

SESSION 6: DYNAMICS OF MIGRATION: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

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SESSION 6: DYNAMICS OF MIGRATION: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

Objectives

1. To understand the key concepts in the study of dynamics of migration.
2. To explain the typologies of migration, causes and its consequences.
3. To analyse the various theoretical models on migration.

Outline(Key Themes and Issues)

- Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Concepts and definitions of migration
- Census and NSS on migration
- Theories of Migration

“An ideal society should be mobile, should be full of channels for conveying a change taking place in one part to the other parts”

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

**From
Where**

Who

When

**To
Where**

How

**How
Many**



Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



- ❑ The 2030 Agenda of SDGs recognizes for the first time the contribution of migration to sustainable development.
- ❑ Migration is a cross-cutting issue, relevant to all of the SDGs (left).
- ❑ 10 out of 17 goals contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration or mobility.
- ❑ 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well- managed migration policies.

Migration Commission

- The Prime Minister announced in a *Mann ki Baat* broadcast that he was considering setting up a 'Migration Commission' for the employment of migrant labourers.
- It would work towards mapping the skills of these labourers.
- He also spoke of providing self-employment and setting up small-scale industries in villages.
- The UP Govt. too had announced a migration commission to provide jobs and social security to the workers returning to that state.

- But, ironically, several states including Govt. of UP, MP and Gujarat sought to temporarily revise their labour laws in early May with the purpose of attracting industries and investments.
- The rationale behind these changes is that industries need to get back on their feet after the slump during the lockdown, and labour laws only make this difficult.
- These changes only weaken the workers' capacity to bargain for their rights and just remuneration for their labour.
- The announcement of a Migration Commission in such a situation does not generate the confidence that the workers' interests will dominate its objectives.

Defining Mobility and Migration

- The term migration is derived from the Latin word *migrate*; meaning to change one's residence.
- Migration is often defined by distance, direction, duration and purpose.
- The term migration is used for movement involving a permanent or semi-permanent change of usual residence.
- All phenomena involving displacement of individuals is generally referred to as mobility.
- The term mobility is also used when dealing with social and occupational mobility.

- There are two aspects of mobility: migration and commuting.
- Migration by itself is of various types-temporary, permanent, return and short-term
- Distress migration, a phenomenon that is not captured in official datasets and hence not well documented.
- Commuting means the place of work(rural, urban, no fixed place) differs from the usual place of residence(rural, urban).

Sources of Data on Migration

(a) Census of India

(b) Surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Census of India

- Migration was recorded beginning from the first Census of India conducted in 1881.
- This data were recorded on the basis of place of birth.

- The first ever major modification in the Census was introduced in 1961 Census by bringing in two additional components viz; place of birth i.e. village or town and duration of residence (if born elsewhere).
- In 1971, additional information on place of last residence and duration of stay at the place of enumeration were incorporated.
- Information on reasons for migration were incorporated in 1981 Census and modified in consecutive Censuses.

- In the Census of India, migration is enumerated on two bases:
 - (i) Migration by Birth Place
 - (ii) Migration by place of last residence
- As per 2011 census, out of 1,210.2 million (one billion two hundred ten million) people in the country, 455.8 million (about 37%) were reported as migrants of place of last residence.

In the Census the following questions are often asked on migration:

Q. 1. Is the person born in this village or town?

Ans: If no, then further information is taken on rural/urban status of the place of birth, name of district and state and if outside India then name of the country of birth.

Q.2 Has the person come to this village or town from elsewhere?

Ans: If yes, then further questions are asked about the status (rural/urban) of previous place of residence, name of district and state and if outside India then name of the country.

- In addition, reasons for migration from the place of last residence and duration of residence in place of enumeration are also asked.

Census Definitions on Migration

- **Migrant:** A person who has moved from one politically defined area to another similar area. In Indian context, these areas are generally a village in rural areas and a town in urban areas.
- Thus a person who moves out from one village or town to another village or town is termed as a migrant provided his/her movement is not of a purely temporary nature on account of casual leave, visits, tours, etc.
- **Non-migrants (immobiles):** People, who are seen living their entire life-time and die in the same village/town in which they were born, are defined as immobiles or non-migrants.

