

Patterns of Inter-State In-Migration in Himachal Pradesh-A District Wise Analysis, 1991-2001

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Abstract: Migration is a multifaceted phenomenon and varies over space in response to physical, economic, socio-cultural and political factors. Himachal Pradesh has twelve districts in total; each having a physiography and culture distinct from the other. Due to these physiographic and socio-cultural variations, patterns of migration also differ between different districts of the state. These variations in spatial patterns of interstate in-migration in various districts of Himachal Pradesh have been studied in this research paper.

I. INTRODUCTION

Interstate migration in a state is migration between that state and other states/ UTs of the same country. Hence, it indicates a change in residence of a person from one state to the other in same country. It does not change the total population numbers of the country but rearranges the population density and population distribution within the country and in that state as well. A study of interstate migration in Himachal Pradesh is significant as there has been a continuing increase in volume of migration in the state since 1981 (Table 1). Number of migrants enumerated in Himachal Pradesh in census year 2001 was 1.85 times higher than that reported during the census of 1981.

Table I
Himachal Pradesh
Total Population and Interstate Migrants, 1981-2001

Census Year	Total Population	Migrant Population
1981	4,280,818	189,949
1991	5,170,877	236,830
2001	6,077,900	350,834

Source: Census of India, 1981, Census of India 1991 & Census of India 2001.

A closer analysis of data reveals that whole state does not have the same patterns of migration (Tables 2 and 3). There are variations in patterns of migration in different districts of the state which follow the contours of relief and development. An attempt has been made in this study to bring out these variations in patterns of migration at district level and reasons associated therewith.

Census of India is the most dependable source of data on any population attribute in India including migration. In this

context, census data for census years 1991 and 2001 have been analyzed to underline the patterns of interstate in-migration in Himachal Pradesh. This analysis is based on data on Place of Last Residence.

For the purpose of this study, an interstate in-migrant in Himachal Pradesh is a person whose place of last residence was in any other state/ union territory of India.

Past trends of in-migration in Himachal Pradesh show that the state has not been a preferred destination of migrants; but this trend has witnessed a shift during last two decades because of developmental activities being undertaken in the state. An in-depth study of patterns of in-migration in the study area has been taken up in this research work during the census years 1991 and 2001.

II. PATTERN OF IN-MIGRATION

As per the Census of 1991, out of a total of 5.2 million persons enumerated in Himachal Pradesh, 0.23 million were in-migrants from other states and union territories of India as classified by place of last residence. This constituted 4.58 percent of the total population (Census of India, 1991).

Largest number of in-migrants was enumerated in district Kangra where 23.92 percent of the total in-migrants were reported. District Kangra was part of the erstwhile British province of Punjab. During 1947, state of Punjab was divided between India and Pakistan, and the eastern part which included present day Kangra as well, was Punjab state of India. District Kangra remained a part of Punjab till Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966 was implemented. It was added to Himachal Pradesh in 1966, which was declared a union territory of India and was granted the status of a full-fledged state in 1971. So a large number of people in district Kangra consider themselves to be migrants from Punjab though they have not migrated in actual terms. There was a change in administrative identity of their place of residence. This bunch of people usually reports their place of last residence in Punjab.

District Kangra was followed by districts Solan, Una, Shimla and Sirmour respectively where 17.15 percent, 14.07 percent, 11.23 percent and 10.75 percent of the total in-migrants were

enumerated. Hence these five districts viz. Kangra, Solan, Una, Shimla and Sirmaur received 77.12 percent of the total in-migrants in the state.

Districts Solan and Una were also a part of Punjab till 1966. Some parts of Sirmaur were also included in Punjab till reorganization which is present day Haryana. Apart from locational and evolutionary factors, in case of district Sirmaur there is a historical and religious factor governing higher volume of interstate migration. Paonta Sahib in district Sirmaur is an important historical and religious place for Sikhs. Famous *Gurdwara¹ Sri Paonta Sahib* is located in this town. Tenth *Guru* of Sikhs Sri Guru Gobind Singh stayed in this town during 1685-1688 AD. He wrote *Dasham Granth²* at Paonta Sahib only. So, this place is of immense religious significance to Sikhs. So, a large volume of Sikh population is found in Paonta Sahib. They report themselves to be *Punjabis*. Although they have now become residents of Himachal Pradesh in technical terms; but they call themselves to be *Punjabis* to preserve their historical association with Punjab from where their ancestors came.

