Migration

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another, across a specific boundary (international or internal), with the intention of settling temporarily or permanently in the new location.

- ❖ **Migration = movement + change of residence (temporary or permanent)**
- ❖ It can occur **within a country (internal migration)** or **between countries (international migration).**

Characteristics of Migration

1. **Spatial Mobility:**

   - ➢ Migration always involves geographical movement from one place to another.
   - ➢ Example: From village to city, or from India to the USA.

2. **Change of Residence:**

   - ➢ It involves a shift in residence, whether temporary, seasonal, or permanent.

3. **Economic, Social, and Political Factors:**

   - ➢ Migration is usually caused by push (poverty, unemployment, conflict) and pull (jobs, education, better living) factors.

4. **Selective Process:**

   - ➢ Not everyone migrates; it depends on age, sex, education, skills, and opportunities.
   - ➢ Mostly young adults are more likely to migrate.

5. **Voluntary or Forced:**

   - ➢ Voluntary: For better opportunities.
   - ➢ Forced: Due to war, displacement, disasters.

6. **Duration-based:**

   - ➢ Seasonal, temporary, or permanent migration.

7. **Impact on Origin and Destination:**

   - ➢ Leads to demographic, economic, cultural, and social changes in both areas.

8. **Involves Adjustment:**

> ➤ Migrants have to adapt to new environments, cultures, and sometimes languages.

Types of Migration

1. Based on Political Boundaries:

Internal Migration: Movement of people within the boundaries of a country.

> ➤ **Rural to Rural** → movement between villages, often due to marriage or agricultural work.
> ➤ **Rural to Urban** → the most common form, caused by urban job opportunities and better facilities.
> ➤ **Urban to Urban** → movement between cities, often for professional transfers or higher studies.
> ➤ **Urban to Rural** → reverse migration, common during crises like COVID-19 lockdowns.

International Migration: Movement across national boundaries.

> ➤ **Immigration** → entering a new country for settlement.
> ➤ **Emigration** → leaving one's own country to settle elsewhere.
> ➤ **Return Migration** → when migrants move back to their country of origin.

2. Based on Time Duration

> ➤ **Seasonal Migration**: Movement for a specific season due to agriculture, construction, or tourism.
> ➤ **Temporary Migration**: Migration for a fixed period (jobs, education, contracts) with the intention of returning.
> ➤ **Permanent Migration**: Long-term or lifelong settlement in a new place, often involving citizenship or legal residency abroad.

3. Based on Causes

> ➤ **Economic Migration**: Driven by employment opportunities, higher wages, or better business prospects.
> *Example: Workers moving from villages to industrial cities.*
> ➤ **Social Migration**: Due to family ties, marriage, or the desire to live with relatives.
> *Example: Women moving to their husband's residence after marriage.*
> ➤ **Political Migration**: Due to wars, political instability, persecution, or partition.
> *Example: Refugees from conflict zones like Syria or Afghanistan.*
> ➤ **Environmental Migration**: Caused by natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, droughts) or climate change.
> *Example: People leaving areas affected by rising sea levels or desertification.*

4. Based on Nature of Movement

- **Voluntary Migration**: When individuals willingly move for better opportunities in jobs, education, or lifestyle.
- **Forced Migration**: When people are compelled to move due to war, conflict, natural disasters, or government policies.

5. Based on Scale of Migration

- **Individual Migration**: A single person migrates for work or studies.
- **Family Migration**: A whole family relocates together.
- **Mass Migration**: Large groups move collectively, usually due to conflict, famine, or disasters.

Causes of Migration

Migration never happens without a reason. Broadly, the causes can be divided into **push factors (conditions that force people to leave)** and **pull factors (conditions that attract people to new areas).**

1. Economic Causes:

- **Employment Opportunities**: People move from areas with fewer jobs to those with better prospects.
  Example: Rural-to-urban migration in India for industrial and IT jobs.
- **Higher Wages and Living Standards**: Workers migrate to developed regions/countries for better income.
  Example: Indian workers moving to Gulf countries.
- **Business and Trade**: Entrepreneurs shift to regions with better markets and infrastructure.

2. Social Causes:

- **Marriage Migration**: Traditionally, especially in countries like India, women migrate to their husband's residence after marriage.
- **Family Reunification**: People migrate to join family members already living elsewhere.

- ➢ **Education**: Students move to urban centers or abroad for higher studies.
- ➢ **Better Lifestyle**: Desire for improved health, housing, or cultural opportunities.

3. Political Causes:

- ➢ **Wars and Conflicts**: Armed conflicts force people to flee for safety.
  Example: Syrian refugees migrating to Europe.
- ➢ **Persecution and Oppression**: Migration due to religion, ethnicity, ideology, or political beliefs.
  Example: Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.
- ➢ **Government Policies**: Resettlement programs, deportations, or restrictions may cause migration.
- ➢ **Partition and Border Changes**: Political division or independence movements create mass migration.
  Example: Partition of India (1947).

4. Environmental / Natural Causes:

- ➢ **Natural Disasters**: Earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones force temporary or permanent migration.
- ➢ **Climate Change**: Rising sea levels, desertification, and extreme weather push people to safer areas.
  Example: Migration from low-lying coastal areas threatened by sea-level rise.
- ➢ **Resource Availability**: Scarcity of water, fertile land, or forests causes people to move.

5. Demographic Causes:

- ➢ **Population Pressure**: Overcrowding in certain regions leads to out-migration.
- ➢ **Age and Gender Factors**: Younger and skilled people are more mobile, whereas older populations migrate less.

6. Cultural Causes:

- ➢ **Religious and Cultural Freedom**: Migration for freedom to practice one's culture or religion.
- ➢ **Attraction of Urban Culture**: Cities provide exposure to modern lifestyles, attracting rural youth.

7. Other Causes:

- **Adventure and Exploration**: Some people migrate for exploration or personal ambition.
- **Technological Advancements**: Better transportation and communication encourage long-distance migration.
- **Globalization**: Increasing integration of world economies has boosted international migration.

Migration is caused by a mix of **economic, social, political, environmental, demographic, and cultural factors**.

- ❖ **Push Factors**: Poverty, unemployment, disasters, wars, persecution.
- ❖ **Pull Factors**: Jobs, education, safety, better living conditions, freedom.