- **Birth Place Migrants:** If at the time of Census enumeration, there is a change in the usual place of residence of an individual with reference to his/her birth place, he/she is defined as a migrant in accordance with 'birth place' concept.
- **Last Residence Migrant:** If at the time of Census enumeration, a change in the usual place of residence of an individual is noted with reference to his/her previous usual residence, he/she is termed as a migrant in accordance with 'last residence' concept.
- **Migration rate:** It is taken as the ratio of total migrants counted in the Census to its total population multiplied by 1,000. While discussing the migration results, the term 'population mobility' is taken as a synonym for migration rate.

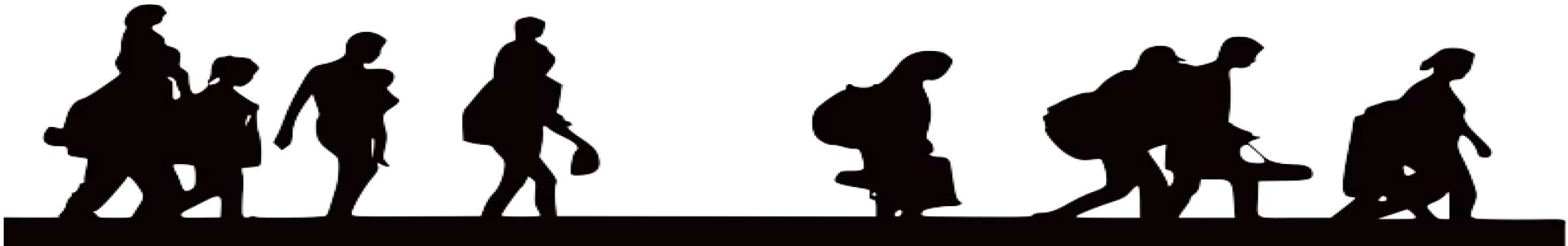
NSSO definitions on Migration

- **Migrant:** As per the NSSO definition, a migrant is defined based on the last place of residence that is for an individual if the place of residence that is, for an individual if the place of residence at the time of the enumeration differs from the last place of residence at the time of the survey.
- **Temporary and Permanent Migrants:** Migration is temporary in nature, if a migrant intends to move again to the last usual place of residence or to any other place. If a migrant, in normal course, is likely to stay at the place of enumeration, it is treated as a permanent migration. Those who migrate temporarily are categorized in two groups-those with expected duration of stay less than 12 months and those with expected duration of stay 12 months or more.

- **Return Migrants:** Those migrants who had reported that the present place of enumeration was the usual place of residence any time in the past are considered return migrants.
- **Short-term Migrants:** Persons who had stayed away from the village/town for a period of a month or more but less than six months during the last 365 days for employment or in search of employment are termed as short-term migrants.
- **Circular migrants** are individuals who migrate from place to place for temporary periods.

Migration Theories

- ❑ Ravenstein's Laws of Migration
- ❑ Zipf's Gravity Model
- ❑ Everett Lee's Theory of Migration
- ❑ Push-Pull hypothesis
- ❑ Lewis-Fei-Ranis Model of Development
- ❑ Todaro's Model of Migration
- ❑ Mobility Field Theory



Ravenstein's Laws

by E. G. Ravenstein in 1880s

- ▶ His 'laws of migration' which linked distance to the volume of migration.
- ❑ Migration decrease with increase in distance
- ❑ It occurs towards the great centres of commerce and industry
- ❑ Each main stream produces counter streams
- ❑ Rural to urban migration is most common
- ❑ Female predominance among short distance migrants
- ❑ Dominance of economic motives
- ❑ Technological advancements promotes migration