Table II
Himachal Pradesh: Volume of In-migration
1991

State/ District	Total	Percent
Himachal Pradesh	236,830	100.00
Kangra	56,655	23.92
Solan	40,616	17.15
Una	33,326	14.07
Shimla	26,603	11.23
Sirmaur	25,458	10.75
Chamba	14,563	6.15
Hamirpur	13,378	5.65
Mandi	12,181	5.14
Bilaspur	7,372	3.11
Kullu	4,207	1.78
Kinnaur	2,048	0.87
Lahul & Spiti	423	0.18

Source: Computed from:- Census of India 1991

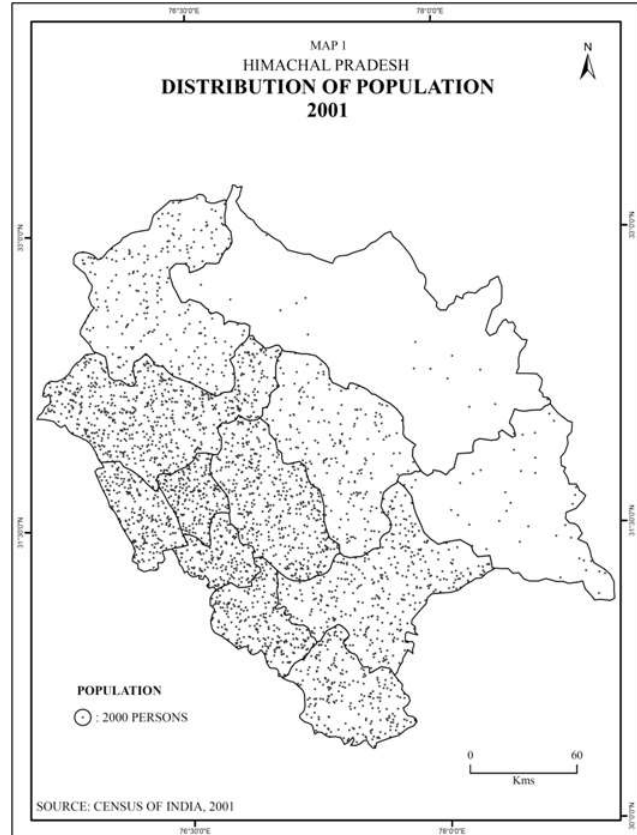
So a large number of people in these districts reported their place of last residence in neighbouring states Punjab and Haryana. Apart from that, these districts are lower semi-hilly districts where accessibility and connectivity is not a problem. Apart from ease of accessibility, these districts share their boundaries with the neighbouring states. So these districts represent social and cultural transition zones. As a result of social and cultural similarity, matrimonial ties between border areas of these districts and neighbouring states are not uncommon. So a large proportion of migrants to these districts

¹ *Gurdwara* is the Place of Worship for Sikhs.

² *Dasham* means tenth. *Granth* is a sacred text of Sikhism. *Dasham Granth* is a religious text of Sikhs composed by the tenth *Guru* Sri Guru Gobind Singh.

from neighbouring states comprises of females who move to their respective spouses' places after marriage as a part of social custom.

In two inaccessible and barren districts, Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti, less than one percent in-migrants were enumerated. A lowest of 423, which was mere 0.18 percent of the total, was enumerated in district Lahul & Spiti. Though the number of in-migrants in District Kinnaur was almost five times as that of district Lahul & Spiti, yet it was mere 0.86 percent of the total in-migrants reported in the state.



In remaining districts i.e. Chamba, Hamirpur, Mandi, Bilaspur and Kullu, proportion of in-migrants was 6.15 percent, 5.65 percent, 5.14 percent, 3.11 percent and 1.78 percent respectively (Table 2).

Table 3 reveals that there were a total of 0.35 million interstate in-migrants in Himachal Pradesh during the census of 2001. This accounted for 5.77 percent of total population of the state. A look at the district wise distribution of in-migrants in the state reveals that largest chunk of in-migrants went to district Solan where 20.35 percent of the total in-migrants arrived. It was followed closely by district Kangra which received 18 percent in-migrants. Fifty percent in-migrants were concentrated in districts Solan, Una and Kangra which

are located in lower semi-hilly tracts of the state. Districts Chamba, Kullu, Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti collectively received 7.71 percent in-migrants. This despite the fact that 57.96 percent of the total geographical area of the state was under these four districts.

