

**OPEN TEXT MATERIAL**

1. Theme – *A tale from hills*

**Abstract:**

The case study unfolds the story of Bansi; a boy who belonged to a small village in the hills of Nainital district of Uttarakhand. He later grows up in the concrete environs of a metropolitan city, Delhi. He is deeply attached to his village Peora. He also appreciates its composite culture and heritage. He truly enjoys the hassle-free life of his village. But the carefree moments of village life are short lived. With his father’s employment in Delhi, he experiences a total shift in his surroundings. However he grows up as a confident and conscientious youth in the city and adapts his life to the rhythm of the metropolitan city. It is important to note that throughout his time in Delhi, he remains deeply connected to his roots. He is excited at the prospect of revisiting his village. When the disaster takes place in his village, he does not run away from the situation. Instead, he stays put and helps the victims of the flood to rebuild their lives. He becomes one of the central figures involved in the rehabilitation tasks and further plans to minimize the damage from natural disasters. All this reveals the depth of his character, his determination, his unflinching resolve and his spirit to serve mankind.

**Main Text:**

Temple bells were ringing, breaking the silence of the valley. Women were dressed in their traditional attire walking down the path, to the village huts with tiled roofs. Here begins the story of a boy who lives in a small village called Peora, which is located in the Kosya Kutoli tehsil of Nainital district in Uttarakhand; at a height of 6600 feet above sea level, it is clad with sal, pine, oak, buruns and rhododendron trees.

This is not a usual day in Peora. It's the day before a wedding, and the entire village seems to be rejoicing, dressing up, and laughing, singing, dancing, feasting and celebrating. For eight-year old Bansi, it was a beautiful morning, which seemed even more beautiful for several reasons. For one, summers were approaching! As the cool breeze brushed past him, it immediately brought a smile to his face – as he could finally be rid of wearing thick boring sweaters! Also, summer vacation would start in his
school which would break the monotony of everyday studies. As he walked to his school he saw many tourists trekking and bird watching.

Bansi’s grandfather ran a small *dhaba* in this village. His father assisted his grandfather in running the *dhaba*. His family lived in a huge house with three uncles, the same number of aunts and seven cousins, all older than Bansi. Being the youngest of the lot, he was doted upon by all except his mother, who was a strict disciplinarian. However, fate had something else in store for him. He was quite surprised to know that his father had been selected for a government job at Delhi, which was an attractive proposition for his father! He had made up his mind to shift to Delhi and take up the opportunity. Bansi was thrilled to go to Delhi too as he had heard a lot about the glitz and glamour of the city. However, he was distressed at the same time that he would be living in a city where everyone was a stranger.

Besides, the very thought of leaving his village, the scenic beauty of the slopes dotted with green pine trees, the cool breeze of coniferous forests, the calm and rippling waters of the lake, made him sad and he prayed to the Almighty for His blessings so that he may have a better slice of luck at Delhi.

Bansi was totally lost in his thoughts and started recollecting the good time spent in his lovely village. He remembered how he ended up laughing and enjoying when travelers and pilgrims visited Peora for its cultural richness. Whether it was the fairs and festivals, music, dance forms, cuisine or the way of life in Peora-everything was deeply etched onto Bansi’s mind. He would especially miss the folk music that he heard so often during religious and regional festivals and the performances of their folk dance *Chalia*. He wondered whether he would get delicacies like *Singal*, *Khatta* or *Aam ka Fajitha* in Delhi and doubted whether they would taste as good as they did in Peora. The rich culture of his home ground, the food, the music, the dances, the festivals—all were indelibly marked in his memory. Although he did not want to admit it, he was also frightened by the prospect of living in a big city like Delhi, a place about which he had read only in his village school books.

He was extremely reluctant to leave his village. The morning when he had to bid goodbye to his family, the atmosphere was brimming with emotion. His heart was heavy with the thoughts of separation from the village that had given him such a beautiful childhood. As he boarded the bus to Delhi, he cast one last longing look at his village. After a while, he slept.

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"Hurry up Bansi! Get up, we have reached Delhi". Bansi got up hearing his father’s voice. He rubbed his eyes and came closer to the window. His eyes widened at seeing the city. Father again called him and asked him to get off the bus down as they had reached their destination. Bansi picked up his handbag and followed his parents. Finally, he had reached the metropolis the city, that he had seen in pictures or on television or heard about.

