Pattern and Determinants of Urban Male Out-Migrants from Bijnor District, Uttar Pradesh

Mashkoor AHMAD

Abstract. The present study aims to explore the patterns and the determinants of male out-migration from towns of Bijnor district (Uttar Pradesh). Besides, efforts have been made to discuss how social networking, decision to migrate and source of information helped in facilitating migration. The study is based on both primary as well as secondary sources of data. The primary data has been obtained using a comprehensive household schedule during February–May, 2011. The result revealed that urban areas of Bijnor district have emerged as highly out-migrating areas. Due to strategic location of Bijnor district in relation to other state, inter-state out-migration has emerged has the dominant from of migration. Interestingly international out-migration towards the Gulf countries was found to be second most prevalent among the males because urban areas of the district are highly Muslim dominated. The lack of employment opportunities, undesirable work and low wages were found as the main factors determining male out-migration from the district. Social networking has played a significant role in facilitating the process of male out-migration from the study area. The result of logistic regression revealed the variation in the propensity of migration by religion, caste, family type and number of males in the household.

Keywords: *out-migration, social networks, source of information, male migrants*

Introduction

Presently some of the most burgeoning issues in the world and India as well are associated with migration. However, in India, most of the studies on migration have focussed either on the problems of in-migration in big cities or out-migration from rural areas. Therefore, the problem of out-migration from small and medium size towns of under developed states remains largely unexplored. It is in this context that the present study aims to explore the patterns and the determinants of male out-migration from towns of Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh. Besides, efforts have been made to discuss how social networking, decision to

migrate and source of information facilitating migration. Being situated in the highly fertile Gangetic plain, Bijnor district agriculturally is very advanced but the industrial base is not sound enough to absorb and sustain even its own urban population. Most of the towns of the district are small and medium size towns with low level of industrialisation, inadequate employment opportunities and predominantly inhabited by Muslim population (67 percent as per Census of India, 2011) who face very high poverty and unemployment in urban areas.

Data Base, Sampling Framework and Methodology

To fulfil the objectives of the present study, the data have been obtained from both the secondary and primary sources but the main emphasis has been given to primary sources of data. Secondary data from Census of India 2001 and 2011 has been used to show various social and demographic aspects of the district. Sample survey was conducted, during February–May 2011, with the help of a well-structured household schedule to obtain primary information about various aspects of migration from selected households of the five towns of the Bijnor district.

For detailed analysis of the process of urban male out-migration, a total of five towns namely Noorpur, Haldaur, Jalalabad, Nagina and Sahaspur have been selected on the basis of purposive sampling. There are five *tahsils* (subdivision) in the district. One town from each *tahsil* has been chosen keeping in view population growth, size and geographical location of the town. From each selected town, two wards have been chosen on the basis of simple random sampling. From each selected ward of towns, 15 percent households have been surveyed for the present study on the basis of systematic random sampling. In all, 400 households have been surveyed from selected wards of the five towns.

Out of 400 households, around 44 percent of the households (175) have emerged as out-migrating households, i.e. from these households at least one male member was found to be an out-migrant either within India or outside India, while nearly 56 percent households were non out-migrating households (225). However, the percentage of out-migrating household to the total sampled households varied from town to town: the highest being in Sahaspur (49 percent) and the lowest in Haldaur town (37 percent). Various primary studies revealed varying percentage of out-migrating households for example, Haberfeld *et al.* (1999) in their study in

Dungarpur district of Rajasthan, have found that around 55 percent of the households were having at least one out-migrant member.

For collecting the required information on migration and out-migrants a modified definition of household has been adopted. A household is usually a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen. Persons in such a household may be related or unrelated or a mix of both related and unrelated. The modified definition of household however includes those who live outside the town but claim the household to be their own. Persons of this category work outside the town and often send remittances to left behind family members. Such persons are called the migrated members of the household and such households are known as out-migrating households. Therefore, completely out-migrated entire households have not been included in the present study. Simple statistical methods have been applied for the analysis of data. Regression analysis has been used to investigate the propensity of out-migration by religion, caste, family type and the household size.

Geographical and Socio-Economic Background of the Study Area

Bijnor, a district in the western part of Uttar Pradesh, lies between 29°01'10" and 29°47'44" north latitudes; and 77°59'23" and 78°56'45" east longitudes. It occupies the north-western part of the Moradabad division. The total area of Bijnor district is 4561 sq. km. The district has been divided into 5 *tahsils* and 11 development blocks (The Encyclopedic District Gazetteers, 1998).

As stated earlier, the present study is an attempt to explore the process of male out-migration from urban areas of Bijnor district which is in spite of being situated in the most developed, industrialised and urbanised region (Western part) of Uttar Pradesh remained industrially one of the weak districts in the region. However, Bijnor district is situated in the highly fertile Gangetic plain therefore agriculturally it has emerged as one of the developed districts in Uttar Pradesh, thereby, most of the population depends on agriculture and allied activities. But it should be noted that agriculture can support the rural population to an extent but the urban population cannot be supported in a sustainable way. Therefore urban areas of Bijnor district have emerged as highly out-migrating, partly due inadequate of industrialisation, lack of business activities and partly due its nearness to other developed and industrial and

developed cities within and across Uttar Pradesh—the state in which the district is situated.

Interestingly, the strategic geographical location of Bijnor district has encouraged its male population to migrate to different states of India because many states and union territories are very close and well connected by rail and roads to various towns of Bijnor district. Hence, the people of the district have enjoyed this geographical advantage in the migration process. Various states and union territories like Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh and Rajasthan are in the near vicinity of district.