Gravity Model

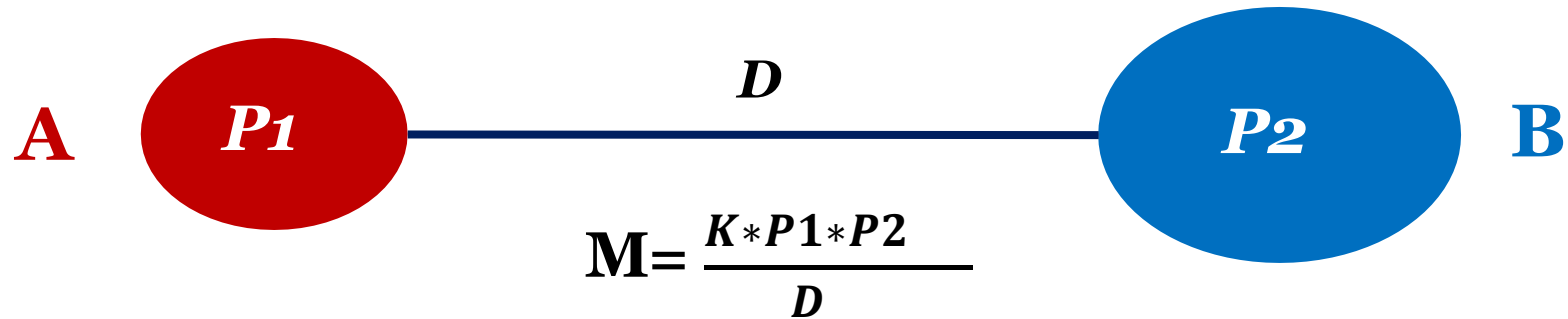
▶ Waldo Tobler(1970) described the gravity equation as the first law of geography, which states that “everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things”.

▶ Neidercorn et.al.(1969), Anderson(2010), Raul(2016) gave the details on the theoretical underpinnings(random utility maximisation) of the models used by economists to study the migration flows.

Gravity Model

by Zipf in 1946

Based upon Newton's law of gravitation



D= Distance between the two places

P1= Population of place A | **P2**= Population of place B

K= A constant relating volume of migration at any specific time

Lee's Theory of Migration

- ▶ According to Sociologist Lees's(1966) outmigration involves:
- ▶ (i) an origin, (ii) a destination and (iii) an intervening, set of obstacles.
- ▶ In his 'push and pull' model, Lees calls, the factors influencing the migrants perception as 'pluses', 'minuses' and 'zeros'.
- ▶ While the 'pluses' pull the individuals towards them, the 'minuses' drive them away.
- ▶ The zeors refer to competing forces which are, more or less, evenly balanced.

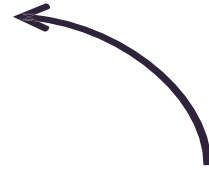
Lee's Theory of Migration

by E. S. Lee in 1965

Factors associated with the area of origin

e.g. income, job opportunities etc.

1



2



Factors which affect migration

Factors associated with the destination

e.g. risks, uncertainty, expectations etc.

Intervening obstacles between area of origin and destination

e.g. distance, laws etc.

3



4



Personal factors

e.g. age, sex, race, education, health etc.

Volume of Migration

The volume of migration varies with...

- ❑ the degree of diversity of areas
- ❑ the diversity of people
- ❑ the difficulty of surmounting the intervening obstacles
- ❑ fluctuations in the economy

Unless severe checks are imposed, both volume and rate of migration tend to increase with time.

Stream & Counter-Stream

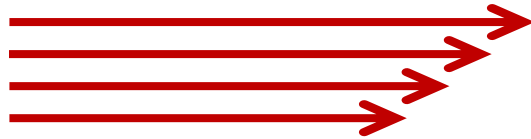
- ❑ Migration tends to take place largely within well-defined streams
- ❑ For every migration stream a counter stream develops
- ❑ The efficiency of stream and counter stream tends to be low if origin and destination are similar
- ❑ The efficiency of migration stream will be higher if the intervening obstacles are great
- ❑ The efficiency of migration stream varies with economic conditions, being high in prosperous times and low in times of depression