They all came out of the bus terminal. Traffic, people everywhere, lines, NOISE... such chaos. This he had never imagined. They took a rickshaw and went to the house of one of their relatives and stayed there for few days till his father arranged a house on rent for them.

For a few days Bansi seemed to be lost in the sea of people and buildings. The roads were full of traffic especially in the mornings and evenings when, people went and returned from work. There was one long unending line of cars, taxis, scooters and cycles and one long procession of pedestrians on every road. Yet life in a big city had its thrills. There was no end to fashion. One came across people from different states, speaking different languages, eating different food stuff and following difference traditions. One even came across people from the affluent class travelling in big cars! But on the other hand, there were thousands of people who lived in dark and dingy quarters, while some could not boast of even a roof over their heads at night. They were the homeless people, who lay along the pavements on both sides of the road at night.

Every morning, Bansi saw school children dressed in their uniforms on the roads, walking or waiting for buses. Bansi’s father also got him admitted in one of the schools. On his way to school he would observe city life. A long queue of office-workers could always be seen at the bus stops.

Bansi observed that the city was always crowded. He often used to compare the city with his small village in Uttrakhand. Tall buildings and big bungalows took up all the space in the city causing paucity of greenery and clean air. However, unlike the village, the city offered many means of amusement & recreation. There were many different types of food outlets and the sanitation, infrastructure, roads & drainage was so much of an improvement on the village facilities!

Bansi missed his old friends, although he made some new friends in the city. The warmth that was in the village was missing. He found that here, everyone was always busy. Neighbours lived like strangers. One hardly knew who one’s next door neighbour was!

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Years flew by. Bansi was now 18 years old. He was not only accustomed to the fast life of Delhi, but his own life was also a reflection of the fast life in a metropolis. The wonderful experience of his school had made him a confident boy. He planned to become a doctor and serve the community. A
The dilemma kept bothering him whether after becoming a doctor he should serve the people of Delhi or go back to his peaceful village in Uttarakhand. It was imprinted on his mind that people of his village were simple and led a very average life. He still remembered the narrow hill roads and the green hillside where he used to sit with his friends. They would wait for hours for any vehicle to come and climb it as soon as it came. He remembered Munshi dada who was suffering from very high fever and died as there was no doctor or even an ambulance in the village. His village needed him.

One fine morning, his father told him that they were going to his native village to attend the inaugural ceremony of his uncle’s restaurant. He was very happy to be revisiting Peora. The journey was pleasant and it took them one full day to reach the village. It was drizzling and the weather was cool in the hills. On arrival he was welcomed by his uncles and aunts. That night he had a hearty meal and went to bed early. The next morning when he went to the restaurant with his grandfather, he noticed several significant changes in the village lifestyle. The roads were wider and the number of vehicles had increased tremendously. The small tea stall of his grandfather had turned into a restaurant. He had every reason to be happy.

And then the rains started. It rained so heavily that grandfather seemed tense. He said, “God! In my lifetime I have never seen such weather. It is an auspicious day for my family but rain is causing difficulty.” Sensing some danger he dragged Bansi to a high ground nearby. Within no time, a flood of water gushed in and flowed incessantly. There was water everywhere. People were screaming for help.

Bansi and his grandfather held tightly on to each other’s hands. They wanted to go back to their house. But the flow of the water didn’t allow them to move. The village drowned in water. The deluge caused big rocks to tumble and hit those who came in the way. The natural mayhem continued for hours. Water seemed endless. Hungry, tired and helpless, they screamed for help but no one heard them.

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After three days Bansi saw a green helicopter in the sky. It landed nearby and he saw an army man coming to help them. Hope of life gave them an impetus to get up and climb the hanging rope. They were saved one by one and dropped at a nearby safe place. He ate dry bread and drank water at the army shelter camp.

Bansi wanted to know about his family. He asked his grandfather what caused this destruction. Grandfather calmly replied, “We, the human beings”. Seeing the perplexed look on Bansi’s face, the Grandfather further explained:

“You see, it is basically the result of callous policies, aggressive promotion and runaway growth of tourism; unchecked, unplanned development of roads, hotels, shops, mines and multi-storied housing in ecologically fragile areas; and above all, the planned development of scores of environmentally destructive hydroelectricity dams.”
Tourism has been zealously promoted to a point where the number of tourists visiting the area had crossed 25 million, almost two-and-a-half times Uttrakhand’s entire population! Roads, hotels, houses, shops and restaurants were recklessly built upon forest lands, encroaching upon ridges, steep slopes, and worst of all, the flood plains of rivers. Encroachment of these ‘natural boundaries’ aggravated the situation.

