



# **MIGRATION IN WEST BENGAL**

**PROJECT SUBMITTED BY**

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## INTRODUCTION

Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, at a new location. The movement is often over long distances and from one country to another, but internal migration is also possible; indeed, this is the dominant form globally. People may migrate as individuals, in family units or in large groups.

Migration is inevitable in the process of economic development. There exists a two-way causation between migration and economic development. Migration induces economic development while economic development induces further migration. Migration can be of two types: International migration and Internal migration. International migration deals with migration across the countries of the world, while Internal migration deals with migration within the national boundary of a country. There are four streams of internal migration which are rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban. Among these four streams, rural-urban migration has certain distinct characteristics which affect developmental aspect of both places involved namely, place of origin and place of destination. It is well known that developmental disparities between rural and urban triggers rural-urban migration. People generally migrate from less developed rural countryside to more developed urban centers. The impact of migration can be assessed in several ways: welfare impacts, social impacts, economic impacts etc.

Rational individual makes migration decision to maximize the expected utility. Migration decision can be at the individual level as well as at the family level. There are considerable differences between individual migration decision and family migration decision. Most of the conventional studies on migration so far have concerned over the concept of individual migration decision . These models have failed to answer the question like how the migration of one individual in a family could affect other family members. Rather these earlier studies were concerned with the characteristics of 'individual', without paying much attention towards characteristics of the family. This has made them a partial study of migration. On the contrary, family decision in migration is relatively a newer concept.

Paper has been explores that micro level streaming situation in West Bengal. The lack of service, education, health, agriculture opportunities in the origin place and better service prospects and infrastructure facilities in the urban areas stimulate people to migrate that's way people are migrates streaming wise (four major migration streams). The female migrants in which stream seems to be associated with the distance involved in migration. Flow of migration intra-districts, inter- districts and inter-state in recently spatial patterns of migration and huge influx and interstate migration flows is vital for anyone attempting to study the overall process of regional variation. Explaining the dynamics of migration is important since it has far reaching implications for setting up government policy makers and planners to be better aware of the district attributes to motivate the development through migration streaming and flows are channelize.

## **MOTIVATION**

**Migration** helps in improving the quality of life of people. It helps to improve social life of people as they learn about new culture, customs, and languages which helps to improve brotherhood among people. **Migration** of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region. Migration helps to reduce any labour shortages. Migrant labor is desirable and necessary to sustain economic growth and rise out of the current recession. Migration is important for the transfer of manpower and skills and provides the needed knowledge and innovation for global growth. It is noted that the proportion of migrants in West Bengal has increased from 27% in 1991 to 30% in 2001.

Migration boosts the working age population. Migrants arrive with skills and contribute to human capital development of receiving countries. Migrants also contribute to technological progress. Understanding these impacts is important if our societies are to usefully debate the role of migration. Migration is important for understanding population and society changes. Statistical modeling can be used to harmonize and estimate missing and conflicting international migration flows. Measure of uncertainty improve researchers understanding of the quality of

migration data and estimates. Migration is important for the transfer of manpower and skills and provides the needed knowledge and innovation for global growth.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In migration literature, there is no single theory or model exists that covers all forces responsible for migration. Pattern of migration depending on the duration of migration has been dealt in various migration literatures. The laws of Rosenstein (1885) stated that the primary cause of migration was the best external economic opportunities; the volume of the migration decreases as the distance increases; migration occurs in stages rather than a long movement; population movements are bilateral and migration differentials such as gender, social class, age; they influence the mobility of a person. World Bank (1984) has highlighted that the rural population migrate to cities not so much to avail themselves of the employment opportunities and other facilities in urban areas but more to avoid problems in the rural areas. Migration can either depopulate or overpopulate an area, depending upon the level of economic activities and is an important process of urbanization and social change (Bhagat, 2005). Migration plays an important role in the population growth in some states. In India, the volume of migration has increased over the various census periods, from 159.6 million in 1971 to 201 million in 1981; 226 million in 1991 and 309 million in 2001. However the percentage of migrants to total national population declined to 30.3 per cent in 1981 to 27.4 per cent in 1991; it increased to 30.6 per cent in 2001 (Lusome and Bhagat, 2006). Singh and Yadava (2010) has highlighted internal migration is an important element of population redistribution and equilibrium. Human mobility within the national boundary is receiving considerable attention in recent decades. Lee (1966) developed a concept of “intervening obstacles”. This is one variant of the cost theory. Lee observed that the migrant faces both economic and non-economic difficulties, which have a positive relation with distance. This observation of Lee is more relevant for international migration including travel cost and psychic cost along with legal barriers make the movement more difficult. Richey (1976) and Gardner (1981) found that especially the tendency of short distance migration is true for low income and less well educated group of migrants.