Characteristics of Migrants

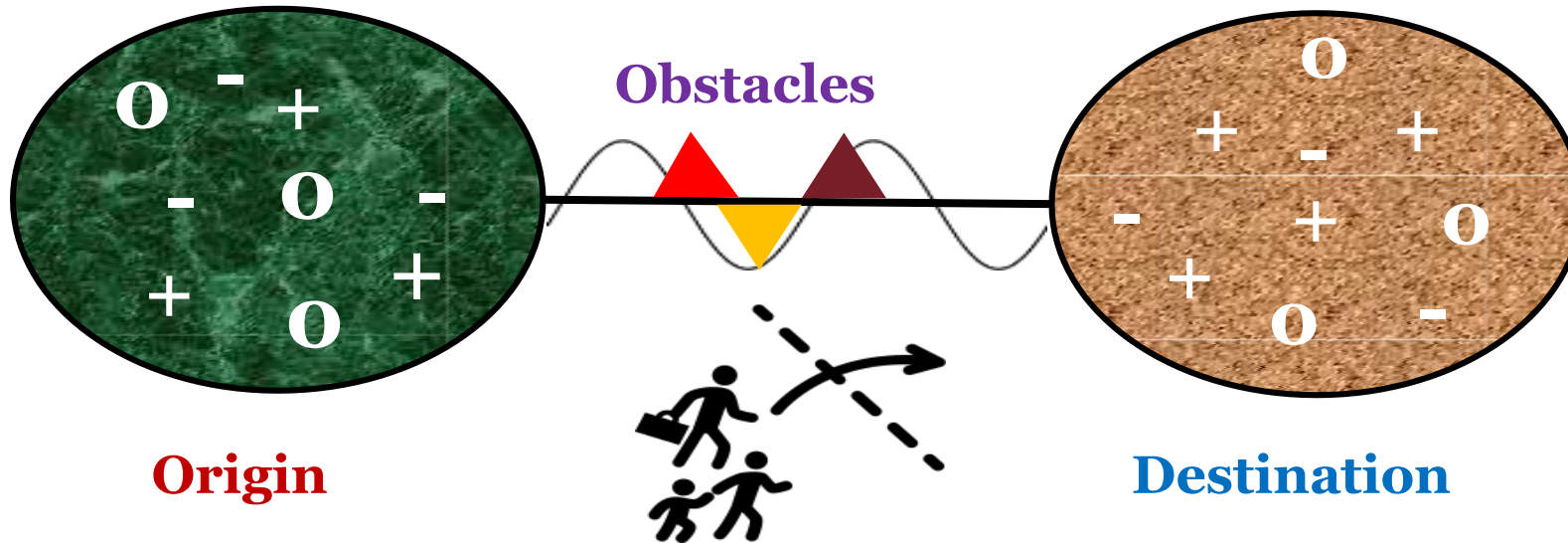
- ❑ Migration is selective, not a random sample of the population
- ❑ Migrants responding primarily to plus factors at destination tend to be positively selected (e.g. Highly educated)
- ❑ Migrants responding primarily to minus factors at origin tend to be negatively selected
- ❑ The degree of positive selection increases with the difficulty of intervening obstacles
- ❑ The characteristics of migrants tend to be intermediate between the characteristics of population at origin and the population at destination.

Push & Pull Hypothesis

Push
Factors



Pull
Factors



Push & Pull Factors

Push Factors	Pull Factors
Unemployment & less wages	More jobs and high wages
Poverty & inadequate land	Better living conditions
Lack of basic amenities like education & health services	Preferable housing, education, health and other facilities
Oppressive & Discriminatory treatment in society	Modern & secular society and favourable culture
Natural hazards/epidemics	Better environment & security

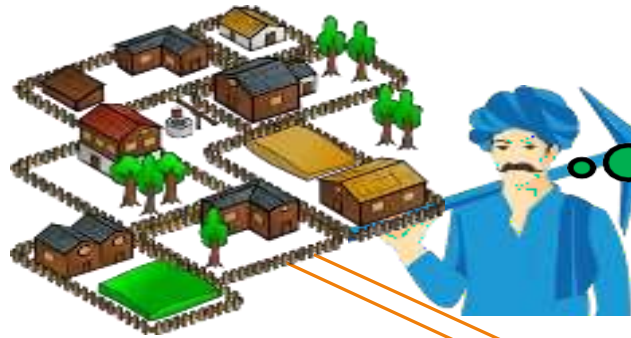
Lewis-Fei-Ranis Model

by Lewis (1958) and extended by Fei & Ranis (1961)

► Lewis's (1954) dual economy model which saw a shift of people from the countryside to urban areas.