His grandfather further elaborated that an early warning system, effective evacuation plans, and a responsive disaster management system would have prevented a massive loss of precious life. But they weren’t in place – another governance failure. Inexpensive radar-based cloudburst-forecasting would have given a three-hour warning. But it wasn’t installed because of inter-agency squabbles. The meteorological department had no reliable record of rainfall at different locations.

Bansi listened carefully to his grandfather, each of his words branded in his mind. Later that night, though he had the comfort of his grandfather’s company, he was bereft of any sleep as he kept wondering where his parents were.

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Next morning, when Bansi woke up he saw a great deal of hustle-bustle in the camp. There were even more Army personnel present, and not only that, he found that several social activists, NGOs and NPOs had also arrived. At a distant corner he sighted 2-3 journalists along with their cameras. Then, he saw another helicopter arriving. As soon as it landed, the army men started distributing the food items and several necessities to the victims. The line was very long, and it was with great difficulty that Bansi managed to procure a packet of biscuits and antiseptic lotion for himself and his grandfather. He discovered that many of the people could not even manage to get that much. He considered himself lucky and walked off.

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Days crept by slowly in the camp, and Bansi tried to look out for his parents. Unfortunately, all his attempts came to nothing. At the back of his mind, he had somehow accepted that the possibility of finding out his parents was bleak. However, even despite his acceptance of this fact; every time he cast a look at the pile of debris and dead and decaying bodies he couldn’t push out the thought that his parents might be among them.

Bansi was a very socially driven youth. The pain that was inflicted upon him by this natural disaster, along with the loss of his dear ones and the destruction of his village – had a deep impact on him. He pledged to participate in the rehabilitation of the victims of this catastrophe. It would take years to roll back the ecological, social, economic and psychological damage—including over a 1,000 deaths – wrought by the terrible floods. There was no doubt that the process of rebuilding would be a long one. Yet he was driven enough to take that road.

In the years that followed, he zealously and proactively participated in the rehabilitation activities and promoted the cause of the victims of the Uttrakhand floods. He, in fact, became a central part of
the movement and every time he conquered a milestone, he was aglow with happiness and satisfaction, for in a way—if not as a doctor, he had still helped his home ground.

“Even in perilous times, you must not lose faith in humanity. Real joy comes not from ease and riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile”

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OPEN TEXT MATERIAL

2. Theme – Migration

Abstract:

‘Parul reaches our home right at 6:00 am in the morning. She is from Bangladesh and came to Delhi twelve years ago. She is a very hardworking woman and has 2 sons – one of them goes to school while the other one works as a driver. But she always complains to my mother that she has to move her living quarters continuously as their community has a reputation of committing petty theivery and the police does not trust them. She tells my mother that though her friends in the slum work really hard to earn a living, many in the slum while away their time playing cards or even stealing, pick pocketing etc. Even though she and such maids working in our apartments have been working for a long time now, if they get some old clothes or food from the house they are working in, they have to give it in writing to the security guard in the colony. Such is the state in most of the slums in the country where migrants are looked upon with suspicion.’

It has also been observed that there are some times when students, who have gone to some other countries for education, are assaulted, abused and forced to go back to their countries.

Migration has occurred throughout human history. The patterns of movement reflect the conditions of an ever-changing world and, in turn, impact the cultural landscapes of the places they leave and the places they settle in ways that often last well beyond their own lifetimes. These imprints on a region include its ethnic make-up, spoken languages, religious institutions, traditions, architectural styles, local food, music, clothes, and other cultural markers—all clues to the past, present, and future of that area and generations of its people. Thus, an essential part of understanding a region is its migration story.

Migration refers to the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence. People can either choose to move, a process called voluntary migration, or they may be forced to move, a process called involuntary or forced migration.

