

## **Internal Migration and Life Spaces in Metropolitan Cities: a case study of Delhi**

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(Abstract)

Migration strategies of individual's are closely linked to their employment and residential strategies. In metropolitan areas where life spaces are scarce, residential strategies take precedence over employment strategies. Strong monopoly of the state over the urban space makes the choice even more difficult. The problem is confounded in developing countries where most of the urban growth takes place in metropolitan cities only. As a result there is a big competition for living space, specially in metropolitan areas. Like full wages, ideal residence is the also the ultimate objective of the migrants to cities. However, there is waiting time attached to it, during which a set of different alternative accommodations are available to the migrants. Such alternative residences in the Indian context are of the following types:

1. Squatter
2. Slums and Jhuggi Jhupri
3. Resettlement Colonies
4. Government Housing for EWS
5. Un-regularized Colonies
6. Urban Villages
7. Government Housing for LIG,MIG and HIG
8. Private Housing

In the present paper an attempt has been made to understand the dynamics of the spatial mobility of individuals within the above framework for the residents of such areas in the Indian Capital city of Delhi. A small survey of these areas show education, occupational skill and duration of stay are the major factors contributing to the residential mobility of the residents. A good number of residents in the poor housing stock are found to be either migrants of short duration or of unskilled labourers. Disadvantage in housing due to lack of skill appear to be compensated by duration of stay in the metropolitan city. Commuting has also been found to be as an alternative to residential accommodation. Family network is not found to be playing any effective role in this regard.