As per the Census of India 2011, the total population of Bijnor district is 3682713. Around one-fourth of the total population is housed in urban areas while about three-fourths is distributed in rural areas. The district recorded 23.7 percent urban population growth rate (rural population growth rate being 28.9 percent was higher than the urban population growth rate) during 1991-2001 which is one of the lowest urban population growth rates among all the districts of Uttar Pradesh and is much lower than the state average of 32.98 percent. During 2001-2011, the urban population growth rate in the district further declined to around 21.5 percent as against 28.8 percent in the urban areas of Uttar Pradesh. In 2001, there were 21 towns in Bijnor district and none of them was having the class I status. Majority of towns in the district have shown declining population growth during 1991-2001 in comparison to the previous decade. Only five towns reported a small increase in population growth rate of 2 to 8 percent during the same period. Very slow and declining population growth rate in towns of Bijnor district may be attributed to out-migration of the population. Besides, there are certain other factors that also indicate that urban areas of Bijnor district are experiencing out-migration. One of the features that results from out-migration from towns is that they are 'characterized by comparatively higher sex ratios' (Premi, 1980). According to the Census of India 2001, the urban areas of Bijnor district also reported a comparatively higher sex ratio of 904 in contrast to the sex ratio of 876 females per thousand males in Uttar Pradesh. In 2011, the sex ratio has further increased 913 in urban areas of Bijnor district against 894 in urban areas of Uttar Pradesh. It has generally been accepted that the urban and industrialised areas register low sex ratio due to male selective in-migration. But the out-migrating areas show higher ratio of females than males. Higher sex ratio in

urban areas of Bijnor district may be attributed to male selective out-migration.

Bijnor is one of the 'sick' districts of western Uttar Pradesh in respect of industrial well being and progress (Census Handbook, Bijnor District, 2001). Premi (1980) has observed that a combination of weak economic base and intentional neglect by local and national government are responsible for out-migration from small and medium towns. So is case with towns of Bijnor district which are unable to sustain and absorb even their own male population in the secondary and tertiary occupation. Male population from urban areas of the district, thereby, choose to out-migrate towards other regions, especially out sides the state. . Kundu (1994) has pointed out medium and small size towns are noted to be delinked from the national system leading to their slower and fluctuating demographic and economic growth rate. Moreover with the launching of economic liberalisation, development in India has adversely affected the growth of the small and medium size towns in the country. Their economic base seems to have become weaker over time (Kundu and Bhatia, 2002).

Moreover, Bijnor district is located in the vicinity of many developed and industrialised states that attract migrants. A considerable part of the district's boundary coincides with Uttarakhand state which is emerging as one of the developed states and hence attracts population from Bijnor district. Delhi and Haryana are about within 200 km from various towns of the district. Apart from this, Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh are also nearly within a 400 km distance band. Therefore the out-migration of male population from the district to other neighbouring states and districts is motivated by both push and pull forces.

Literacy is of paramount importance among the indicators of social development. Thus the level of literacy reflects the social and economic conditions of a particular area. In Bijnor district though the total literacy rate (58.10 percent) was slightly higher than the total literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh (56.26 percent) in 2001 (literacy rate in U.P. was very low when compared to the other developed states in India). In urban areas of Bijnor district the male literacy rate was only 67.28 percent while in urban areas of U.P. male literacy rate was as high as 76.76 percent. This clearly indicates that urban areas of Bijnor district are educationally very backward. It is very surprising to note that urban male literacy rate (67.28 percent) in the district was lower than the rural

male literacy rate (69.27 percent). As per the Census of India 2011, urban male literacy rate (72.59 percent) remained lower than the rural male literacy (77.91 Percent).

Map 1: Location Bijnor District in Uttar Pradesh
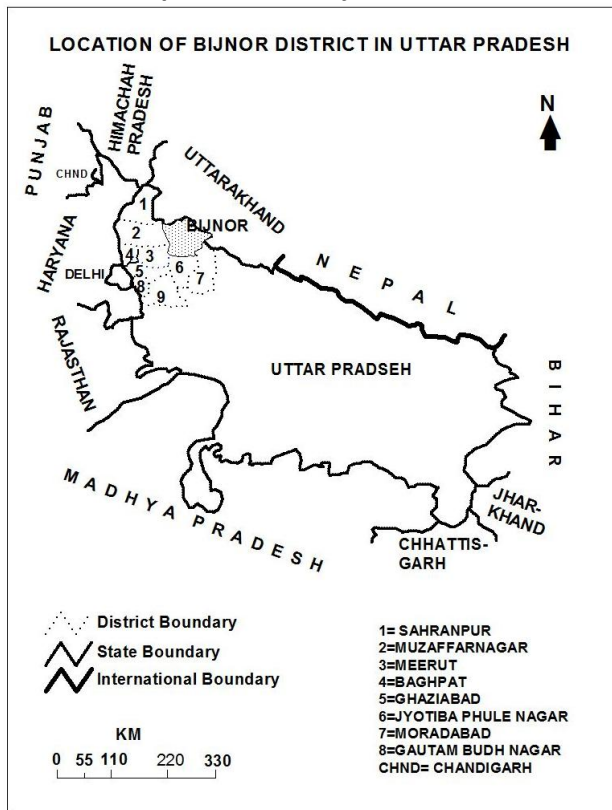
Source: Prepared by the Author

Both Bijnor district and Uttar Pradesh have very rich and diverse religious composition. But it is very surprising to see that the religious composition of Bijnor district and Uttar Pradesh is very different from each other in the rural and urban areas. As per Census of India 2011, in Uttar Pradesh, Hindu population constitute about 80 percent of all the population and Muslim population accounts only about 19 percent of all the population.

Contrary to this, in Bijnor district, Hindus constitute 55 percent whereas Muslim population comprises 43 percent of all religious communities. Thus, there is higher concentration of Muslims in Bijnor district. Further, it is very interesting to see that in urban areas of Bijnor district Muslims constitute 67

percent while in urban areas of Uttar Pradesh the proportion of the Muslims is only 32 percent (Table 1-a). Various studies including Sachar Committee Report (2006) have revealed that socio-economically Muslims are one of the backward communities especially in urban areas in India and in some of the areas their conditions are more backward than that of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Therefore they migrate to other places in search of livelihoods. The Muslim population has social networking with Gulf counties and thus many people migrate to these countries for economic reasons.

