people migrated globally in the 21st century. The largest development displaces are reported from India (60 million people) and China (40 million people).*

_____

**MIGRATION CONCEPT AND DEFINITIONS**

The word migration is commonly used in our daily life, but it has different connotations and various interpretations in terms of nature, scope or purpose of discussion or study. Social scientists have noted the social and cultural causes of migration while geographers emphasized on time and distance. However, Economists focus on economic losses and benefits of migration. The below concepts and definitions can be seen in the succeeding aspects of migration:

1. (Mesurier, 2012) states that "*a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a state. Encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition*

*and causes; it includes refugees, displaced persons, uprooted people and economic migrants. There are about one billion people around the world*".

2. Chandna R.C. (1998:86) defines *"migration as a movement that involves a permanent or semi-permanent change in residence from one settlement to another".*

3. Week, J.R. (1989:186, 214) according to him, *"migration is the process of changing residence and moving your whole round of social activities from one place to another significantly based on geographical boundaries. For instance, state line, country line and international borders".*

4. Ross, J.A. (1982:448-449) defines *"migration is a geographic mobility that involves a change of usual residence between defined political or statistical areas, between residence areas of different types".*

5. Mishra S.K. (1981:227-228) states *"migration is an inflow or outflow of population from a defined region to another region for a permanent or semi-permanent settlement".*

6. Zelinsky, W. (1971) Defined "*migration as perceptible and simultaneous shifts in both spatial and social locus*".

7. Demko *et.al.* (1970:286) states *"migration is generally based on change in residence, journey to work, types of boundaries crossed, and many others".*

8. Lee, E.S. (1970:290) reports migration is defined broadly as *"a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence".*

9. Trewartha, G.T. (1969:136) defines "*Human migration involves a movement of some distance, which results in a change permanent residence*".

10. Eisenstadt, S.N. (1953) expresses *"migration as the physical transition of an individual or a group from one society to another".*

Generally, migration is a geographical mobility from one geographical unit to another. It is a change in place from original to new places. The most important thing in migration, according to this study is how people get migration that is by choice or by force. However, in the words of the sociologists, people are migrated by push factors and pull factors. A push factor is forceful to evict in a difficult situation. On the contrary, a pull factor is an attraction concerning community in which they migrate. It is a benefit that

attracts people to a certain place. In general, there are some firm reasons which result in people wanting to leave their aboriginal places. Push and pull factors are usually considered as involuntary and voluntary migration. Table: 1 reveals some specific reasons that people leave their ancestral places on the basis of voluntary and involuntary causes.

**TABLE-1**
**SHOWS THE REASONS OF HUMAN MIGRATION**

| Voluntary Migration | Involuntary Migration |
|---|---|
| Economic Factors:<br>• Hope for better employment<br>• More money and food<br>• Better shelter<br>• Hope for family to have a higher standard of living | Economic factors:<br>Lack of employment<br>Natural disasters (earth quakes & Floods)<br>Land for development projects<br>Lack of food or shelter<br>Lower standard of living |
| 2. Social Factors:<br>Encouragement by family & friends<br>Better health care<br>Better educational opportunities<br>Religious tolerance | 2. Social Factors:<br>Lack of health care<br>Lack of educational opportunities<br>Lack of religious tolerance |
| 3. Political Factors<br>To gain protection under the law<br>Right to vote and freedom from persecution<br>Safety | 3. Political Factors:<br>Unfair legal system<br>Disenfranchisement (Not being able to vote)<br>War and terrorism |

**SOURCE:** http://geography.tamu.edu/class/sbednarz/geog201/migration8.html
          Accessed on August 12, 2013

The voluntary migration refers to the inspirations that appeal to leave an area for better income earning opportunities, attractive wages, better health and education facilities, relaxed working environment and other amenities. It is generally observed that rapid expansion of cities, fast growing industry, commerce and different business activities have been taken place.