## **OBJECTIVES**

This study has the following objectives

- a) To highlight the changing pattern of inter-district and intra-district out migration from West Bengal with respect to four migration streams i.e., rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban and urban-rural for two different time periods i.e. 1991 and 2011
- b) To find out the reasons for out migration from West Bengal to other states/union territories of India and identify changes therein.
- c) To find out internal migrants in various categories.
- d) To find out the out-migrants from West Bengal to other major states in India, 1991 & 2001

## **METHODOLOGY**

Research on migration should be done on the basis of survey, which are undertaken to collect information. From that survey data, we have to form a descriptive statistics and then analyze the whole matter. Due to the present pandemic situation, it is not possible to conduct a survey and collect data. That's why this study is based on the secondary survey and existing literature.

The secondary data are collected from official website of census of India. As 2011 the census data does not dig deeper into district-wise migration rates. So, the study is based upon the data from 2001 census. Using the data, the research study examine the issue in depth. This study is thoroughly analyzed with help of descriptive statistic, trends level bar diagram and pie chart.

## **RESULT AND DATA ANALYSIS**

### **A. Migration in India:**

Different demographers in different periods have argued that there is an inherent immobile characteristic of Indian population. They have said that it is mainly due to prevalence of some basic characteristics of the Indian society like operation of caste system, institution like joint families, culture, language etc. Though off late, India has built up a relatively strong base of transportation, communication and all others characteristics of a well-equipped open economy. As the experiences from different parts of the world state that due to the uplift of all these the population mobility has increased in an overall sense.

In studying the migration pattern of India the study has considered different cases of internal migration. Internal migration implies migration, which take place within the territory of a country. The study has divided internal migration into four broad headings, namely intercensal, intercensal interstate, lifetime and lifetime interstate. These are again segregated into total migrants, male migrants, female migrants, rural male migrants and urban male migrants. A study of the following table will show that the overall mobility of the population has declined in all the four major cases.

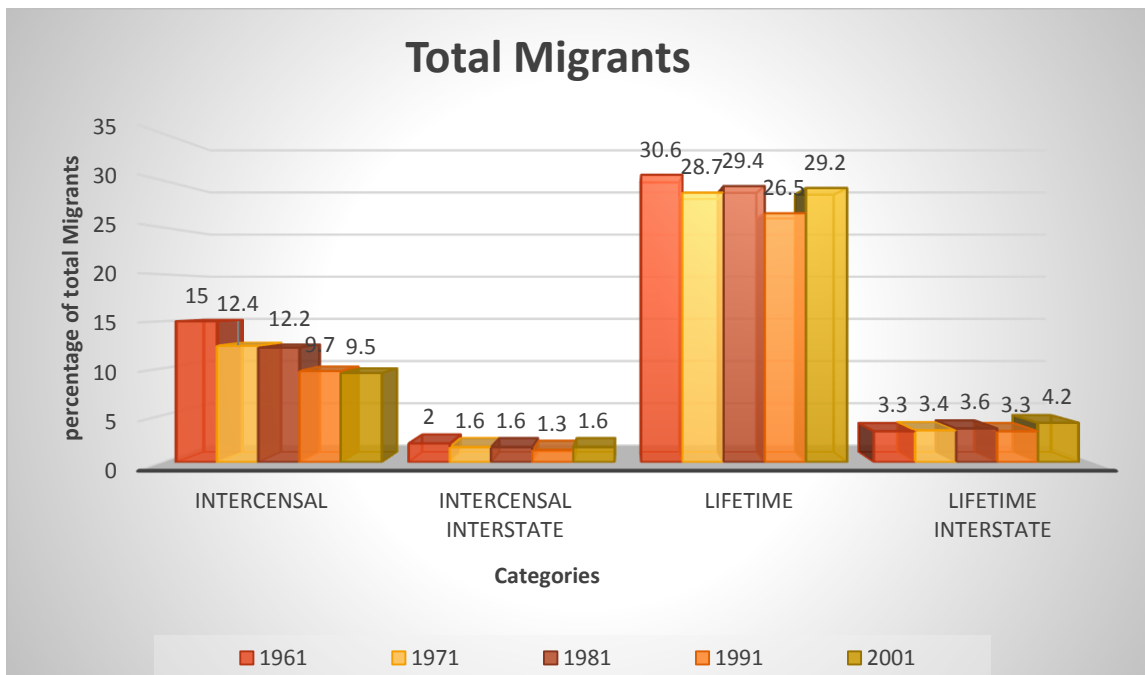
**Table-1 Internal Migrants In various Categories,1961-2001**