Table 1-a: Population by Religion in Bijnor District in Comparison to Uttar Pradesh, 2011 (In Percent)

Religious Community	Bijnor District			Uttar Pradesh		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Hindu	55.18	63.24	31.15	79.73	83.66	66.00
Muslim	43.04	34.85	67.48	19.26	15.55	32.20
Others	1.78	1.91	1.38	1.01	0.78	1.80
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculations based on Census of India, 2011, Series C, Table C1.

Table 1-b: Population by Religion in Sampled Towns of Bijnor District, 2011 (In Percent)

Religion	Jalalabad	Haldaur	Nagina	Sahaspur	Noorpur	Urban Bijnor District
Hindu	8.80	73.64	29.06	8.54	27.78	31.15
Muslim	89.97	23.43	70.53	91.16	62.87	67.48
Others	1.23	2.93	0.41	0.30	9.34	1.38
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculations based on Census of India, 2011, Series C, Table C1.

Pattern of Out-Migration from Bijnor District

Presently a huge number of male population out-migrates across the border of their country and many more migrate within the national boundaries. In India too, people migrate for a variety of reasons. In this context, out-migration of the male population from urban areas of Uttar Pradesh (which is the most populous and one of the poorest states in India)–the state in which the district is located is very common and thus its Bijnor district is no exception. Out-migration from one area to the other shapes the population contours of various regions and thus evolves certain type of spatial pattern which needs to

be explored to learn about the distributional aspects of the migrants. In other words by exploring the spatial pattern of migrants we can investigate where various migrants are located and what type of pattern they have created. Pattern and direction of migration to some extent are determined and guided by regional disparities and previous pattern of migration, social networking and influence placed by return migrants and of course the most important the availability of socio-economic opportunities. Redistribution of population through the process of migration can have significant ramifications on the spatial patterning of various socio-economic and demographic phenomena and the repercussion of these may be observed long after the migration event has taken place (White and Woods, 1980). In the present time, migration has been adopted as an important livelihood strategy by poor groups across the world and not just a response to shocks. Besides, the globalisation has enhanced the process of migration in search of survival, fulfilment and a better life for migrants as well as their families (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005; Devi *et al.*, 2009). A large number of households opt to send one or more male members to other places to escape poverty.

Migration defining boundary is one of the important criterion for the classification of migrants. Since migration involves the change of residence across a migration defining boundary which may be a *tahsil* boundary, district boundary, state boundary or a national boundary, hence on the basis of these boundaries all out-migrants from Bijnor district have been classified into four categories namely intra-district (within Bijnor district), inter-district or intra-state out-migrants (from Bijnor district to other districts within Uttar Pradesh), inter-state out-migrants (from Bijnor district to other states in India) and international out-migrants (emigrants). It is interesting to note that most of the urban out-migrants (internal) constituting 97.80 percent from Bijnor district have migrated to urban areas while only 2.20 percent have moved to the rural areas. Above mentioned four types of migration have been discussed below.

Intra-District Male Out-Migration

As stated above, intra-district migration involves the movement of people within the boundary of the district. In case of male out-migration from urban areas, this type of migration is not very significant however, in this type migration people especially move from rural to urban areas. From Table 2 it is

evident that a very insignificant proportion, of the male out-migrants (3.58 percent) out-migrated from one part to another within the boundary of Bijnor district (intra-district out-migration). This may be attributed to the fact that all the towns in district are of small and medium size and there is very little employment opportunities in these towns, and therefore, people from these towns migrate to other big industrial and urban areas, especially outside Uttar Pradesh. The district being located in the fertile Gangetic plain has evolved in agriculture based economy and thus remained industrially underdeveloped. However, various towns of the district have grown as marketing centres for their rural hinterland and in many towns a very large proportion of population engage in agriculture. Therefore, there are meagre employment prospects in these towns. If at all there are employment opportunities, they are seasonal and provide low wages and which in many cases do not match with the skills of the urban people. For example, there are many sugar mills in various towns of the district but the employment opportunities in these sugar mills are seasonal and in most cases do not suit to urban and educated people because sugar cane industry is predominantly run by unskilled, semiskilled and uneducated labourers. Further, the wages are not enough for the urban people. However, due to inadequate employment opportunities, many urban people work in these sugar mills also.

Thus due the dearth of employment opportunities, male population of the urban areas of the district prefer to migrate to other areas having employment potentials, business and educational opportunities. Out-migration from urban areas is quite different from rural areas. Usually, a very large proportion of the male population from rural areas migrates to urban areas within the district or to other districts within the same state. However, this is not the case with Bijnor district. Urban out-migrants can bear comparatively higher cost of migration in terms of travel and other expenses and out-migrants have higher level of educational attainment compared to rural people and hence they can migrate to distant places in other states or even to other countries.

Inter-District Male Out-Migration

Inter-district out-migration (movement of people from one district to another district within the state) from the study area was also not very significant as only 12.90 percent of the total male out-migrants from Bijnor

district out-migrated to other districts within Uttar Pradesh. As discussed earlier, Bijnor district is situated in the western region of Uttar Pradesh which is the most developed among the four regions of the state. Hence, majority of the inter-district out-migrants from the Bijnor district confined themselves within the western region especially in the districts such as Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Aligarh, Moradabad, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar.