The trend of migration from rural area to the urban cities swallows a fastened relationship which enhanced the process of industrialization, technological advancement, social and cultural changes are characterized the foundation of modern society mostly in all parts of the universe. In the recent years, due to higher income

earning opportunities and attaining a better living standard, people from India and other developing countries of the world migrated to United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia, Canada and Middle East countries (Kainth, 2010). Occasionally, people from the countryside interested to migrate in search of appealing socio-economic activities in large cities. However, the involuntary migration operates not only at the domestic level, but also people leave their ancestral land for different reasons. For example, underdevelopment, low productivity, unemployment, lack of economic opportunities, lack of natural resources or exhausted natural resources, natural disasters, man-made disasters, and large development projects may force native people to go to a new place for higher economic opportunities.

The study of migration distinguished between voluntary and involuntary migration is based on various influences. The voluntary migration is distinguished from involuntary migration by one has the desire to move from his native place to the new place. However, involuntary migration has diminished the power of decision of the people who leave or a person who is forced to leave his ancestral land.

Most of the causes are noted in involuntary migration, such as armed conflict, natural disasters, floods, droughts, cyclone and large development projects such as large dams, infrastructure and urbanization of new cities, oil and other mineral extraction projects. Involuntary migration is usually studied as a subject "Forced Migration" in the developed countries. The word forced migration is promoted by the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). The term forced migration is generally described as the movement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) significantly in armed conflict as well as people who were forcibly migrated in natural disasters, environmental disasters, man-made disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, droughts and large development projects. The forced migration term is highly complex and comprehensive. The study of forced migration is multidisciplinary at the national and international perspective for academicians, practitioners and agencies.

**MOST FREQUENT TERMS OF INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION**
There are various terms which have been adopted to describe groups affected by involuntary migration. The meaning of some of

these terms is not always self-evident, they are sometimes misleading, and are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Given below are brief descriptions of the main terms used by those researching and working with involuntary displaces:

**BOX-1: DEFINES MOST FREQUENT TERMS OF INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION**

**Refugees:** (United Nation, 1951) defines a refugee as a person residing outside his or her country of nationality, who is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a political social group, or political opinion.

**Asylum Seekers:** People who have moved across an international border in search of protection under the Refugee Convention 1951, but their claim for refugee status have not yet been determined.

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Persons who have been forced to leave their homes suddenly or unexpectedly in huge numbers, as a result of armed conflicts, internal troubles, systematic violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters, but they are within their own territory or country.

**Development Displaces:** People who are compelled to move as a result of policies and projects implemented to supposedly enhance 'development'. These include large-scale infrastructure projects such as dams, roads, ports, airports; urban clearance initiatives; mining and deforestation; and the introduction of conservation parks/reserves and biosphere projects (Dolores, 2002).

**Environmental and Disaster Displaces:** Those people displaced by environmental factors or disasters do not leave the borders of their homeland. Or people displaced as a result of natural disasters (floods, volcanoes, landslides, earthquakes), environmental change (deforestation, desertification, land degradation, global warming) and man-made disasters, industrial accidents, radioactivity (Huggins, 2008).

**Smuggled People:** Smuggled migrants are moved illegally for profit. They are partners, however unequal, in a commercial transaction. This is not to say that the practice is not without substantial exploitation and danger. People who think they are being smuggled may run the risk of actually being trafficked. And even if they are not, their personal safety and well-being on their journey and after arrival are not necessarily the smugglers' top

priority. Smuggled migrants may include those who have been forcibly displaced as well as those who have left their homeland in search of better economic and social opportunities. The motivations are often mixed.

**Trafficked People**: These are the people who are moved by deception or coercion for the purposes of exploitation. The profit in trafficking people comes not from their movement, but from the sale of their sexual services or labor in the country of destination. The trafficked person maybe physically prevented from leaving, or be bound by debt or threat of violence to themselves or their family in their country of origin. Like smuggling, by its very clandestine nature, figures on the number of people being trafficked are extremely difficult to obtain (David *et.al.,* 2013).

