

THE PATTERNS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION IN MAHARASHTRA : AN ANALYSIS OF 1971 CENSUS DATA

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Aims, methods and materials:

Internal migration is a necessary element of normal population re-distribution and equilibrium. The mobility of people within its national borders has been the subject of increasing study in recent decades. Of all the components of population change, internal mobility has been the most difficult to measure. Such studies are therefore labouring under a major handicap of insufficient data. The reasons for such inadequate data are:

- 1) not including questions sufficiently on internal migration in census slips,
- 2) not including questions uniformly in successive censuses to facilitate the process of comparison over a period of time to maintain the trend, sequence and continuity, and
- 3) delay in tabulation and publication of census results. Unless the country in question is so fortunate, demographically speaking, as to have a good continuous population register, it has not been easy to obtain accurate measures of net or gross movement of people. Nonetheless, both direct and indirect methods of measurement have gradually been introduced and refined so that there is a variety of approaches from which to choose.

The present paper aims at studying the patterns of internal migration in the state of Maharashtra, which is the major gaining state in India since 1901. The objectives of the study are: (1) to explain the nature, volume, direction and perhaps some of the characteristics of the migratory movements during the period 1961-71 and (2) to study some of the differential characteristics of the migrants, their place of origin and desti-