Table 2: Type of Migration from Surveyed Towns of Bijnor District (In Percent), 2011

Type of Out-Migration	Noorpur (	Haldaur	Jalalababd	Nagina	Sahaspur	Total
Intra-District	5.17	7.32	2.38	1.32	3.23	3.58
Inter-District	10.34	7.32	19.05	11.84	16.13	12.90
Inter-State	75.86	75.61	59.52	63.16	54.84	65.23
International	8.62	9.76	19.05	23.68	25.81	18.28
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculations based on Field Survey Conducted from February to May, 2011

Inter-State Out-Migration from Bijnor District

Inter-state out-migration contributed to about 65 percent of the total out-migration from the sampled towns of Bijnor district. However, this varied from town to town: the highest being from Noorpur (75.86 Percent) closely followed by Haldaur (75.61 Percent) and the lowest from Sahaspur (54.84 Percent). Pattern of inter-state male out-migration from urban areas of Bijnor district were highly uneven and directed toward the developed industrialised and urbanised states. Under development in terms of lack of industrialisation, scarcity of social amenities and facilities such as institutions of higher, technical and professional education, inadequate and uncertain power and water supply etc. in the urban areas of Bijnor district and its strategic location in the vicinity of other states like Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh have prompted its people to migrate to these states and a large proportion of the male population from the district migrate to other countries also.

Strategic geographical location of Bijnor district has encouraged its people to migrate to different states of India because many states and union

territories are very close and well connected by rail and roads to Bijnor district. Hence, the people of the district have enjoyed this geographical advantage in the migration process. Various states and UTs like Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh and Rajasthan are in the near vicinity of district. These states and UTs are comparatively developed and easily provide employment to people, they, therefore, exert a pull on the population of Bijnor district. The pattern of urban male out-migration from Bijnor district is slightly different from the rest of Uttar Pradesh because as per Census of India for entire Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra was the chief destination, whereas in case of Bijnor district it was Delhi that attracted the largest proportion of male migrants from the district. However, Maharashtra has evolved as the second most preferred destination and was closely followed by Uttarakhand. Delhi and Maharashtra are the traditional destinations for the male migrants from Bijnor district but recently after the creation of Uttarakhand in 2001, it has emerged as one of the most attractive destinations for the male migrants from urban areas of Bijnor district. Moreover, Uttarakhand has locational advantage as it shares its boundary with Bijnor district and many cities of Uttarakhand are in the near vicinity and have emerged as growing cities after the formation of Uttarakhand. Therefore, Uttarakhand is increasingly becoming one the most preferred destinations for urban male out-migrants from Bijnor district.

The percentage distribution of inter-state male out-migrants from the surveyed towns of Bijnor district has been displayed in Table 3. From the table it is clear that the most prominent destination for inter-state urban male out-migrants from Bijnor district was identified as Delhi. It is very close to the towns of Bijnor district and requires all types of labour force due to its diversified nature of functions. Therefore, a very large section of the population from the district chose to migrate to Delhi. More than one-fourth of the total inter-state male out-migrants from Bijnor district moved to Delhi. Social networking plays a key role in selecting a destination by the out-migrants. Maharashtra was the second most important destination for the urban males of Bijnor district. About 18 percent of the total inter-state out-migrants from the district preferred Maharashtra as their destination. Though Maharashtra is very far from Bijnor district which is located in the north-western part of Uttar Pradesh, but due to the unavailability of employment opportunities in the district the male population is compelled to out-migrate to this far away located state. As

already stated, Maharashtra is one of the most industrialised states of India and thus acts to pull male population from less urbanised, less industrialised and backward areas of various states. Uttar Pradesh and Bijnor district in particular are no exception to it.

Uttarakhand has evolved as the third main destination for inter-state urban male out-migrants (15 percent) from Bijnor district and was followed by Haryana (11.54 percent) Punjab (8 percent), Chandigarh (5.56 Percent). Rajasthan attracted 4.44 percent of the total out-migrants. All these states are also in the near vicinity of Bijnor district and therefore many young people of Bijnor district facing the problem of unemployment at origin, chose to move to these nearby states. While around only one-tenth of the total urban male out-migrants from Bijnor district moved to other states of India not mentioned above.

Table 3: Pattern of Male Out-Migration from Urban Bijnor District to Various States (In Percent), 2011

State of Destination	Noorpur	Haldaur	Jalalababd	Nagina	Sahaspur	Total
Delhi	22.73	22.58	28.00	31.25	35.29	28.02
Maharashtra	25.00	9.68	20.00	16.67	14.71	17.58
Uttarakhand	13.64	22.58	16.00	12.5	11.76	14.84
Haryana	11.36	16.13	8.00	10.42	11.76	11.54
Punjab	9.09	6.45	12.00	8.33	5.88	8.24
Chandigarh	4.55	12.9	4.00	4.17	2.94	5.49
Rajasthan	6.82	0.00	0.00	6.25	5.88	4.40
Other states	6.82	9.68	12.00	10.42	11.76	9.89
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Calculations based on Field Survey Conducted from February to May, 2011

Emigration from Bijnor District

As stated earlier, that urban areas of Bijnor district are predominantly Muslims dominated. Muslims have a very high tendency emigrating towards Gulf country. It is also evident in Bijnor district round 18 Percent of the out-migrants were recorded to have been working in other countries. This is very high when compared to the proportion of international out-migration of the urban male out-migrants (5 percent) from Uttar Pradesh (NSS 64th Round, 2007-08). The proportion of international out-migrants varied from town to town.

The lowest proportion of international out-migrants was found from Noorpur (8.62 percent) while the proportion of international out-migrants from Sahaspur was as high as 25.81 percent. The pattern of international out-migration from the district was highly directed towards the Gulf countries, specifically Saudi Arabia. Muslim population usually migrate to Saudi Arabia because of religious and cultural factors. However, the nature of this migration was entirely different from the one to the industrialised countries. Majority of the migrants are unskilled or semiskilled (Sekher, 1997) and have a very low educational status.

