

Migration and Employment Situation in Mega City: A case of Greater Mumbai Metropolitan Region

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According census 2011, Greater Mumbai Urban Agglomeration (UA) is most populated mega city in India with a population of 18.4 million. India's commercial capital has always attracting migrants from within and outside the state due to number of industrial and commercial establishments in the city. Due to high influx of migration, Greater Mumbai city started shifting its population towards other neighbouring areas due to limited land available for future population and economic growth.

The present paper examines the migration pattern in the Mumbai city and neighbouring area in Thane district which together account major share of Mumbai Metropolitan area. It also analyzes the economic data to examine changes occurring in the area in term of employment opportunity and sustainability of this mega city.

Data Source

In India, decennial census and National Sample Survey (NSS) are major source of information on population and economic activity. Study uses data from census 1961-2011 and various rounds of NSS. In addition the economic census of 1999 and 2005 are used to analyze changes in establishment and employment situation. Some information on condition of people living in planned city of Navi Mumbai is also presented.

Mumbai Metropolitan Region is spread in four districts – Mumbai city, Suburban Mumbai, Thane and Raigarh. It includes both the Mumbai district, urban part of Thane and selected towns of Raigarh district. The Mumbai UA includes Mumbai and Thane district excluding Vasai-Virar UA part of thane district with population of 1.2 million as per in 2011 census.

Results

To the country was relieved by the figure of 2011 census that population of two districts of Mumbai has increased by merely 5 lakh which was growing by nearly 2 million decadal during 1961-2001. However it may be noted that during 2001-11 the neighboring district of Thane has increased by 3.5 million mainly due to shift of population from Mumbai to Thane district. The detail information on migration and other demographic events of 2011 census are yet to be

released. Mumbai which have grown mainly on account of migration from outside district has shown decline in migration contribution to population increase from nearly 50 per cent to 39 per cent in 2001 census and natural increase component has shown higher percentage share. Interestingly, the Thane district remaining part of Mumbai UA shown large volume of migrants especially from Mumbai (nearly 6.5 lakh people moved to Thane district from Mumbai during 1991-2001). Sizeable volume of migrants was enumerated in Thane district from other part of state and country. The increase of migrants from rural areas of Maharashtra state in significantly increased from 45 to 63 per cent in Thane district while it remains nearly 77 per cent in Mumbai in 1981-91 and 1991-2001.

Study conducted by City Industrial Development Corporation of Navi Mumbai in 2005 and 2010 reported that nearly 50 per cent of household have migrated from other part of state while 18 per cent moved from Mumbai city. The increase in IT/BPOs activity has increased the job prospects in Navi Mumbai. As the main purpose of setting up twin city was to decongest the main city and encourage population to developed planned city was reported by survey. Nearly half of household reported easy availability of houses and better place to stay in comparison to overcrowded Mumbai city. The cost of affording house in Mumbai is not in reach of most of households.

Liberalization and globalization policy of India has resulted in many changes in Indian economic scenario. Due to opening up Indian economy many industries could not cope up the competition with multinational companies. It has resulted in loss of employment in Mumbai as well as neighbouring areas. Study examines the data from economic census of Maharashtra conducted during 1998 and 2005. The economic census clearly indicates that agriculture establishment has declined in both Mumbai by 58 per cent and thane by 35 per cent. The non agricultural establishment (NAE) has increased in the state by 33 per cent while in Mumbai increase was 17 percent and much higher in Thane district as 52 per cent. The importance of these two districts in the state can be judged by fact that nearly 25 per cent of establishment are located in these two district. The total employment in NAE has declined by 14 per cent in Mumbai in 2005 over 1998 while it increased in thane by 22 per cent. In terms of total employment in NAE Mumbai and Thane accounted for 32 per cent of state employment in 2005 which has decline from 37 per cent in 1998.

