

Migration & Displacement: Long Term Impact of the Partition of India

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Abstract

Using migrant presence as a proxy for the intensity of the impact of the partition, this paper highlights important correlations between areas that received migrants and subsequent agricultural development in those areas.

Documenting these correlations is an important contribution as mass migrations, institutional upheaval, and partitions are a reality even today.¹ It is crucial therefore to understand how communities and areas develop long after such events take place. By this work I want to highlight some incidences that have taken place during the partition of India. The historical event where a mass-migration had happened, had left several experience in the minds of people of that time. It can't be said that the partition of has left only bad or sad memories and experience. The deadly event of Partition of India is the combination of both whether it was bad or it was good. The Muslims in India have treated as refugees and Hindus in Pakistan have bad treated. We can't blame on the single person, community or government as well.

Keywords: *Partition, Migration, India, Hindu, Muslim, Independence.*

1. Introduction

We find that the partition had a statistically significant but moderate impact on agricultural development in the decades after India's independence. Between 1957 and 2009, areas that received migrants saw average annual wheat yields increase by 3.2% compared to areas that received no migrants. We find similar results when examining annual revenue per hectare;² this measure is used so as to not be reliant on any specific crop for our productivity measures. In the case of wheat, we find that most of the effects of partition are concentrated after the green revolution. One push factor was the fear of war. Some of the British were afraid that India would turn into a war between the Muslims and the Hindus. This led to violence which is another push factor. This also led to many deaths. The estimate of deaths were 200,000 to 2,000,000 (two million). Another push factor for the Hindus going to India is if they were to stay in the area which would become Pakistan they would face persecution and racism. A pull factor for them is that India was full of Hindus just like them and it would be

easier to get a job than in Pakistan. A push factor for Muslims migrating to Pakistan would also be persecution and racism. A pull factor would be they would get to live away from government and in an area where there were mostly Muslims and also better job opportunities.

2. Partition of India

The partition of British India in 1947 resulted in one of the largest and most rapid migrations in human history. This paper examines how areas affected by the partition fare in the long run. Using migrant presence as a proxy for the intensity of the impact of the partition, and district level data on agricultural output between 1911-2009, we find that areas that received more migrants have higher average yields, are more likely to take up high yielding varieties (HYV) of seeds, and are more likely to use agricultural technologies. These correlations are more pronounced after the Green Revolution in India. Using pre-partition data, we show that migrant placement is uncorrelated with soil conditions, agricultural infrastructure, and agricultural yields prior to 1947; hence, the effects are not solely explained by selective migration into districts with a higher potential for agricultural development. Migrants moving to India were more educated than both the natives who stayed and the migrants who moved out. Given the positive association of education with the adoption of high yielding varieties of seeds we highlight the presence of educated migrants during the timing of the Green Revolution as a potential pathway for the observed effects.

The end of the British Empire in India in 1947 was marked with an unprecedented mass migration of nearly 17 million people and a human rights disaster involving nearly a million deaths in the wake of the riots that ensued between Hindus and Muslims on either side of the newly created India-Pakistan border. The emergence from nearly a century of colonial rule left an indelible mark on Indian history as historical events undoubtedly shape modern day institutions and development

The 1947 was a historical year for India and Pakistan. Finally, British Regime came to end and India and Pakistan got Independence. However, this independence resulted in mass migration and death of large number human beings due to rioting and religious fights.

Immediately before the World War Two India was facing the problem of mass unemployment and the issues relating to inflation and Food scarcity was faced by India during the time of World War II. In 1942 Quit India Campaign started. The political infrastructure shaken up in the year of 1946 when Jinnah and Muslim League demanded Pakistan, which leads to violence and disturbance in North India and because of that many, lost their lives. Communal Riots started between Hindu and Muslims, which British Government could not control. They were not being able to control the situation prevalent at that time. Than Partition took place based on two nation theories Hindu and Muslim Nation. Pakistan became Islamic Republic but India declared itself a Secular State. That was when British India divided into two dominions one India and another Pakistan in 1947 under Independence of India Act, 1947 enacted by British Parliament. 'REDCLIFFE LINE' was the boundary, which demarcates India and Pakistan. East and west part of British India was after partition goes with Pakistan. That was the time when act of genocide was committed against Hindu Families of east and west part of British India who presently falls under Dominion of Pakistan. Due to the fear of death, many Hindu families managed to flee from that part in search of shelter and protection in the territories of India. At that time, they were designated as displaced persons but not as refugees. At the same time, the Mohammedan's from Bihar and some other parts of the Country went to Pakistan but not accepted as Mujahirs. The Partition of 1947, leads to creation religious tension, mass migration in human history, genocide, gender based offences committed during rioting. The ethnic, religious and political unrest after Independence threaten the stability of both the Countries. The issue in relation to Kashmir is still unresolved and religious and political conflict between the two Nations is still subsisting.

3. Challenges faced by the Refugees during Migration

The migration was forced. The Hindus and Muslims were forced to deprecate due to persecution, religion differences, and because the British rule was harsh and don't give them any freedom. It is said that the Indian-Pakistan partition is one of the largest forced migrations. The need for a partition of the new country came about as Hindus and Muslims in India were deeply divided and unwilling to coexist in the same nation. ... The partition of India led to the largest mass migration in human history with 15 million people migrating, mainly by foot, to their new religious homeland. Some problems and difficulties they faced were the displacement of the people. This led to a huge refugee crisis. It also led to violence between the Muslims and Hindus because they felt as if they couldn't trust each other. This affected their relationship in the future as well. Another problem was the properties left behind after each group migrated. A
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difficulty was that everybody wasn't Muslim or Hindu so when some non Muslims moved to India it forced some Muslims to move to Pakistan. Some problems that still exist today are border issues, resource issues and religion differences. The Hindus were pulled to more agricultural jobs. While the Muslims were pulled to industrial jobs. The Hindus were cultivators, so they took care of land they owned or that the government owned or private parties that paid them money. The Muslims also took jobs as carpenters, blacksmiths, weaving and pottery. Both groups faced persecution such as racism lynching and harsh treatment. This was due to their religion and where they were from. It was also because the British government just felt like they could whatever they wanted to them.

4. Conclusion

The migration was forced. The Hindus and Muslims were forced to deprecate due to persecution, religion differences, and because the British rule was harsh and don't give them any freedom. It is said that the Indian-Pakistan partition is one of the largest forced migrations. After the migration both countries adapted by getting new jobs and working on being united as a country. They still face certain problems such as the relationship between India and Pakistan which is not good. They are also trust issues such as Indian Muslims being suspected of having loyalty towards Pakistan. Also, non- Muslim refugees in Pakistan face problems with new rules. Both countries also face resource problems and still conflict over the border.

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