

Abstract

Elderly Migration in India: Pattern, Characteristics and their Reasons for Migration

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Introduction: With the increase of the old age population in India, is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the twenty-first century. According to the census of India 2011, 104 million people have 60 above age group which increases 5.6% in 1961 to 8.6% in 2011 to the total population of India. And it will reach 20% of the total population by 2050 (UN projection). 53 million people of 60+ are migrants by census 2011, which is 51% of the total elder population that means half of the elder populations of India are migrants. The older population face many challenges by migration in health care and social welfare systems, which require adjusting policies in both departure and destination communities. The living environment of older people presents both push and pull factors that could have influenced their migration decision. Identifying these factors will help policymakers to understand the issues confronting older migrants and in creating ageing-friendly initiatives that help older adults successfully age in place.

Objectives: (1) To examine the pattern and characteristics of elderly migration. (2) To examine the reasons for elderly migration in India

Methodology: Census data of India used in this study for the examining and exploring of elderly migration in India. Census of India provides the data on migration in D series of tables. Indian census relies on data every ten year time interval and adds two questions related to migration, one is the place of birth (POB) and the second is the place of the last residence (POLR). According to census procedure, if the POB or POLR is different from the place of enumeration (POE), of any person at census time then a person is classified as migrants. Simple statistics like rate, percentage, and ratio used in the present study, also used Arc Gis for making maps. For the examining of net migration rate using the following formula

$$\text{Net migration rate} = \frac{(\text{In migration} - \text{Out migration})}{\text{Mid year population}} \times 1000$$

Where,

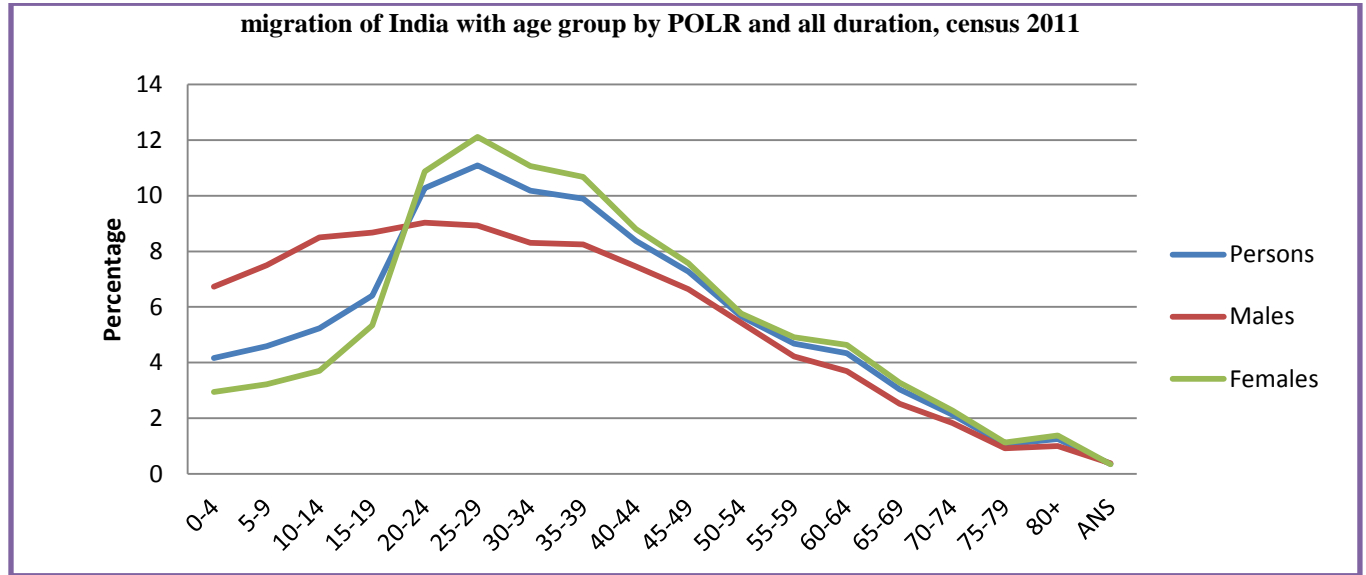
Net migration = (in-migration- out-migration)

Mid-year population= (population at the start of the year + population at end of the year)/ 2

Results: More than half of the elder populations in India are migrants, but it is less than young age migration in terms of total numbers (Fig.1). The economic characteristics show that 70% of migrants are non-workers only 23% of migrants are main workers (Fig.2), which means the later life migrants characteristics total different to young age migrants. The dominating reasons for