**(a) Total Migrants**

Categories	Percentage of total Migrants				
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Intercensal	15	12.4	12.2	9.7	9.5
Intercensal Interstate	2	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.6
Lifetime	30.6	28.7	29.4	26.5	29.2
Lifetime Interstate	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.3	4.2

**Source: Various Migration Tables, Debasis Chakrabarty,2014**

**Figure (a)**





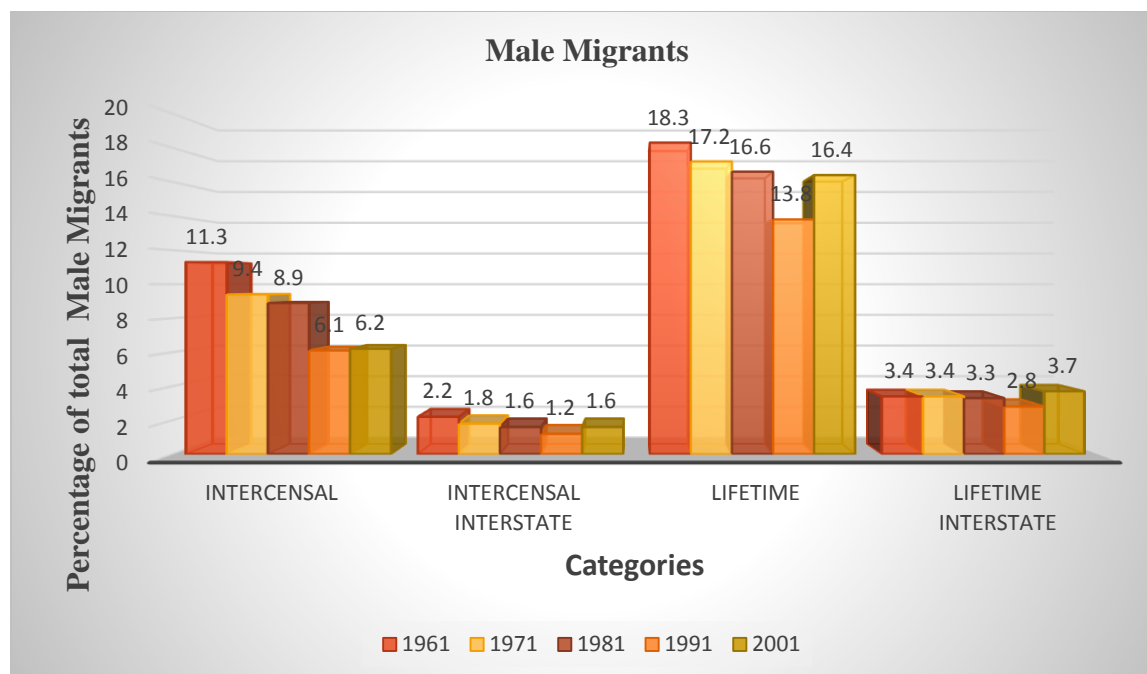
The above table-1(a) and the respective bar diagram (figure-a) showing the India's overall internal migrant figure in various categories. The table suggest than in India there is a declining trend in almost all the categories except the lifetime interstate. For intercensal, we can see that it has decline from 15% in 1961 to 9.5% in 2001. For intercensal interstate, the decline in rate is almost constant in each year. From 1961 it was 2% and decrease to 1.6% in 1971 and 1.3% in 1991, but again increases a by1.6% in 2001. In lifetime, the rate from 30.6% in 1961 decreases to 29.2% in 2001. Only lifetime intercensal type of migration has a slight increase from 3.3% in 1961 to 4.2% in 2001.

