

Globalization has transformed the nature of international migration both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Globalization has triggered greater mobility and there are qualitative changes in migration dynamics brought forward by the diversity of regions and people involved in the process of migration.

## 8.2 DEFINING MIGRATION AND ITS CONTOURS

The word 'migration' has been derived from the word '*migrate*' which means to move and settle at a newer location temporarily or permanently. And as mentioned earlier, it is as old as humankind. It is often associated with the movement of people/ labour from the countries where the labour is in abundance to the countries where labour is in shortage. The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) defines it as '*The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a state*'. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification.

It began in the substantive sense with the practice of slavery beginning in the mid-sixteenth century till about the mid of the nineteenth century. A practice that continued for about two centuries was largely responsible for the forced mass migration of people from Africa to Europe, North America, Caribbean to work in households and plantations. It is estimated that nearly 15 million of such forceful migrations took place to make the lives of the so called masters comfortable and enjoyable. Further, colonialism fuelled forceful migration of people from the British, French, Dutch and German colonies and were forcefully taken to countries such as, America, South Africa, Caribbean and other distant lands to work as indentured labour on plantations, mines and for other construction related works. The indentured labourer was the one who agreed to work overseas for a definite period of time after entering into a contract although his/ her life was no better than a slave. They were made to work in inhuman conditions for long working hours at meagre wages and the work environment was harsh and imposed upon them. However, later with the Industrial Revolution between 1870-1914, the international labour migration became enormous.

The practice of indenture was gradually discontinued by the end of the nineteenth century but the wealth accumulated in the Western Europe through the colonial exploitation provided the foundation for the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution significantly changed population patterns, migrations and environments. In the industrialized nations, people moved to the areas around factories to work there and subsequently there was growth of the cities, which resulted in an overall migration from the rural to urban areas. This movement was facilitated by the growth of rail and roads and the improvement of other forms of transportation. This era also saw great migrations from Europe and Asia into America. An estimated 50 million people left Europe of which two-third went to the United States and another two-third went to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil. A majority of these labour were displaced from the agricultural sector who were unable to find industrial employment. The migration, henceforth, was the result of the push factor as Europe became land scarce and the pull factor was offered by the land abundant America. The period also saw the migration of people from labour abundant to labour scarce countries.

The rate of migration slowed down with the end of First World War as immigration laws were formulated that were an outcome of economic, political and social factors and migration required formal approvals and passports. The objective was to restrict and regulate the migration of people. The period between

the two World Wars saw a limited flow of people across borders partly, due to growing fear and insecurity and partly, due to economic slow down as the Great Depression of the 1930 further dampened the migration flows as unemployment levels rose rapidly in the industrial world. Migrant workers were seen as competitors for scarce jobs and the governments of the destination countries maintained strict controls on its borders through newer and stricter legislations and even introduced strict penalties against the employment of irregular migrants.

The end of Second World War happened to be the watershed in the migration history as the devastation created in Europe by the war contributed directly or indirectly to the displacement within the continent of between 1 to 2 million persons. Most of these were refugees who were either victims of persecution or fled due to fear of persecution. Most moved and re-settled within Europe, they settled in countries like, Belgium, France and Netherlands. However after the war, more and more people migrated from Europe to the United States and Latin America, taking advantage of their respective immigration programmes. These countries saw migration as an appropriate way to enlarge their population bases and increase their work force capabilities generally. 'Populate or perish' was the commonly used slogan by the migration programme proponents. To encourage migration, a 'migration industry' developed that included promotion, selection, recruitment and administration of heavily subsidised travel and transport logistics. Large reception halls were established and training programmes were initiated for easy settlement and better adaptation to the new place, new life and working environment. For at least two decades after the war, the immigration programmes relied exclusively on the willingness of the Europeans to detach themselves from the war-affected surroundings and start new lives abroad. Legislations and programme criteria were specifically formulated to enable migration from Europe and restrict migration from other parts of the world.

By the mid 1960s, the number of applicants from the European nations for the immigration began to fall and the selective criteria were gradually adjusted to allow applications to be received from the non-European nations. By the mid 1970s, the migration programme evolved and were focused to allow immigration based on qualifications, skills and work experience which continues till date. Globalization, however, has fuelled the migration of people and interestingly, people are migrating and settling in the newer and distant parts of the world that were unexplored in the initial phases of globalization. The current phase of globalization that started off with the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 and international migration lies at the core of the ongoing process of globalization.

The discussion above brings us to the conclusion that migration is a dynamic phenomenon involving many twists and turns. Driven by a multitude of possible reasons, migrants may move temporarily or permanently, trans-nationally and nationally, individually or in groups, return to their countries of origin or migrate to another country, or move between two or more countries in a circular way. It, therefore, becomes imperative to define some important terms associated with migration and also to elaborate upon the factors that encourage migration.