Determinants of Out-Migration

As mentioned earlier, majority of the towns in Bijnor district are small and medium in size and have evolved as agriculture dependent towns. Presently, they are therefore unable to support the growing modern demands of their population based on agricultural dominant economy. Hence, they are experiencing very high male out-migration in search of livelihood. Lack of economic opportunities and social amenities and facilities compels the population to leave for elsewhere within and outside the national border. In different towns various factors have motivated to out-migrate. For instance, Nagina town was famous for its handicrafts but during the last few years this art has been abandoned by many workers due to the replacement of the handicraft items by plastic and electronic products from China that are much cheaper than the wooden items produced in Nagina. Besides, some of the people associated with the export of the handicraft items pointed out that the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre (WTC) in the USA has disconnected their linkages to the importing countries and thus trade network could not be maintained or revived again. Besides, increase in wood prices and stringent laws regulating the cutting of the trees from the nearby forests have also affected the handicraft industry of the town, thus forcing people to out-migrate. Handloom and power loom industry was also common in many towns of the district. However, it has also declined very rapidly due to unavailability of raw materials resulting in high cost of raw material. Moreover, introduction of new sophisticated machines in big cities has put a brake on the handloom sector in small and medium size towns. Therefore all these problems have motivated the male population to out-migrate to other areas. Both these activities namely handicraft and handloom industry were dominated by Muslim population and therefore their decline has mainly

affected the Muslim population consequently forcing them to migrate to other areas.

Though there may be very many reasons to migrate, yet economic hardships and poverty often create strong compelling factors for out-migration. A migrant from an impoverished backward region may be attracted to more prosperous regions because of better public facilities and amenities, higher salaries, more prosperous business, more employment opportunities etc. (Parida and Madheswaran, 2010). In a *laissez faire* economy where the process of migration is mostly voluntary, the relative strength of the push and pull factors, both in the areas of departure and arrival, determine the volume and direction of migrants (Premi, 1980). Small and medium size towns have a relatively high incidence of urban poverty because of their poor economic base, poor infrastructural facilities and amenities as well as poor employment opportunities. These centres also suffer from finance for improving the situation. Therefore, small and medium size towns are emerging as important challenge for the policymakers from the point of poverty reduction as well as human development (Hiraway and Mahadevia, 2004).

In case of male out-migration from the urban areas of Bijnor district, predominantly economic reasons prompt people to leave their origin. Though this is voluntary migration but mainly forced by economic conditions of the households and the unavailability of employment in the study area. In the more general form, out-migration of male population from the study area seems to be a collective outcome of individual, household and community decisions arising in response to the unavailability of employment opportunities along with the lack of infrastructural facilities and amenities.

Table 4 illustrates that around 16 percent out-migrants left the study areas because of no work opportunity at the place of origin. About one-fourth of the total migrants did not get appropriate work at the origin so they migrated to other places from the study area. About 16 percent of the total male out-migrants from the surveyed towns out-migrated to other place because they could not get appropriate wages as per their skills and abilities to sustain their lives. All these circumstances exert a push on the male population especially the young males and prompt them to migrate to other places. Out-migration of the male population is increasingly getting significant.

Table 4: Reasons for Male Out-Migration from Sampled Towns of Bijnor District (In Percent), 2011

Reason for Out-Migration	Name of Town					Total
	Noorpur	Haldaur	Jalalababd	Nagina	Sahaspur	
No work opportunity at the place of origin	17.24	12.20	19.05	9.21	24.19	16.13
Did not get appropriate work	24.14	26.83	21.43	27.63	19.35	24.01
Did not get appropriate wages	13.79	7.32	16.67	19.74	17.74	15.77
Education	10.34	12.20	9.52	15.79	12.90	12.54
Higher salaries at destination	8.62	14.63	7.14	9.21	9.68	9.68
To get better opportunity	20.69	24.39	14.29	13.16	11.29	16.13
Others	5.17	2.44	11.90	5.26	4.84	5.73

Source: Calculations based on Field Survey Conducted from February to May, 2011

There is a lack of institutions of higher, technical and professional education in the towns of Bijnor district. Further, the quality of education is very poor in the existing institutions of education in the study area. People think that their children can perform better and can get good education if they are admitted in the highly reputed educational institutions of other places outside Bijnor district. 12.54 percent of the male out-migration was prompted by education. A manifestation of the dearth of educational institutions in these towns is reflected by the urban male literacy. Low urban literacy rate in the district may be attributed to the dearth of educational facilities and poverty of people to educate their children. Most of the towns of Bijnor district are Muslim dominated. Therefore the under development of educational institutions here may be partly due to negligence of the government and partly due to unawareness of the Muslim population towards education. Many of the towns of the district till recently did not even have a high school or intermediate college. However, at present the spread of awareness have resulted Muslims communities to send their children for professional, technical and higher education. Nearly one-tenth of the total male population from the study area, however, was pulled by higher salaries at other places that induced them to migrate. Around 16 percent of the male out-migrants from the district

were motivated to get better opportunities and remaining about 6 percent migrated for other reasons.

Decision to Out-Migrate

The decision to migrate is made by one member, or by some agreement among members of a household. Those who migrate and those who do not, both in places of origin and in destinations, may be engaged in making decisions about migration and may be affected by those decisions actually participating in the decision making process, while the opposite is uncommon (Roseman, 1971; and Trager, 1984). Participation in the decision to out-migrate depends on the degree of mutual understanding and maturity and age of various members in the household as well as the understanding of the prevailing situations at the destination. In majority of the cases the decision about out-migration of any male member is taken by the family. However, in many cases the decision to out-migrate is taken by the out-migrant himself as he is central to the process of migration, especially if he is the household head. When people are unable to get any employment at their home place or do not get proper employment or want to get some better opportunities, they are determined to leave that place. Fig.1 illustrates that the decision of about 42 percent of the total out-migrants was taken by all family members, especially the mature ones. Family members discuss thoroughly various negative and positive aspects of migration as well as the cost involved in the process of migration. Finally, based on this they decide whether to out-migrate or not.