**SOURCE:**          https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms,
                     http://www. forcedmigration. org/about/ whatisfm
                     Accesses on September 13, 2013

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

The major causes of involuntary migration are conflict, violence, political disorder, natural disasters, man-made disasters and large development projects. Over the 70 million people are forced to get migration from their native places and it has been observed that on the average one person left his/her original residence for every 100 persons. Each year the number of displaced people is increased persistently. People forcibly relocate within their own country, but the number of displaced people increases at global scale. The cost of those who crossed the international borders consequently was paid by the host nation which amounted to not less than 8 billion USD per year (WDR, 2012).

In addition, the human cost of forced migration was that it ruined livelihood, increased vulnerability, particularly for women, children, host communities, collapsed households and disempowered people. The three major causes are noted in involuntary migration which has been often studies by various academicians and these main causes of involuntary migrations are addressed by many policy makers, donor agencies and different governments according to their geographical conditions and limitations. Involuntary migration is categorized in three causal factors: (a) Migration by Conflict and Violence, (b) Migration by Disasters, and (c) Migration by Development Projects.

However, these three topics are recognized as the subjects. The brief introduction is given below:

**Migration by Conflict and Violence:** Those people who were forced to leave their ancestral land on the following basis and where their state authorities failed or did not provide protection in the situation of armed conflict including political disorder, generalized violence, civil war, persecutions on the basis of race, religion, nationality and social groups. A large number of the people from these communities flee from their original home to cross international borders in search of shelter or refuge. Hence, some of them may find asylum on the basis of international law whereas many of them prefer to remain nameless, possibly fearing that in case of granted asylum by the host countries, they would be asked to be back to their countries where from they fled, when the conditions are normalized in their own countries.

Since the end of the Second World War, there has been an escalation in the number of armed conflicts around all parts of the world. These conflicts were on the basis of national, ethnic, religious separatist struggles. There was a great number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) during the Second World War who are currently not counted in World's refugees' population. However, presently, there are 11 million refugees and asylum seekers and 27.5 million IDPs throughout in the world (Martin *et.al.,* 2013).

The 28.8 million people were displaced in conflict induced displacement in 2012 A.D. which was the highest recorded figure. More than 6.5 million people were displaced in their own countries in 2012 A.D. This figure is doubled as compared with last year. These IDPs are not crossing the boundaries of their own countries and they are not refugees and asylum seekers, so they do not get benefit from international protection protocols. But their governments are responsible to find out a concrete solution for these internally displaced communities. Moreover, these IDPs can be realized when their governments and international communities identified that they were uprooted from their homes by force. Then both governments and international community not only provide a humanitarian response at the high time of crisis but also finding a long lasting solution.

**Migration by Disasters:** Displacement caused by natural disasters, environment changes and man-made disasters. Natural disasters are floods, volcanoes, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones. Environment changes caused human displacement such as

deforestation, desertification and land degradation. However, man-made disasters are industrial accidents and radio activities. The trends of worldwide human displacement by disasters are more disputed and difficult than the other two categories of human displacement such as conflict induced displacement and development induced displacement but it is obvious that every year millions of people are displaced in disasters in the world.  The most dynamic category of internal displacement today is disaster-induced displacement. According to estimated figures produced by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), in recent years at least 16.5 million people per annum are uprooted from their original places in the natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquake generated tsunamis and floods. Disaster-induced displacement is so far the largest and the most dynamic category of involuntary internal human mobility. It is estimated that 32.4 million people were displaced in the occurrence of floods and earthquakes in the world but this estimated figure nearly doubled in 2010 A.D. (IDMC, 2013).