### 8.3 IMPORTANT TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH MIGRATION

There are a number of categories of migrants ranging from voluntary migrants, permanent immigrants, temporary migrants etc. These can be enumerated as below:

## **Immigrants vs. Emigrants or Immigration vs. Emigration**

*Immigration* is when people from other places move to a new place or the movement of people to a new location is from elsewhere. The people involved in such activity are termed as *immigrants*, whereas, the people leaving their home country are the *emigrants* and thus the process/ an act of leaving of one's own country to settle in a new country is termed as *emigration*.

## **Inter-continental Migration vs. Intra-continental Migration**

When the movement of people is across continents such as between Asia and Europe, it is *inter-continental* and when the movement of people is within a continent between countries it is *intra-continental* migration.

## **Local Migration or Rural-Urban Migration vs. International Migration**

Internal migration or *local migration* refers to people within a country moving to another location within its borders, such as when people migrate from the rural areas to the urban areas for better educational and employment opportunities whereas external migration, also known as *international migration*, refers to the act of migration across borders from one country to another.

## **Forced/ Involuntary Migration vs. Voluntary Migration**

*Forced* migration occurs when a government or authority forces someone to move. Such migrants are displaced from their home country, have an established or well-founded fear of persecution, or have been moved by deception or coercion. Whereas *voluntary* migrants are all international migrants that move to a new location as a result of their own desires and motivations and seek to have access to better economic and social conditions than are available in their home country.

## **Temporary vs. Permanent Migration**

People migrating to new places for a limited and fixed duration of time and remain in the host nation for a specific purpose are *temporary* migrants whereas the people who migrate to new locations with a plan to settle permanently are *permanent* migrants.

## **Asylum Seekers / Refugees**

*Asylum seeker* is a person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds. Refugees and asylum seekers constituted 16.3 million of the international migrants in 2010.

## **Legal Immigrants vs. Illegal Immigrants**

*Legal Immigrants* are people who come from one country to live permanently in another country through a proper legal route and have the proper legal documentation to live and work in the country. Whereas *illegal* immigrants are those who move across the national borders violating the immigration

laws of the destination country. They, sometimes, enter a country without visa or continue to live in the country even after their visa, tourist or otherwise expires.

### Guest Workers/ Professionals

The *Guest Workers* move to other countries for a temporary duration with a specific purpose. These comprise mostly of semi-skilled or unskilled workers. In the Middle East, the guest workers happen to be in large numbers. *Professionals* are those people who are qualified, educated and have experience. Their particular skill has a high demand and they can go from one country to another, on temporary or permanent basis, as the demand is there from the host country. With the rise in the number and scope of MNCs and TNCs, such professionals have been in high demand.

## 8.4 HUMAN MIGRATION IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization has increased the interconnectedness of nation states, speeding up the flow of goods, services, ideas and people across national boundaries. There was international migration long before the age of globalization, but the speed, scope, complexity and volume of world migration in the global era is unprecedented. In the 1980s, the world migrant population, that is, the population made up of those who resided in a country other than their country of birth, was less than 100 million people or 2.2 percent of the world population (United Nations 2004, 2005). By 2005, the migrant population had increased to 190 million people or 2.9 percent of the world population (United Nations, 2006). Thus, on average between 1980 and 2005, the world immigrant population increased by 3.6 million people each year. There is a quantitative leap in the number of migrants crossing the national frontiers and of course, the nature and complexity has also changed in this era of interconnectedness and revolutionised technology with a combination of other developments, that are largely responsible for making everyone live in a global village. Globalization, with its distinctive features is credited to have an increased movement of people across the borders. Economic integration, free trade, liberalised policies and trans-nationalisation of production is the hallmark of the present day globalization and at the same time, it is responsible for migration of people across the national frontiers.

Digitalized technology drives globalization and that happens to be the driver of human migration as well. The growth of digitalized technology and communication has revolutionized the nature, efficiency and organization of every aspect of production and distribution. Digitalized technology has hastened the speed of automation that has further enabled the corporate firms to conduct economic activities (production, assembling, packaging, distribution, services etc.) in different countries and regions, taking advantage of local labour supply and market conditions. In short, free trade and globalization enable corporate firms to operate in an enlarged transnational market, one that is characterized by the increasing deregulation of the local restrictions and integration of the national economies into a universal framework of free trade. The economic globalization cannot thrive without the advanced digitalized technology that facilitates the global expansion of corporations by enabling them to optimize their operations and accumulation in the global market and to economize the cost of such operations and this process promotes the migration across national boundaries and also, within the national borders. Digitalized technology enables people to have access to economic opportunities overseas and it is through the digitalised technology that the migrants remain connected with their families and friends even after settling in newer and distant and unfamiliar locations. The distances have shrunk with the advances in