Around 29 percent of the out-migrants themselves decided to out-migrate from the study area though they also took permission from other family members. In this case, out-migrants were mainly the head of the nuclear family. Some young people who do not wish to work in their native place for some reasons also were the main decision makers. The third important decision makers in the family were the parents. The decision of around one-fourth of the total out-migrants was taken by parents. In some cases children were very willing to out-migrate, but they cannot take decisions on their own. Sometimes parents insist children to leave their homes because they do not want their children sit idle at home because of certain prevailing situations such as bad company of boys at the place of origin therefore they insist their son(s) to out-migrate for work or study. Out-migration of

about 4.6 percent male out-migrants was decided by their elder brothers. In these cases, the elder brother was the head of the household and he took the migration decision for his younger brothers.

Fig. 1: Male Out-Migration from Sampled Towns by Decision Making, Bijnor District, 2011
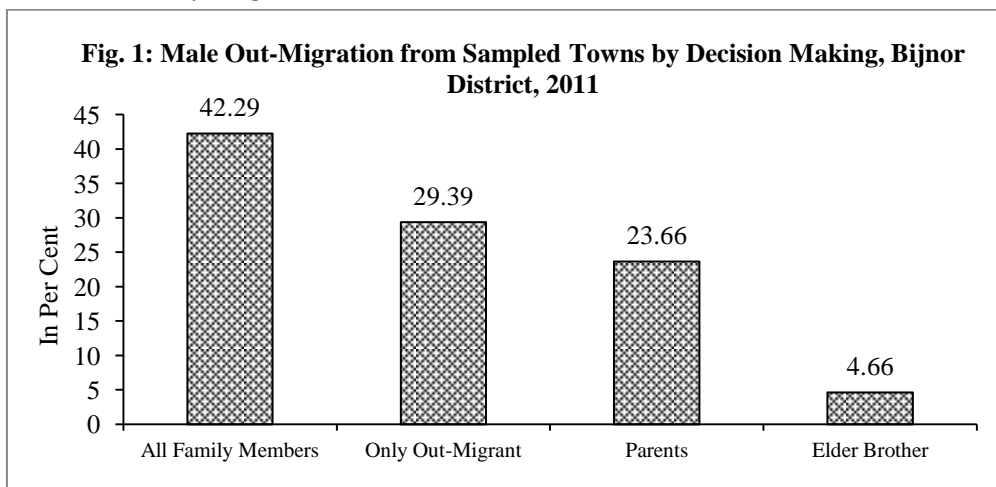
Source: Calculations based on Field Survey Conducted from February to May, 2011

Social Networking: Source of Information Regarding Migration

Social networks have been commonly accepted to be extremely influential in migration decisions making process. Migrant networks can facilitate migration through providing information on various issues that help in the process of migration (Dolfin and Genicot, 2010). Besides, socio-cultural variables as kinship, tribe, clan, language, caste and religion all play important roles in the decision to migrate as well as influence the direction and pattern of migration (Achanfuo-Yeboah, 1993). Thus, networks are significant to migrant adaptation as networks facilitate the processes of securing employment and housing. Networks may consist of family, friends, people from same caste or religion or others, but are most closely linked to a geographic space. Migrants typically form or join networks with those from their town, district or region (Jones, 2009,). Moreover, networks are very significant determinants in lowering the costs of migration. Social networks play a very crucial role in decision-making regarding the choice of location by migrants. Generally people choose to go to places where they have information about (Epstein and Gang, 2006).

Majority of the migrants maintain linkages with their area of origin through transfer remittances, investments, commodities and information. (Laczko, 2005.).

In present times social networking is said to be playing an important role in determining the direction, pattern and volume of migration. It enhances the process of migration. Today, various means of communication, e.g. mobile phones and various social networking sites have been keeping the people abreast of various locations in close contact and through these media it has become very easy and common to provide information about various opportunities-both social and economic.

Information that facilitate opportunity to migrate is an important aspect to be investigated while probing the process of out-migration from any area. Information plays a primary role in facilitating the process of migration. In the present time with the advancement in the science and technology, communication and transportation, obtaining the information about an opportunity or areas has become much easier, reliable and cheap. Since the advent of the mobile phone, it has become extremely easy for the poor as well as the uneducated people to get information about any opportunity, employer, type of work, people and the area of their destinations. Again, for educated people internet is proving to be very beneficial to obtain information about employment and the area they want to migrate in. However, Mitra and Murayama discussed that social networking is of paramount importance in the context of migration. But social networking is prevalent among the short distance migrants and tends to lose its significance with an increase in the distance between origin and destination with some exceptions among minorities and low castes that tend to pull migration through networking (Mitra and Murayama, 2008).

The respondents were asked how did they (the out-migrants) get information on employment, migration opportunity etc. The result revealed that relatives and friends played the significant role in providing information about an opportunity. Fig. 2 demonstrates that 44.44 Percent of the total out-migrants were informed about migration opportunities by their relatives. Many out-migrants usually remain in close contact with their relatives at the origin and they try to invite their relatives to visit their destination.

Friends also help very much in providing information about the opportunities at distant places. In the study area close to one-third (31.54 percent) of the total migrants were informed about the opportunity by their friends. The third important source of information about opportunities to out-migrate was agents or middlemen. However, this source was specifically relevant in case of

emigration to other countries. Though, a very large proportion of emigrants provide information for their relatives, but most of them being less educated cannot help in getting an employment opportunity in a foreign country and thus actually it is the agent or the middleman who helps in emigration. Thus a tenth of the total out-migrants were informed about migration opportunity by an agent or a middleman. Nearly 7 percent of the total out-migrants got information about the opportunity for migration from other sources. Nowadays news paper and internet are also important migration facilitating factors. Many people read about an opportunity in the news papers and the internet and thus obtain information about job prospects. However, this source of information has its own limitation that it can be used by educated persons only and by those who know how to operate the internet. But, the new generation is using this source widely and increasingly. Young people tend to join various social networking sites and many of the migrants who are the members of such sites usually post an opportunity on the site and this information is visualised by all his friends or by all the members of a particular group. Only 6.81 percent of the out-migrant's family members responded that they do not know how out-migrant got information about the opportunity or what is the source behind the migration. From the ongoing discussion it is, thus, clear that social networking has played a very important role in facilitating the processes of out-migration from the study area.