An estimated 214 million people currently live outside their country of origin, many having moved for a variety of reasons. Migration affects every region of the world, and many countries are now simultaneously countries of origin, destination and transit. Large numbers of migrants today move between developing countries, and around 40 percent of the total global migrant population have
moved to a neighbouring country within their region of origin. Migrants are often to be found working in jobs that are dirty, dangerous and degrading (the 3 Ds). While for some, migration is a positive and empowering experience, far too many migrants have to endure human rights violations, discrimination, and exploitation. Studying modern migration helps us understand complex economic systems, and it might even give us a way to ensure the future survival of the human race.

**Why do people migrate?**

There may be various reasons like environmental, political, economic and cultural impetus.

*Baldev and Budhhiraj of Barmer (Rajasthan) went to Jaipur and started driving auto rickshaws because of scorching heat, drought and acute drinking water shortage there in Barmer. Now they go back to Barmer only at the time of harvesting of crops.*

Migrants are pushed from their homes by adverse physical conditions. Water—either too much or too little—poses the greatest environmental threat. Many people are forced to move by water-related disasters because they live in a vulnerable area, such as a floodplain.

*In 1947, during partition, Sukhdev and his family moved from Pakistan to India, leaving their homes, fields and cattle. They had to start a new life.*

Involuntary movements are harder to study because they are almost invariably driven and accompanied by extraordinary events such as wars, partition and ethnic/religious strife. They also often involve the movement of a large number of people in a very short span of time.

*Imran and Simran both from India went to America for higher studies, then they started working there and got Green Cards and finally settled there.*

The attraction of more economically developed places for migrants has always provided the incentives for some people to move. When people move to new places looking for a job or better economic conditions, they are considered to be labour migrants. Throughout history, labour migration has been an important type of flow, but it has acquired greater importance today because of the new dynamism of the global economy.

Forced international migration has historically occurred for two main cultural reasons: slavery and political instability. Millions of people were shipped to other countries as slaves or as prisoners, especially from Africa to the Western Hemisphere. Wars have also forced large-scale migration of ethnic groups in the 20th and 21st centuries in Europe and Africa. Another push factor would be the fear of prosecution, and these people would be refugees—people who have been forced to migrate from their homes and cannot return for fear of persecution.
Factors that may affect migration or cause it can include both Push as well Pull factors. Push factors are those that make one want to leave a place including:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic factors</th>
<th>Social Factors</th>
<th>Political Factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of employment</td>
<td>Lack of health care</td>
<td>Unfair legal system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods)</td>
<td>Lack of educational opportunities</td>
<td>Disenfranchisement (Not being able to vote) or lack of governmental tolerance</td>
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<td>Lack of food or shelter</td>
<td>Lack of religious tolerance</td>
<td>War and terrorism</td>
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<td>Lower standards of living</td>
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The Pull Factors that draw you to live in a place include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Economic factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hope for better employment</td>
<td>Encouragement from family and friends</td>
<td>To gain protection under the law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More money and food</td>
<td>Better health care</td>
<td>Right to vote and freedom from persecution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better shelter</td>
<td>Better educational opportunities</td>
<td>Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope for family to have a higher standard of living</td>
<td>Religious tolerance</td>
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Lee’s Push-Pull Theory shows possible causes of migration between a place of origin and a place of destination. There are positive and negative signs signifying pull and push factors respectively. Flows take place between two places, but there are intervening obstacles to these spatial movements. Although these obstacles are represented by ‘mountain’ shapes, keep in mind that the obstacles need not be limited to physical barriers. Note that both the origin and destination have pushes and pulls, reflecting the reality that any migrant must consider both the positives of staying and the negatives of moving, as well as their converses. The logic of the push-pull theory is that if the plusses (pulls) at the destination outweigh the plusses of staying at the origin, as shown below, then migration is likely to occur.

![Figure 1 Lee’s Push-Pull Theory](source: Based on Lee (1966))

The Partition of India in 1947 along ostensibly religious lines into India, Pakistan, and what eventually became Bangladesh, resulted in one of the largest and most rapid migrations in human history. In this paper, district level census data from archives are compiled to quantify the scale of migratory flows across the subcontinent. We estimate total migratory inflows of 14.5 million and outflows of 17.9 million, implying 3.4 million ‘missing’ people.

There are primarily two types of migration—long-term and short-term explained below:

i. **Long-term migration**, resulting in the relocation of an individual or household;

ii. **Short-term or seasonal/circular migration**, involving back and forth movement between a source and destination. Estimates of short term migrants vary from 15 million (NSSO 2007–2008) to 100 million (Deshingkar and Akter 2009). Most short-term migrants belong to socio-economically deprived groups, such as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, having negligible educational attainment, limited assets and large resource deficits.