The economic census of 2005 and 1998 indicate significant increases in establishments providing employment to up to 5 workers in Mumbai as well in the whole state. The establishments which were earlier hiring more than five workers show a continuous decline. The probable reason for this could be that many large-sized establishments have either closed down or no new establishments were setup, mainly due to space and real estate pricing. Since the early 1980s, many large manufacturing units in the textile sector closed down and moved to other functions including exploiting the fixed land asset as real estate, creating new centre's of residences as well as skilled employment. At the same time, other heavy industries started shifting to other places as a part of the policy of decongestion of the city, enforcement of an industrial relocation policy

and cheaper land availability and infrastructure facilities in locations like Navi Mumbai. Some moved to neighbouring Gujarat state. This resulted in shift to establishments that employed lower number of workers. Technological advancements enabled many industries to reduce their employed labour force.

The employment data from NSS 61st round conducted during 2004-05 indicate that 786 male per 1000 persons in Mumbai and 736 in Thane urban while for female it was 267 in Mumbai and 223 in Thane. The male employment rate in Mumbai and Thane is lower as compared to many industrial cities like Surat, Ludhiana, Indore and Agra. Nearly fifty per cent workers reported lack of work in enterprises, in area and closure as main reason for quitting of jobs. Another major change observed is the increase in the self employed workers as compared to regular wage and salaried jobs. Work participation rate declined by 5 percent for males while for females increased by 12 percent during 1961-2001. Economic Census (2005) indicate decline in employment in Mumbai.

Among males, the percentage of the migrant employed was nearly 15 per cent higher than the non-migrants while among the females, non-migrants exceed female migrants. Usually higher male migrants employed rate is due to the fact that they come in search of work and agree to take any available work while non-migrants delay starting to work to acquire better education and skill for work. Similarly many non-migrant women either did not want to work or do not find suitable work.

Among males, non-migrants reported higher percentage, working as professional, technicians-associate professionals and clerical related occupations in comparison to migrants while male migrants exceed their percentage in craft related trade and plant and machine operations. Similarly half the female non-migrants were in professional-clerical related jobs while migrants women are in higher percentage in elementary occupations and trade and market type of occupations. The occupational distribution clearly shows that migrants are absorbed in service related occupation whereas non-migrants in white collar occupations.

Conclusion

The population of Mumbai has grown much mainly because of the livelihood opportunities it offers and the possibility of residing in neighbouring satellite cities and working in Mumbai. The city population has grown at alarming rate leading to huge swaths of slums. The government's efforts to improve the condition of people in slums in terms of providing better housing facility with minimal basic facility through slum rehabilitation scheme over the years is yet to reach a stage of consolidation and remains at the experimental level.

As far as employment is considered, Mumbai remains a city of hope and aspiration. The rate of employment did not change much as expected due to global economic recession in western countries. Even after 2000, rate of unemployment declined significantly in Mumbai and its adjoining areas. The purpose of developing new areas like New Mumbai to reduce the population congestion in Mumbai was not very successful as it turned out more a dormitory town for Mumbai in relative terms. More people in these satellite cities, except perhaps Navi Mumbai which has 60 per cent of its population working within its limits, depend on Mumbai for their livelihoods than on the places where they live. Every day people commute in harrowing conditions to Mumbai for their jobs and other economic activities, stretching the infrastructure.

The information presented on the economic activities of the migrants and non-migrants show clearly that city provides ample opportunity to both. While non-migrants dominate in regular jobs, migrants are involved mostly in trade and services activities.

However, the policy-makers should be concerned at the decline in the number of establishments and the number of jobs they create and offer. New industries are not finding space in Mumbai to operate from, which in turn adversely impact newer employment generation. Newer areas need to be developed within city to establish industries to sustain the employment on offer to match at least the present population's demand for livelihoods. The economic potential in Mumbai metropolitan region also needs to be fully utilised by developing and interlinking neighbouring cities to absorb ever growing migrants from within the state and other states and population increases in Mumbai itself which might need to chase jobs elsewhere.