Fig. 2: Source of Information About Opportunity to Out-Migrate from Bijnor District, 2011
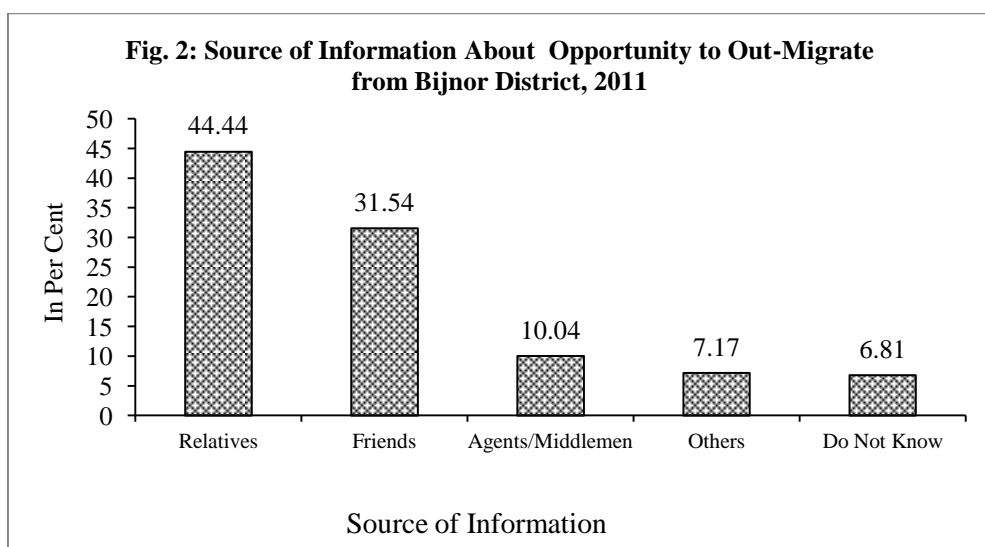
Source: Calculations based on Field Survey Conducted from February to May, 2011

Effect of Background Characteristics on Urban Male Out-Migration (Logistic Regression Analysis)

The process of out-migration from a household is motivated by various background characteristics of the households. Therefore, with the help of logistic regression analysis the effect of various background characteristics has been employed to investigate the likelihood of out-migration by religion, caste, type of family and number of male members in the household. In the present analysis, out-migration has been taken as a dependent variable while variables viz. religion, caste, type of family and number of male members in the household have been taken as independent variables. The dependent variable, i.e. male out-migration from a household has been taken in binary form that is '1' for out-migrating households and '0' for non out-migrating households. Independent variables have been used in categorical form. The effect of these variables has been shown on out-migration from a household.

The decision to out-migrate may also be influenced by one's religion. In India there are various religious groups and each of these is very much different in social and economic background from the other. This ultimately affects the process of out-migration. It has empirically been established that socio-economically Muslims are more backward compared to other religious groups. Therefore, they prefer to send one or more male members to other places for economic security. Urban areas of Bijnor district are predominantly Muslim dominated and the proportion of the Hindu population is significantly lower. The Sikhs community contributes a very low proportion to the total population the district. Therefore, due to low proportion of the Sikh households among the surveyed households, these households have been combined with Hindus households and thus a new category of religion named other has been created for logistic analysis. In other words only two religious categories namely Muslim and others have been used in logistic analysis. From Table 5 it is seen that the probability of out-migration from the households of other religion is 32 percent less as compared to the Muslim households.

Various studies have shown that caste plays an important role in stimulating out-migration of one more male members from a household. In present study it is revealed that the probability of out-migration is very high among the Other Backward Caste followed by the general castes while among the scheduled

caste the probability is the lowest. The probability of out-migration from the other backward castes is 28 percent higher compared to the general caste. while the probability of out-migration from a schedule caste household is about 27 percent less as compared to the general castes.

Table 5: Effect of Background Characteristics on Urban Male Out-Migration from Urban Bijnor: Result of Logistic Regression, 2011

Background Characteristics	Category	Exp(B)
Religion	Muslims[(Ref)]	1.000
	Other Religions (Mainly Hindus)	0.686
Caste	General Caste[(Ref)]	1.000
	Other Backward Caste	1.283
	Scheduled Caste	0.735
Type of Family	Joint Family[(Ref)]	1.000
	Other Type of Families (Mainly Nuclear)	0.680*
Number of Male Members in Household	1 to 2 Males[(Ref)]	1.000
	3 to 4 Males	1.718*
	5 and More Males	2.978***
Constant		0.636
-2 LogLikelihood		518.777
Nagelkerke R Square		0.095

Source: Calculations based on Field Survey Conducted from February to May, 2011
Note: *** Significant 1 percent level; * 10 Significant at 10 percent; (Ref) Reference Category;
Dependent variable Type of Household: '1'= Out-Migrating Households, '0'= Non Out-Migrating Household

Type of family is also one the significant factors responsible for out-migration from a household. Generally, joint families have a larger household size so there is a higher probability of out-migration of one or more members from joint families. In the surveyed households three types of families viz. joint families, nuclear families and extended families have been found. But the extended families constitute a very small proportion of all the families. Therefore, extended families have been combined with nuclear families and thus a new category namely 'other family type' has been created for the logistic analysis. The result of logistic regression unveiled that the likelihood of out-migration from households of other families was 32 percent less as compared to the joint families and it was significant

at 10 percent level of significance. This may be attributed to the reason that joint families have higher pressure for sustenance from the limited resources therefore in such families out-migration of one or more male members is preferred.