### b) Male Migrants

Categories	Male Migrants				
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Intercensal	11.3	9.4	8.9	6.1	6.2
Intercensal Interstate	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.6
Lifetime	18.3	17.2	16.6	13.8	16.4
Lifetime Interstate	3.4	3.4	3.3	2.8	3.7

**Source: Various Migration Tables, Debasis Chakrabarty,2014**

### Figure (b)



The above table-1(b) and the respective bar diagram (figure-b) suggests that in India there is a declining trend in almost all the categories except the lifetime interstate. It can be seen that intercensal male migration has come down from 11.3% in 1961 to almost 6% in 2001. For intercensal interstate, the decline in rate is almost constant in each year. From 1961 it was 2.2% and decrease to 1.8% in 1971 and 1.2% in 1991, but again increases a by 1.6% in 2001. Lifetime male migrants decreased from 18.3% in 1961 to 16.4% in 2001. Only lifetime interstate male migrants have a negligible increase from 3.4% in 1961 to 3.7% in 2001.

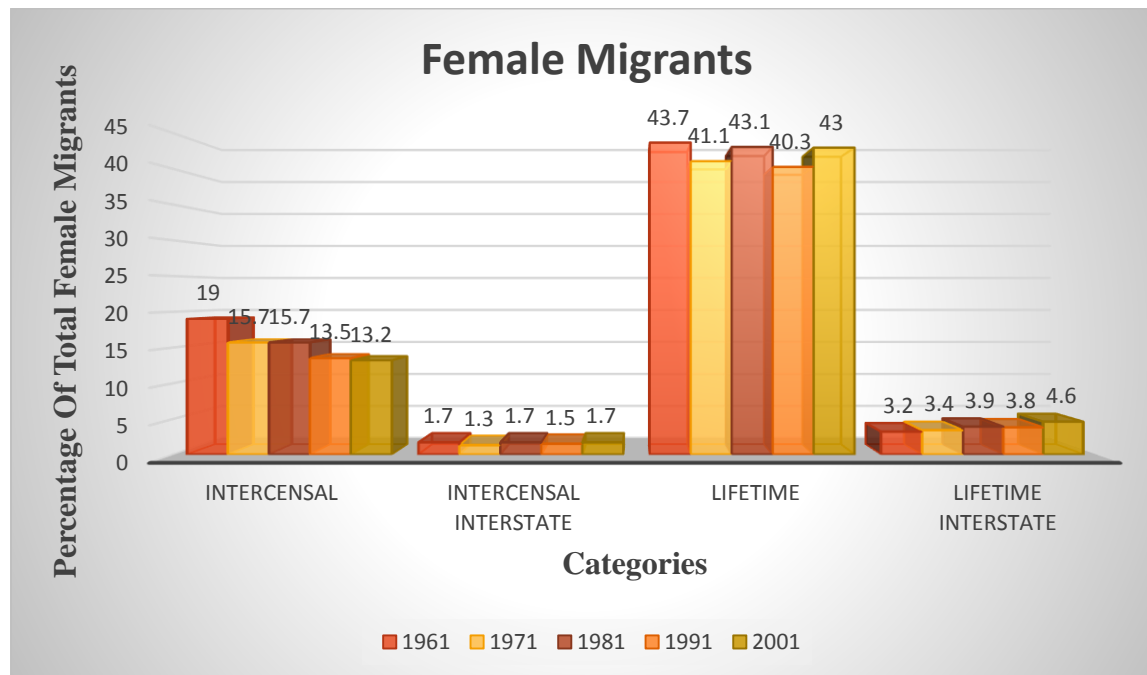
### c) Female Migrants

Categories	Female Migrants				
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Intercensal	19	15.7	15.7	13.5	13.2
Intercensal Interstate	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.7

Lifetime	43.7	41.1	43.1	40.3	43
Lifetime Interstate	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.8	4.6

Source: Various Migration Tables, Debasis Chakrabarty, 2014

Figure (c)



In the above table 1(c) and respective bar diagram (figure-c) of female migrants. It is pretty gloomy. Except the lifetime migration all streams of female migration has very negligible contribution. The reason of female having higher proportion of lifetime migration is that they basically migrate as the spouse of their male partner. They mainly migrate if their husband gets a permanent or semi-permanent job. The table suggest than in India there is a declining trend in almost all the categories except the lifetime interstate. For intercensal, we can see that it has decline from 19% in 1961 to 13.2% in 2001. For intercensal interstate, the decline in rate is almost constant in each year. From 1961 it was 1.7% and decrease to 1.3% in 1971 and again increases to 1.7% and decreases to 1.5% in 1991, but again increases a by 1.7% in 2001. Only lifetime interstate female migrants have a negligible increase from 3.2% in 1961 to 4.6% in 2001.