Though Lahul & Spiti is the largest district of the state in terms of area covering 24.85 percent of the total geographical area of the state, yet it received only a fraction (0.23 percent) of in-migrants which in absolute numbers was mere 801. Not only Lahul & Spiti but Chamba, Kinnaur and Kullu as well are large districts of the state. Districts Chamba, Kinnaur and Kullu are the second, third and the fifth largest districts of Himachal Pradesh in terms of geographical area covering 11.73 percent, 11.50 percent and 9.88 percent area of the state respectively.

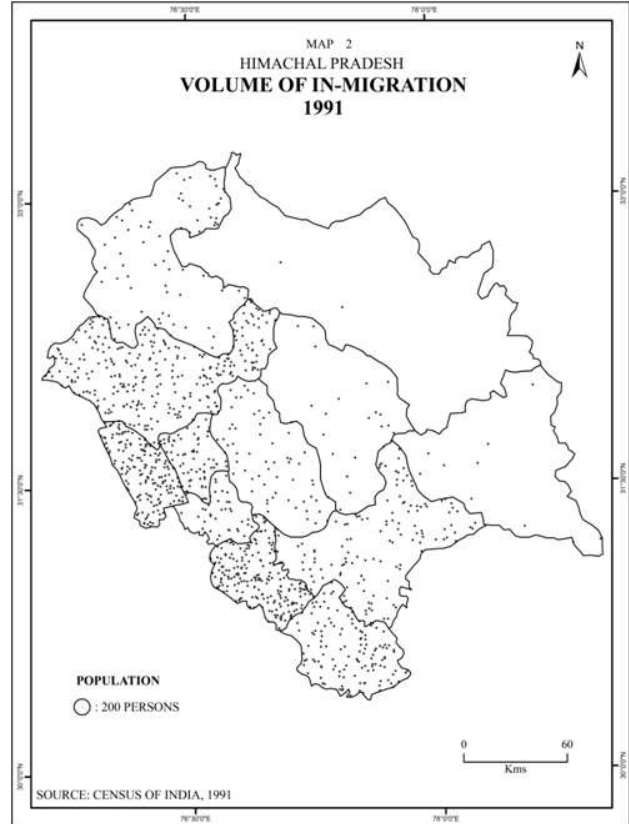
This pattern of distribution of in-migrants is a result of multitude of factors working simultaneously. This is not explicable in terms of a single factor alone. First and foremost determinant is physiography of Himachal Pradesh. Physiography of a place is chief determinant of distribution of population at any place. Analysis of Map 1 shows that distribution of population in Himachal Pradesh follows a defined pattern. Highly mountainous districts lying in the greater Himalayas/ alpine zone (altitude above 4,500 meter above mean sea level) have lowest density of population, districts in inner Himalayas/ mid mountains (altitude 1500-4500 meter above mean sea level) have moderate density of population and largest volume of population resides in districts lying in Shivalik Hills/ outer Himalayas (altitude 350-1500 meter above mean sea level).

Table III
Himachal Pradesh: Volume of In-migration
2001

State/ District	Total	Percent
Himachal Pradesh	350,834	100.00
Solan	71,395	20.35
Kangra	63,624	18.14
Una	47,184	13.45
Bilaspur	41,057	11.70
Shimla	38,340	10.93
Sirmaur	31,674	9.03
Mandi	16,091	4.59
Hamirpur	14,444	4.12
Chamba	13,290	3.79
Kullu	9,081	2.59
Kinnaur	3,853	1.10
Lahul & Spiti	801	0.23

Source: Computed from:- Census of India 2001

Maps 2 and 3 show the distribution of in-migrants in Himachal Pradesh during census years 1991 and 2001 respectively.