Apart from two main types of migration, there are some other types as well which include; **Internal migration** i.e. moving to a new home within a state, country, or continent and **External migration** i.e. moving to a new home in a different state, country, or continent.
Out of the total internal migrants, 70.7 per cent are women (Census of India 2001). Marriage is given as the prominent reason for female migration in both the rural and urban areas – [91 per cent of rural female migrants and 61 per cent of the urban female migrants (NSSO 2007–2008)].

Migration: Key Statistics

- **Surveyed Population**: 572,254
- **Migrants**: 30%

Geographic Distribution of Intra-State movement
Inbound vs Outbound pattern across States
Migration between Rural and Urban regions

- **Intra-State**: 85%
- **Across-States**: 15%

*Source: NSS 2007-08*

The term **Emigration** is coined for those people who leave one country to move to another (e.g., the Pilgrims emigrated from England) and **Immigration** is used for those moving into a new country (e.g., the Pilgrims immigrated to America).

The other interesting types of migration are:

**Step migration**: A series of shorter, less extreme migrations from a person's place of origin to a final destination—such as moving from a farm, to a village, to a town, and finally to a city.

**Chain migration**: A series of migrations within a family or defined group of people. A chain migration often begins with one family member who sends money to bring other family member to the new location. Chain migration results in migration fields—the clustering of people from a specific region into certain neighborhoods or small towns.

**Return migration**: The voluntary movements of immigrants back to their place of origin. This is also known as circular migration.

**Seasonal migration**: The process of moving for a period of time in response to labor or climate conditions (e.g., farm workers following crop harvests or working in cities off-season).
According to Zipf's theory, the number of migrants from one city to another is a function of the distance separating the cities, since the effort and cost required to cover greater distances would increase with the distance traveled.

The figure given below shows how people move (flow I) from a small place (represented by the number 5) to place 4 in greater numbers than from place 4 to place 3 (flow II) and consecutively to place 2 (flow III) and place 1 (flow IV) due to the friction of distance, as represented by the smaller arrows.

**What is the impact of migration?**

The impacts of migration are complex, bringing both benefits and disadvantages. Immigration provides a supply of low cost labour for host countries, while remittances from emigrant workers can be an important source of foreign income for sending nations. In a positive sense, migration helps in filling the gaps between job vacancies and skills. Besides this, economic growth can be sustained and services to an ageing population can be maintained when there are insufficient young people locally. Immigrants also help in bringing energy and innovation and through them host countries are enriched by cultural diversity.

On the other hand, immigration can cause resentment and fear towards newcomers in receiving states. Thus immigrants are discriminated against, accused of lowering wages and associated with crime, among other complaints from local residents. For the economies of sending nations, emigration leads to a loss of young, able-bodied, well-educated and otherwise economically valuable citizens for developed countries, which are often at the receiving end of migration streams.

Increases in population can also put pressure on public services, unemployment may rise if there are unrestricted numbers of inbound population. It may also result in integration difficulties and friction with local people, and result in social problems for children left behind or growing up without a wider family circle.
Recent migrations include:
The movement on an unprecedented scale of Europeans to North and South America;
☆ British to Africa, Australia, and New Zealand;
☆ Africans to North and South America;
☆ Indians (from what is today India/Pakistan/Bangladesh) to East Africa, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, Fiji—all parts of the British Empire;
☆ Chinese throughout Southeast Asia;
☆ Jews from Europe to North America and Israel;
☆ Americans and Canadians westward across the North American continent;
☆ Russians eastward across the Asian continent;
☆ Mexicans northward to the US;
☆ Vietnamese, Central Americans, Cubans, Haitians to the US.

To conclude, migration has a significant effect on world geography. It has contributed to the evolution and development of separate cultures, diffusion of cultures by interchange and communication and it has also contributed to the complex mix of people and cultures found in different regions of the world today.

☆ http://dss.ucsd.edu/~prbharadwaj/index/Papers_files/Bharadwaj_Migration_EPW.pdf
☆ http://www.ohchr.org/en/Issues/Migration/Pages/MigrationAndHumanRightsIndex.aspx
☆ http://www.ghs-mh.de/migration/projects/migr_2_l.htm