Proportional importance of different factors has an important role in migration decision. From the census data of 1981, 1991 and 2001 it can be seen that percentage of migrants reporting economic factors as the cause of migration decreased considerably. From the following table it can be seen that over the years the factors responsible for migration had remained more or less same. Except business all other factors can be seen available in all the three censuses 'Business' as a factor of migration was first introduced in 1991 census. ( see table-2)

**Table-2 Factors Responsible For Migration**

Census 1981	Census 1991	Census 2001
1. Employment	1. Employment	1. Work/Employment
2. Education	2. Business	2. Business
3. Family Moved	3. Education	3. Education
4. Marriage	4. Family Moved	4. Marriage
Others	6. Natural calamities like drought, floods etc.	6. Moved with household
	7. Others	7. Any other reason

**Source: Various Migration Tables, Rajkumar Ghosh & Sibsankar Mal, 2017**

### **B. Migration in West Bengal:**

This section deals with the trend and pattern of internal migration in various districts of West Bengal. Both intra-district as well as inter-district trend in internal migration has been analysed.

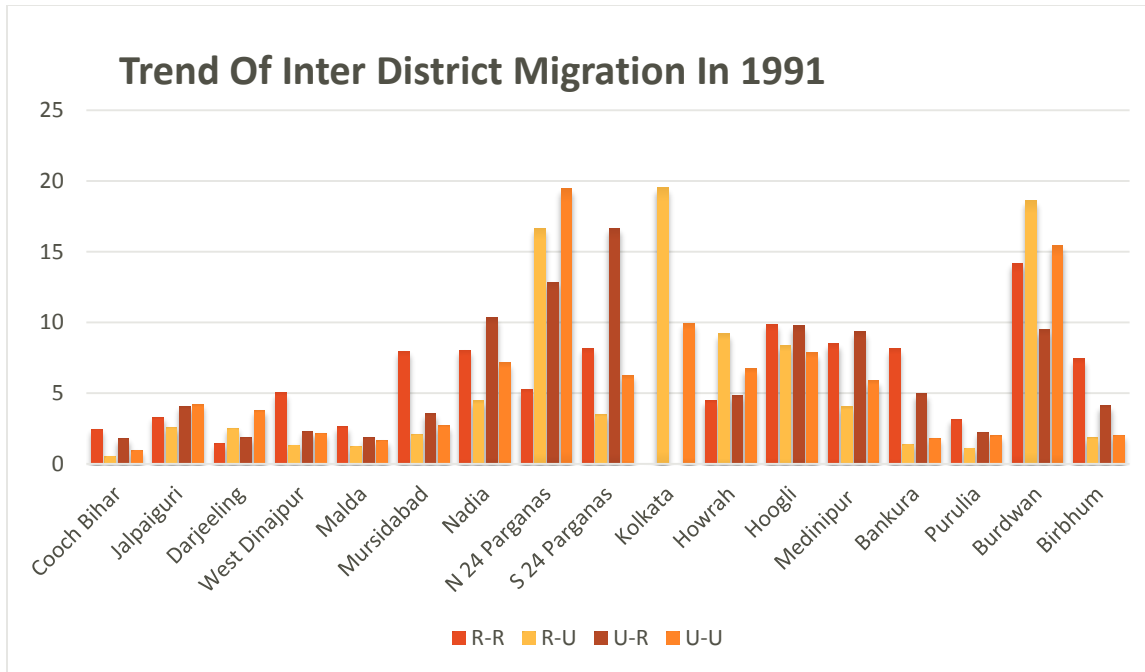
**Table-3 Trend of Inter-District Migration in West Bengal (in Percentage)**