The number of male members in a household motivates one or more male members for employment, education or for other purposes. The likelihood of out-migration is higher among households with large number of male members. The likelihood of out-migration is about 1.7 times higher among the households with 3 to 4 male members compared to the households with 1 to 2 male members, and this was found to be significant at 10 percent level of significance. The probability of out-migration further increases as the number of male members in the household increases. It is evident that the probability of out-migration from a household with 5 and more male members was 2.9 times higher compared to the households with 1 to 2 male members (reference category); this was found to be significant at 1 percent level of significance.

Conclusion

The incidence of male out-migration from various households is very common among the surveyed towns in Bijnor district. Due to strategic geographical location of Bijnor district in relation to other states, inter-state out-migration from the district has emerged as the predominant form of migration which has overshadowed intra-district and inter-district migration. However, urban areas of the district being dominated by Muslim population, international migration to Gulf countries especially to Saudi Arabia is also very significant. Due lack of social and economic opportunities in these towns, male out-migration has emerged as a household strategy for survival. The pattern of inter-state male out-migration from various towns of Bijnor district is directed towards the neighbouring states, especially the Capital of the country-Delhi. However, many other states being very close to the towns of the district also attract a substantial percentage of the out-migrants from Bijnor District. Thus strategic geographical location of the district has played a significant role in driving people from its towns to various developed states. Among the distant states, Maharashtra was the chief destination.

Out-migration of the people from Bijnor district has been primarily stimulated by economic motives due lack of employment and other social opportunities in the urban areas. In other words out-migration of the people is

mainly motivated by push factors operating at household and the town level in Bijnor district. Social networking has played a significant role in facilitating and motivating the people at their origin for migration. Most of the people at the origin obtained information about various opportunities through their relatives and friends and the new generation is in constant contact with the out-migrants trough social networking sites via the internet, email and mobile phones. For international out-migration agents and middlemen were the main facilitators. Emigration has emerged as the second most dominant type of migration due to very high concentration of Muslims in urban areas of the district. However, the flow of emigration was towards the Gulf countries especially Saudi Arabia.

Thus due to weak economic base, inadequate industrialization, lack of employment opportunities in the towns of Bijnor district, the male population is forced to out-migrate to other areas therefore, especial efforts should be made to strengthen the economic base, social amenities and facilities in the towns of the district. By doing so these towns will be able to hold and sustain their own population on one hand and will provide the employment opportunities to their immediate rural areas on the other thereby reducing large scale migration towards the large cities and thus will play a major role in the regional development of the area.

References

Achanfuo-Yeboah, D. (1993), 'Grounding a Theory of African Migration in Recent Data on Ghana', *International Sociology*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 215-226.

Deshingkar, P. and Grimm, S. (2005), 'Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective', IOM, Migration Research Series No. 19, International Organization for Migration, Geneva.

Devi, P. A. *et al*. (2009), 'Rural Out-Migration: Two Group Discriminant Analysis, *Social Change'*, Vol. 39, No. 1, pp. 85-101.

Dolfin, S. and Genico, G. (2010), 'What Do Network Do? The Role of Networks on Migration and "Coyote" *Use', Review of Development Economics*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 343-359.

Epstein, G. S. and Gang, I. N. (2006), 'The Influence of Others on Migration Plans', Review *of Development Economics*, Vol. 10, No.), pp. 652–665.

Haberfeld, Y. *et al.* (1999), 'Seasonal Migration of Rural Labour in India', *Population Research and Policy Review*, Vol. 18, pp. 473-489.

Hiraway, I. and Mahadevia, D. (2004), 'Gujarat Development Report', Mahatma Gandhi Labour, Institute, Ahmadabad.

Jones, T. A. (2009), 'Migration Theory in the Domestic Context: North-South Labor Movement in Brazil', *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*, Vol. 7, No. 4, pp. 5-14.

Kundu, A. (1994), 'Industrial Development, Its Dispersal and Integration of Medium Sized Towns in the National Economy: The Case of Tiruchengodu in Tamil Nadu', *Indian Journal of Industrial Relations*, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 321-334.

Kundu, A. and Bhatia S. (2002), Industrial Growth in Small and Medium Towns and their Vertical Integration: the Case of Gobindgarh, Punjab, India, Discussion Paper-N˚ 57, Published by the *MOST Programme, UNESCO*.

Laczko, F. (2005), 'Migration Development and Poverty in Asia, in *Migration Development and Poverty Reduction in Asia*', International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Mitra, A. and Murayama, M. (2008), 'Rural to Urban Migration: A District Level Analysis for India', IDE (Institute of Developing Economies) Discussion Paper No. 137.

NSS 64th Round, 2007-08, Migration in India (2010), NSS Repot No. 533(64/10.2/2), National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

Parida, J. K. and Madheswaran, S. (2010), 'Spatial Heterogeneity and Population Mobility in India', Working Paper 234, The Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, pp. 1-26.

Premi, M. K. (1980), *Urban Out-Migration: A Study of its Nature, Causes and Consequences*, Sterling Publishers, New Delhi.

Roseman, C. C. (1971), 'Migration as a Spatial and Temporal Process', *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 61, No.3, pp. 589-598.

Sekher, T. V. (1997), *Migration and Social Change*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur.

Trager, L. (1984), 'Migration and Remittances: Urban Income and Rural Households in the Philippines', *The Journal of Developing Areas*, Vol. 18, pp. 317-340.

White, P. E. and Woods R. I. (1980), 'The Foundations of Migration Study' in P. White and R. Wood (eds.), *The Geographical Impact of Migration*, Longman Group Limited, London, pp. 1-20.