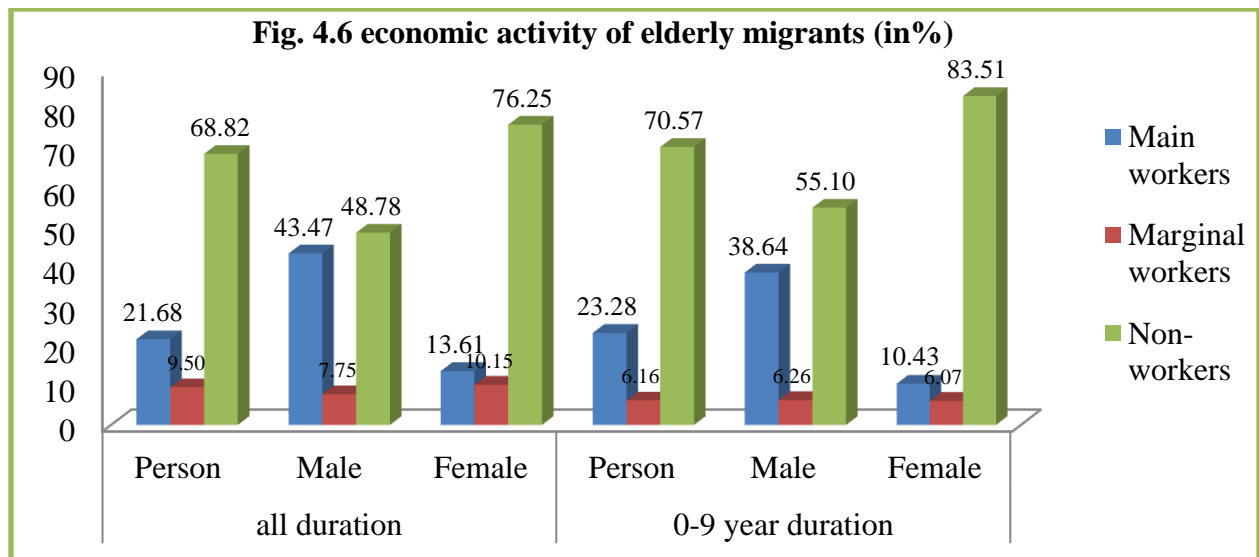
elderly migration are moved with household, others and marriage (Fig.3). Fig.4 shows the net elderly migration rate in India. The migration at later-life is determined by later-life movement, so a better understanding of elderly migration of any particular region is helpful for policymakers in various aspects of development.

Fig. 1 migration of India with age group by POLR and all duration, census 2011



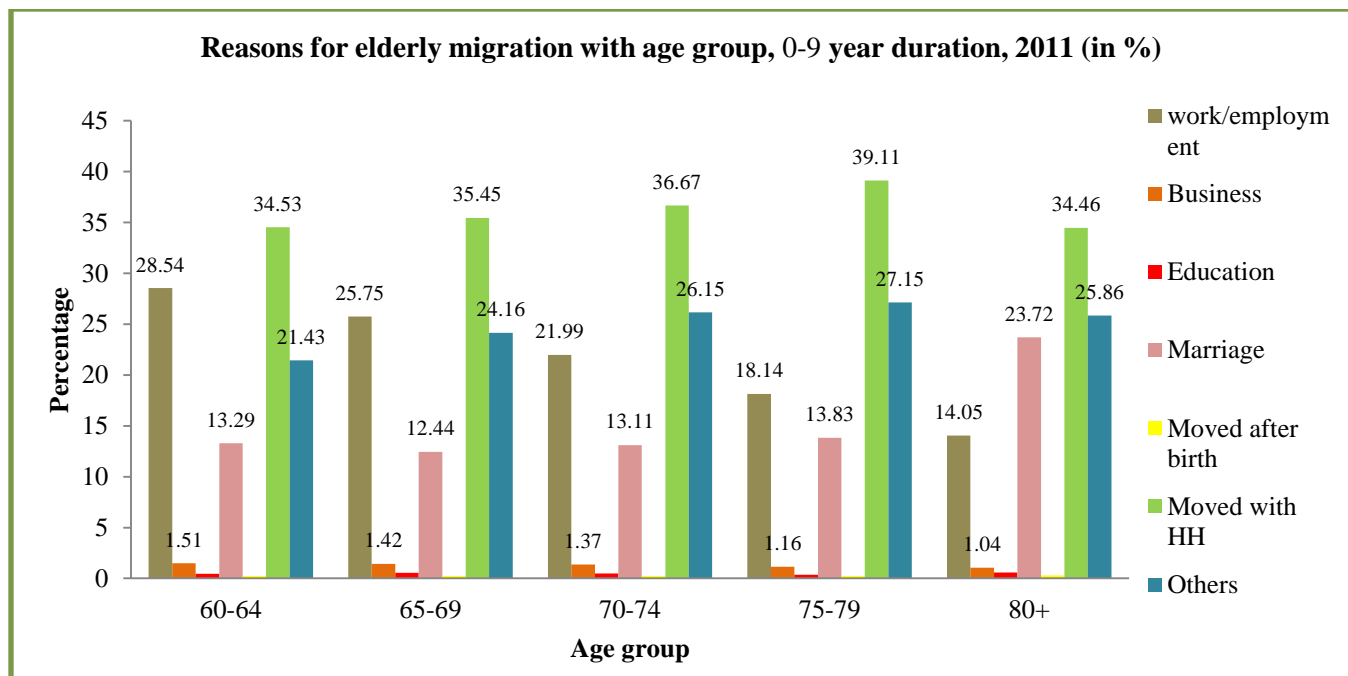
Source: Census of India, D2 table, 2011 and 2001