**TABLE-2**
**DISASTER INDUCED DISPLACEMENT IN THE WORLD**
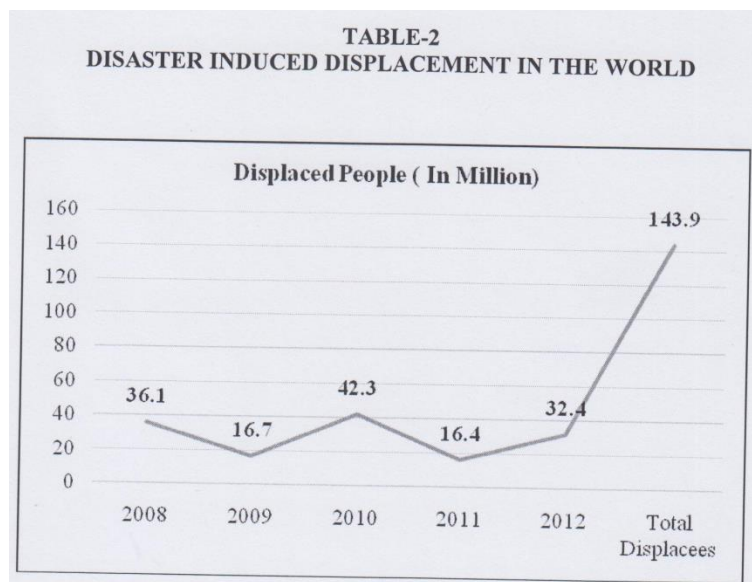


**SOURCE**: Global Estimation 2012, People Displaced by Disaster byIDMC

Over the five years (2008 to 2012) 143.9 million people were displaced. The estimated figure is taken from 125 countries worldwide by rapid onset disasters, such as floods, storms,

earthquakes and wildfires. The top ten countries with greatest number of displaced people in 2012 A.D. The largest figures of internally displaced people in disaster are reported in China, India, Pakistan, Philippines and Nigeria. Since 2008 A.D., Pakistan included in top five countries having largest number of displaced people in disasters (IDMC, 2013).

**TABLE-1**
**THE DISASTER DISPLACES IN TOP 10 COUNTRIES (2008 - 2012)**

| Rank | Country | Displaced |
|------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | China | 49,782,000 |
| 2 | India | 23,775,000 |
| 3 | Pakistan | 14,991,000 |
| 4 | Philippines | 12,343,000 |
| 5 | Nigeria | 6,818,000 |
| 6 | Colombia | 3,289,000 |
| 7 | Thailand | 3,234,000 |
| 8 | Bangladesh | 2,999,000 |
| 9 | Indonesia | 2,479,000 |
| 10 | Chile | 2,133,000 |

**SOURCE**: Global Estimation 2012, People Displaced by Disaster byIDMC

Due climate and weather related disaster caused 98% of all displacement in 2012 A.D. In 2012 A.D., India and Nigeria accounted for 41% of displacement in flood disasters in 2012 A.D. during the monsoon seasons. In India, 6.9 million people were displaced and in Nigeria 6.1 million people were displaced in 2012 A.D. However, over the last five years (2008 to 2012) 81% of Disasters induced Displacement has been reported in Asia (IDMC, 2013).

**Migration by Development Projects:** People who are forced to move as a result of implementation of large development projects which enhanced the development in the country. The large development projects can be dams, roads, ports, airports, urban clearance initiatives, deforestation, coal mining, oil mining, conservation of parks and introduction of biosphere projects. Certainly, this is a causal factor in displacement. It is repeatedly observed that project affected people with little recognition and assistance caused negative impacts on the lives of indigenous people, ethnic communities, urban and rural population.

It has been estimated that some 90 to 100 million people around the world were displaced as a result of large development projects

during 1990s. It is also reported that yearly 10 million people were displaced in water reservoir (Robinson, 2003). However, according to the current estimation of the first decade of the 21st century, the number of displaced people has increased to 15 million people globally by development projects each year. According to Kate & Kalafut (2010) more than 250 million people have been uprooted in development projects in past twenty years. The largest number of displaced people in large development projects has been found in India with more than 60 million in last 60 years. In China more than 40 million people has been involuntarily migrated in mega projects in last 50 years. No doubt, in the larger scene, the best case studied are recorded as an examples of Development Induced Displacement of water reservoirs development projects, which disrupt social systems and ecosystems of upstream and downstream.