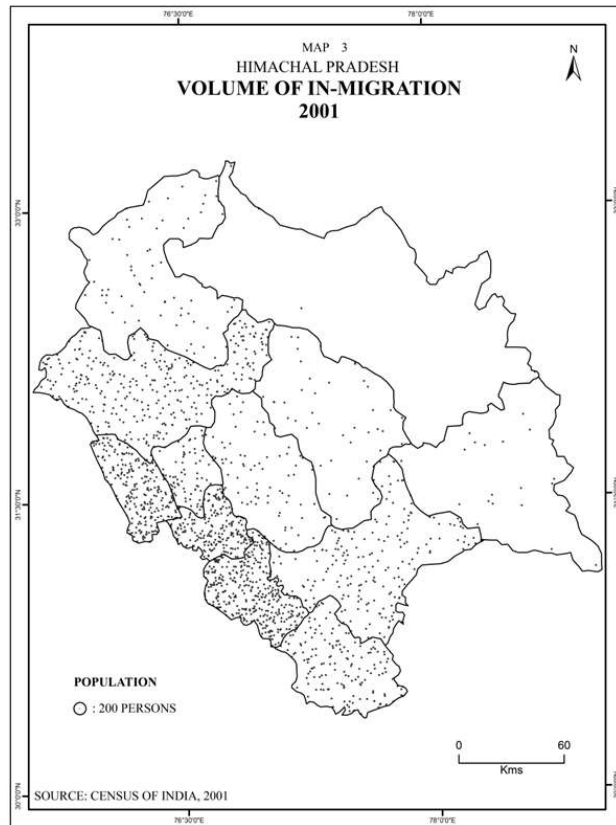


A glimpse at these maps shows that distribution of in-migrants in Himachal Pradesh conformed to distribution of population in general (Map 1). Unexpectedly less volume of in-migration in larger districts of the state is attributable to unfavourable topographical and climatic conditions which result in limited arable land, poor means of transport leading to limited accessibility, and resultant low level of economic development. There are some additional constraints associated with these kinds of physio-geographic regions. For instance, there is almost no scope of developing alternative means of transport with the existing technology.

In addition to the physical barriers put by nature, cultural factors also play a notable part as far as low volume of interstate in-migration in these districts is concerned. A major area of the districts Chamba and Kullu, and whole of districts Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti are inhabited by tribal population. Each of these districts is inhabited by a particular tribe having a distinct culture. These cultural differences, apart from physical factors, are also accountable for less volume of migrants in these districts.

Smaller districts namely Solan, Una and Sirmaur received a good volume of in-migrants. Tables 2 and 3 show that around

forty percent in-migrants were concentrated in these three districts during both the census years under consideration. Another district where a large number of in-migrants were reported was Kangra.



Reasons for concentration of migrants in the four districts are both physio-geographic and economic. These districts are lower semi-hilly districts where accessibility and connectivity is not a problem.

Apart from ease of accessibility, these districts share their boundaries with the neighbouring states. So these districts represent social and cultural transition zones. As a result of social and cultural similarity, matrimonial ties between border areas of these districts and neighbouring states are not uncommon. So a large proportion of migrants to these districts from neighbouring states comprises of females who move to their respective spouses' places after marriage as a part of social custom.

Data presented in Table 4 shows that the neighbouring state Punjab (41.83 percent) was the major contributor of in-migrants to Himachal Pradesh during the census of 2001. Another major contributor was Uttar Pradesh (13.15 percent). Haryana despite being neighbouring state was the third largest

(7.96 percent) sender of migrants to Himachal Pradesh. These three states viz. Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana were reported as place of last residence by more than sixty percent in-migrants in Himachal Pradesh. Seventy five percent migrants came from five states namely Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar and Uttaranchal³. Remaining twenty three states and seven union territories contributed twenty five percent in-migrants to the study area. This shows that in-migration to Himachal Pradesh was predominantly short distance.

The table clearly shows that except district Kinnaur, all the districts of Himachal Pradesh received largest number of in-migrants from neighbouring states. Districts Lahul & Spiti and Sirmour received the highest number of in-migrants from Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana respectively, the respective neighbours of the two districts.

Remaining nine districts received the highest number of migrants from the neighbouring state Punjab. These districts were Chamba (40.65 percent), Kangra (48.91 percent), Kullu (27.92 percent), Mandi (41.48 percent), Hamirpur (36.22 percent), Una (64.07 percent), Bilaspur (87.95 percent), Solan (24.11 percent) and Shimla (22.72 percent). Interestingly in all these districts except Chamba, Punjab was followed by Uttar Pradesh. In district Chamba, Jammu & Kashmir was the second largest migrants sending state on account of neighbourhood.

District Kullu, although an interior and substantially a mountainous district, had larger proportion of migrants from Punjab. Apart from involvement of *Punjabis* in business ventures

, their presence is attributable to *Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji* located at Manikaran. It is a place of pilgrim for Sikhs. Thus, due to religious significance of this place for Sikhs, considerable population of Sikhs is enumerated here reporting themselves to be *Punjabis*.