- ❑ Dual Economy: **Traditional & Modern**
- ❑ Traditional: Rural Agricultural Sector with **surplus labours**
- ❑ Modern: Urban Industrial Sector with **industrial output**
- ❑ Modern sector **attract workers** from tradition sector
- ❑ So, **Rural to Urban Migration** occurs on large scales

Lewis-Fie-Ranis Model (cont.)



Rural Area

Less wage, less income, less savings

Better wage, more income, more savings

Human Migration



Urban Area

Migration generates surplus foods, more incomes, more savings and investments among rural people.

Todaro's Model

- ▶ Todaro's analysis of 'rural-urban migration' provides an explanation of why people move or want to move.
- ▶ This model identifies the expected differences between: (a) the actual urban and rural real wages differentials, and (b) the probability of obtaining employment opportunity in the city, as the key determinants of rural to urban migration.
- ▶ All these theorist have been concerned with permanent migration and have paid little attention to circular internal migration.

Todaro's Model

by Michael Todaro in 1969

- ❑ Migration is stimulated primarily by rational **economic** consideration of relative benefits & costs, mostly financial but also **psychological**
- ❑ The decision to migrate depends on '**expected**' rather than actual rural real wage differentials
- ❑ Expected differential is determined by the interaction of two variables, the **actual urban-rural wage differential** and the **probability of successfully obtaining employment** in the urban modern sector
- ❑ The probability of obtaining an urban job is **inversely related** to the urban unemployment rate
- ❑ Migration in excess of urban job opportunity growth rates are not only possible but also rational and probable in the face of continued positive urban-rural 'expected' income differentials

Todaro's 2nd Model (in 1976)

If urban-rural wage differentials remain unchanged, then government's attempt to reduce urban unemployment level by the creation of additional jobs in modern sector would worsen the situation and would increase the rate of unemployment.

- ❑ *As a result migration would continue due to expected income differentials in urban areas.*
- ❑ **Also, the rate of migration increases with the size of urban rural differentials.**

Evaluation of Todaro's Model

- ❑ Widely accepted among economists, demographers & policy makers
- ❑ Based on various empirical evidences, exemplified by testing hypothesis on micro as well as macro levels
- ❑ Lacks to incorporate the fact that in most LDCs migrants are not absorbed in urban-modern sector but rather in informal sector
- ❑ According to him, places having maximum wage differentials should experience huge migration but it doesn't happens in real world
- ❑ The whole issues of the relations among poverty, mobility, underdevelopment and migration in the third world are not taken into account by Todaro.