Fig. 2 economic activity of elderly migrants (in %)



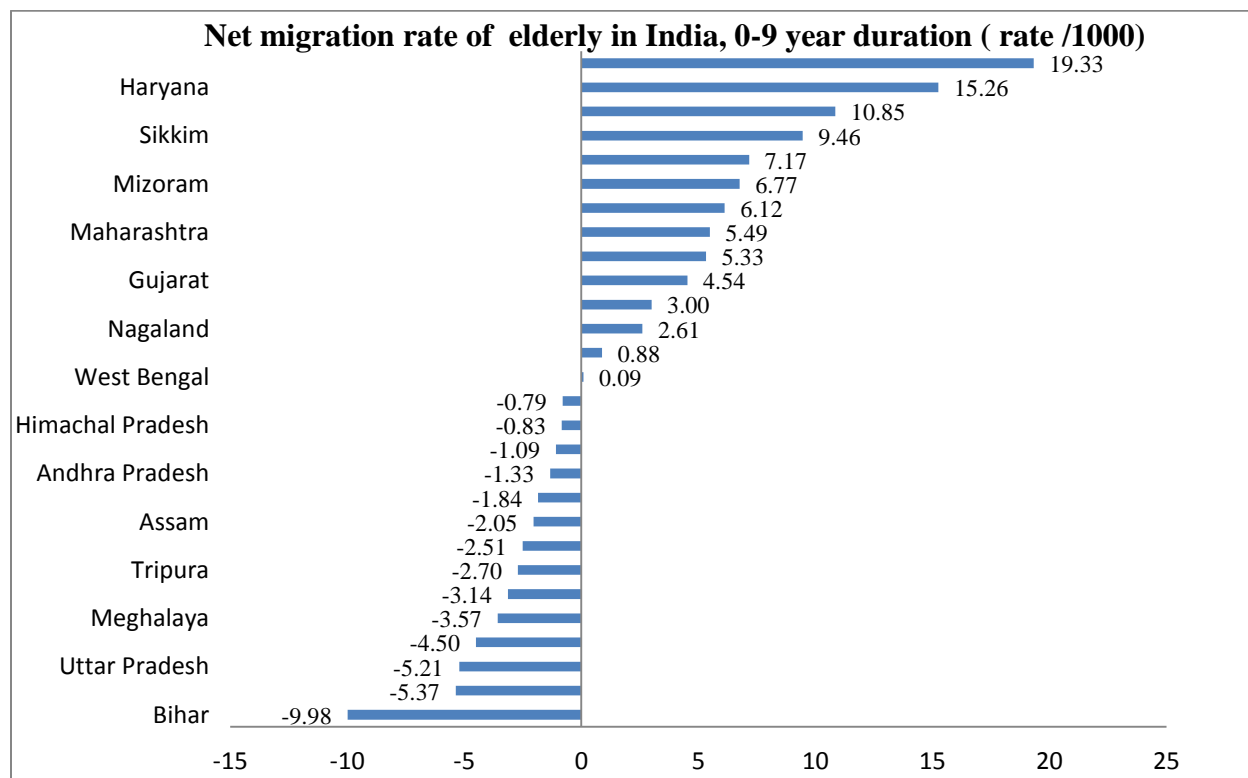
Source: Census of India, D6 table, 2011

Fig. 3 Reasons for elderly migration with age group, 0-9 year duration, 2011 (in %)



Source: Census of India, D5 table, 2011

Fig. 4 net migration rate of elderly in India (rate/1000)



Source: Census of India, D12 table census 2011, (union tertiary not included)

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