District Kinnaur shares its boundary with another neighbouring state Uttaranchal/ Uttarakhand and has an international border with Tibet. Despite forming state border with Uttaranchal, highest number of interstate in-migrants in district Kinnaur came from Jharkhand. Kinnaur is highly mountainous and completely tribal. More number of migrants from far flung Jharkhand than nearby Uttaranchal can be explained in terms of higher intensity of push given by poverty ridden Jharkhand.

³ Uttaranchal was the name of present day state of Uttarakhand. It was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and became twenty seventh state of the Indian Union on 9th November 2000. It was renamed as Uttarakhand in accordance with *The Uttaranchal (alteration of name) Bill 2006* on 1st January 2007.



**Table IV
Himachal Pradesh: Volume of In-Migration from other states of India, 2001**

Source: Computed from:- Census of India 2001, Data available on CD.

III. CONCLUSIONS

It is apparent that patterns of migration varied significantly between different districts of Himachal Pradesh. On the basis of amount of migration, three zones are clearly identifiable in maps 2 and 3. These zones coincide with physiographic divisions of Himachal Pradesh and patterns of distribution of

population (Map 1). Lower districts of Himachal Pradesh, parts of which are plain and larger proportion is semi hilly, reported larger number of migrants from other states/ union territories of India. These districts are Solan, Kangra, Una and Bilaspur. These are the districts which formed a part of Punjab before Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966 came into force. Ease of accessibility, physical proximity to neighbouring states and

Last Residence		Person	
Himachal Pradesh			
All States/ UTs		350,834	
Punjab		41.83	
Uttar Pradesh		13.15	
Haryana		7.96	
Bihar		6.43	
Uttranchal/ Uttarakhand		4.88	
Remaining States/ UTs		25.74	
Chamba		Una	
All States/ UTs	13,290	All States/ UTs	47,184
Punjab	40.65	Punjab	64.07
Jammu & Kashmir	17.47	Uttar Pradesh	10.50
Uttar Pradesh	8.51	Chhatisgarh	5.50
Remaining States/ UTs	33.37	Remaining States/ UTs	19.93
Kangra		Bilaspur	
All States/ UTs	63,624	All States/ UTs	41,057
Punjab	48.91	Punjab	87.95
Uttar Pradesh	7.91	Uttar Pradesh	2.25
Jammu & Kashmir	7.37	Bihar	2.06
Remaining States/ UTs	35.81	Remaining States/ UTs	7.75
Lahul & Spiti		Solan	
All States/ UTs	801	All States/ UTs	71,395
Jammu & Kashmir	13.61	Punjab	24.11
Punjab	13.23	Uttar Pradesh	21.05
Chandigarh	0.87	Bihar	13.23
Remaining States/ UTs	72.28	Remaining States/ UTs	41.60
Kullu		Sirmaur	
All States/ UTs	9,081	All States/ UTs	31,674
Punjab	27.92	Haryana	30.78
Uttar Pradesh	14.17	Uttranchal/ Uttarakhand	21.45
Jammu & Kashmir	10.43	Uttar Pradesh	18.76
Remaining States/ UTs	47.48	Remaining States/ UTs	29.01
Mandi		Shimla	
All States/ UTs	16,091	All States/ UTs	38,340
Punjab	41.48	Punjab	22.72
Uttar Pradesh	14.75	Uttar Pradesh	16.71
Haryana	6.68	Uttranchal/ Uttarakhand	10.62
Remaining States/ UTs	37.08	Remaining States/ UTs	49.95
Hamirpur		Kinnaur	
All States/ UTs	14,444	All States/ UTs	3,853
Punjab	36.22	Jharkhand	24.47
Uttar Pradesh	16.87	Uttar Pradesh	13.26
Rajasthan	6.77	Punjab	11.73
Remaining States/ UTs	40.14	5 Remaining States/ UTs	50.53



comparatively favourable topography for the development of industrial & urban centers which has generated jobs; are the factors that favour migration to these parts of the state in comparison to the other parts where conditions are not that conducive. Districts lying in the mid-Himalayas where population density and distance from the state boundary are moderate, registered moderate volume of migrants. These districts because of moderate altitude offer only a moderate number of employment opportunities. Friction of distance from the state boundary also reduces the volume of migration. These districts are Shimla, Sirmaur, Mandi and Hamirpur. Mountainous districts lying in alpine zone of Himalayas had only a few migrants. High mountains and extremely cold weather during most parts of the year do not offer much of a pull to the migrants. Added to this is the geographical isolation and cultural distinction which further deters the migration to these districts namely Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahul & Spiti.

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