Mobility Field Theory

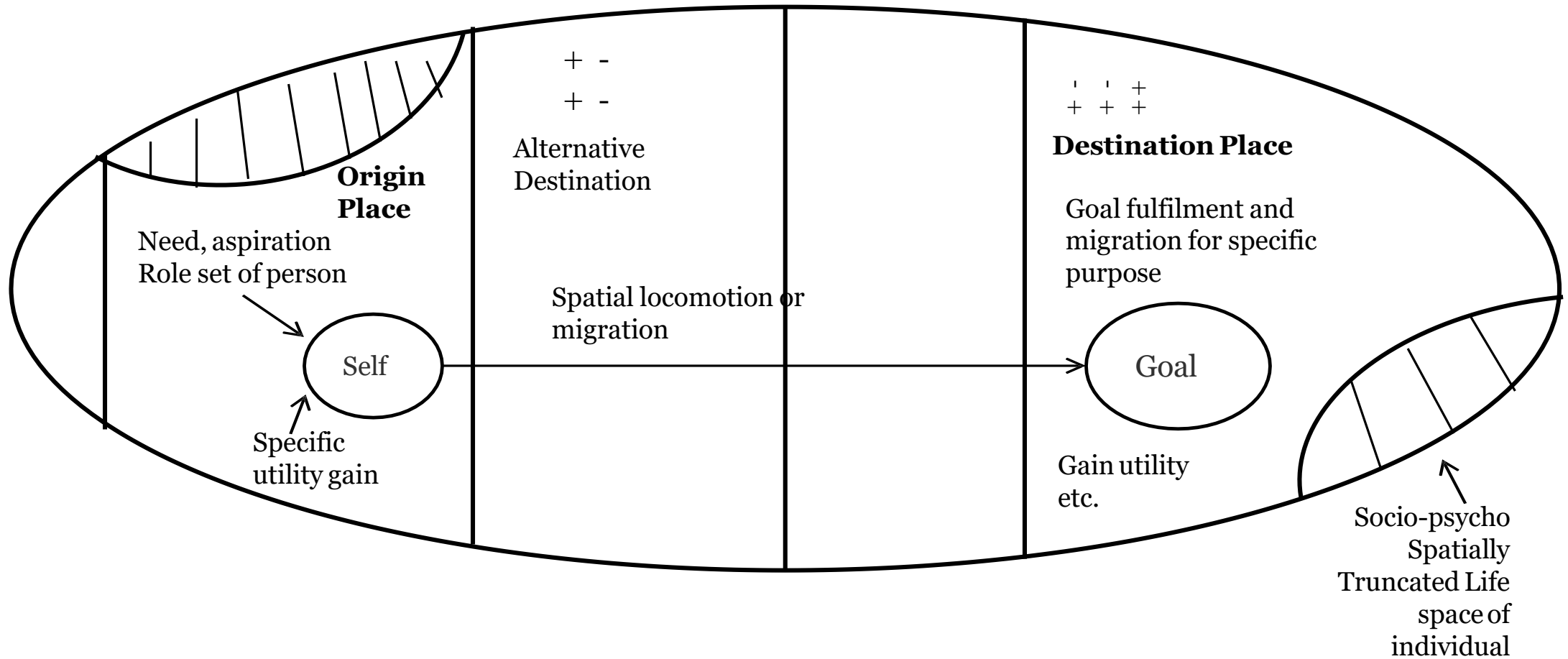
by S. Mukherjee in 1979

- At the level of individual, movement behaviour of a person, located at place i , towards another place j , is a linear function of both that person's specific need-stress-attribute set and his perception of place utility distances between the pair of places (origin-destination).
- At the level of aggregate system, the need-stress-attribute structure of the individuals in a population, their perceived place utility distances between pair of places, and their resultant types of mobility behaviour, are interdependent parts of the mobility system, called mobility field, and any natural or induced change in one part would generate corresponding changes in other parts of the field.

Mobility Field Theory (cont.)

- ❑ **Need attribute structure:** individual's needs, aspirations, role; his social, economic and cultural traits, and also the stress conditions he undergoes due to his specific location in geographic space.
- ❑ **Subjective spatial System or structure of place utilities:** a system of discrete locations, both rural urban, with their relative place- utilities, as perceived by different individuals
- ❑ **Mobility behaviour:** different general types of mobility behaviour. compositely these describe migration, circulation, and other kinds of movement made for different purposes by the individuals in a population.

Mobility Field Theory (cont.)



- With this I come to an end of the session on Dynamics of Migration: Concepts and Theories and leave you with few questions which you will find easy.
- Thanks for watching the video.

Quiz Question

Q. 1 The term migration is derived from

- (a) Latin word
- (b) Greek word
- (c) Portuguese word
- (d) Spanish word

Q.2. Who described the gravity equation as the first law of geography, which states that “everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things”.

- (a) E.G.Ravenstein
- (b) Waldo Tobler
- (c) J.A. Neidercorn
- (d) Raul Ramos

Q. 3. Who gave the push and pull theory of migration?

- (a) Ravenstein
- (b) Todaros
- (c) Lees's
- (d) S Mukherjee

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Thank you