The large water reservoirs have been increasingly marked into questions by human rights advocates, environmentalists and other development practitioners. It is also observed that development interventions in less developed areas are preferred to proceed for the greater benefits of the society. On the other hand, these interventions are the major cause of the displacement of tribal people, peasants and indigenous communities. This has ruined them economically, culturally and psychologically. Displaced communities generally have been within the borders of their own country. Even very few of them are resettled and adequately compensated. There is no exact data available about those people who have been forcibly migrated in large development projects throughout the world. Unlike, there are no institutions/ organizations which tackle these people either at global or at national level, which indicates the actual magnitude of the human mobility in mega projects.  Due to this, a great number of scholars, academicians, policy makers and activists rely on the World Bank Environment Department (WBED). According to this rough estimation, ten million people has been involuntarily migrated in large dams, transportation and infrastructure development programs, urban development programs and natural extraction development projects in the last century. However, according to the current estimation of the first decade of the 21st century, the number of displaced people has increased to 15 million people globally by development projects each year (Cernea M. M., 2000).

In addition,  the analytical case studies is a principal source to read the actual resettlement plans which have been documented with

details of schedule and budget, designed by government and project developers during the stages of the planning of the project. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) provide access to a great number of such documents, known Resettlement Action Plans which have been available on their respective official websites.

**CONCLUSION**

Migration is triggered by own choice or by force. By the choice to leave the native place is called voluntary migration. Whereas, natural disasters, human made disasters, war or conflicts and large development projects forcibly uprooted from the native places are known as involuntary migration. Voluntary migration is motivated for better job opportunities like education, health, living standard, freedom of religion and a rich social environment. On the other hand involuntary migration triggered loss of home, land, livelihood and psychological stress. Involuntary Migration is categorized into three streams such as; Conflict and violence, Disasters and Development projects. However, first one (Conflict and violence) and second one (Disasters) have the similarity in the occurrences of events and their magnitudes are recorded as slow on set and rapid onset while the third one is a negotiating among government, project developers and expected migrated community.

**REFERENCES**

Cernea M. M. (2000), Impoverishment Risks, Risk and Reconstruction: A Model of Population Displacement and Resettlement. *Economic and Political Weekly,* Vol.35, No.41.

Cernea, M. (2000), 'Risks, Safeguards, and Reconstruction: A Model for Population Displacement and Resettlement', In Cernea, M. & McDowell, C. (Eds.), Risks and Reconstruction, The World Bank.

Chandna R.C. (1998), 'Population', Ludhiana Kayani Publishers

Demko *et.al.,* (1970). 'Population Geography: A Reader', New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company

Dolores, K. (2002), 'Towards Local Development and Mitigation Impoverishment in Development Induced Displacement and Resettlement', International Development Centre, University of Oxford.

Geography of Population: World Pattern (1969), New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Huggins, G. 2. (2008), 'Livelihood Restoration Consideration for Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project'.

IDMC. (2013). 'Global Estimation 2012, People Displaced by Disaster', Geneva: Interanl Displacement Monitoring Centre.

Kainth, (2010), 'Push and Pull Factors of Migration: A Case Study of Brick Kiln Migrant Workers in Punjab', Amritsar: India Guru Arjan Dev Institute of Development Studies.

Lee E.S., (1970), 'Theory of Migration', New Delhi: Archives Books.

Martin *et.al.,* (2013), 'Forced Migration: Law and Policy', (2nd Edition). USA: West Academic Publishing.

Mishra S.K., (1981), 'Factors and Process of Migration in Developing Economy', New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.

Robinson, C. (2003), 'Risks and Rights: The Causes, Consequences, and Challenges of Development-Induced Displacement', Occasional Paper. The Brookings Institution- SAIS Project on Internal Displacement.

Ross J.A., (1982), 'International Encyclopedia of Population', New York: The Free Press. A Division of Macmillan Publishing Company.

Trewartha, G.T. (1969), 'A Geography of Population: World Pattern', New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

WDR. (2012), 'World Disasters Report 2012, Focus on Forced Migration and Displacement', International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Week, J.R. (1989), 'An Introduction to Concept and Issues', Berlmont: Words Worth Publishing Company, California, 186, 214.

Zelinsky W. (1971), The Hypothesis of the Mobility Transition, *Geographical Review,* Volume 61, Worcester.

_____