**(R- Rural, U- Urban)**

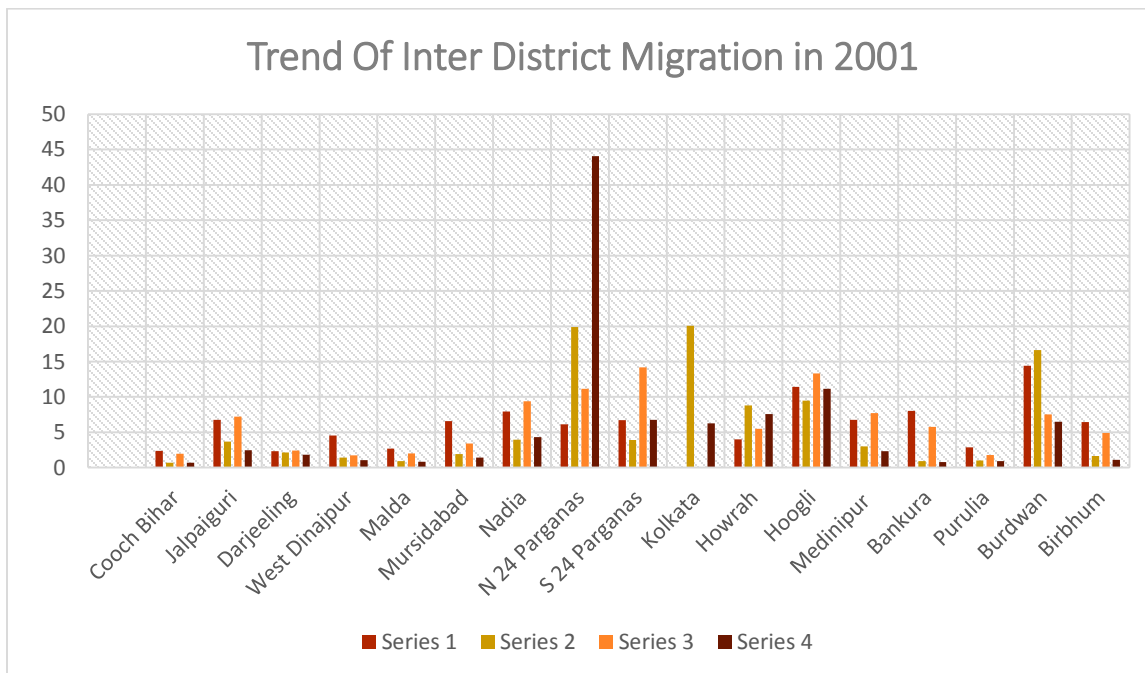
Districts	1991				2001				Change			
	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U
Cooch Bihar	2.46	0.49	1.76	0.93	2.36	0.68	1.98	0.70	-0.10	0.19	0.22	-0.24
Jalpaiguri	3.29	2.59	4.08	4.23	6.75	3.70	7.22	2.47	3.46	1.11	3.14	-1.76
Darjeeling	1.43	2.54	1.84	3.79	2.34	2.13	2.40	1.84	0.91	-0.41	0.56	-1.95
West Dinajpur	5.05	1.32	2.30	2.17	4.56	1.40	1.75	1.04	-0.49	0.07	-0.54	-1.13
Malda	2.62	1.22	1.86	1.62	2.68	0.93	1.99	0.81	0.06	-0.29	0.13	-0.81
Mursidabad	7.96	2.10	3.54	2.71	6.59	1.90	3.43	1.40	-1.37	-0.20	-0.11	-1.31
Nadia	8.03	4.46	10.34	7.15	7.94	3.96	9.38	4.31	-0.09	-0.50	-0.95	-2.85
N 24 Parganas	5.26	16.68	12.86	19.47	6.14	19.90	11.16	44.08	0.87	2.22	-1.69	24.61
S 24 Parganas	8.18	3.51	16.67	6.26	6.72	3.91	14.17	6.77	-1.46	0.39	-2.49	0.50
Kolkata	0.00	19.53	0.00	9.95	0.00	20.05	0.00	6.27	0.00	0.53	0.00	-3.68
Howrah	4.48	9.18	4.83	6.74	4.00	8.81	5.49	7.58	-0.48	-0.37	0.66	0.85
Hoogly	9.86	8.38	9.76	7.87	11.42	9.48	13.32	11.14	1.55	1.10	3.56	3.27
Medinipur	8.48	4.03	9.34	5.87	6.75	2.98	7.72	2.32	-1.74	-1.05	-1.63	-3.55
Bankura	8.14	1.38	4.97	1.81	8.04	0.93	5.76	0.78	-0.09	-0.46	0.79	-1.03
Purulia	3.16	1.11	2.24	1.98	2.86	1.01	1.79	0.92	-0.30	-0.11	-0.45	-1.06
Boardman	14.20	18.63	9.50	15.41	14.40	16.61	7.52	6.48	0.20	-2.02	-1.98	-8.94
Birbhum	7.42	1.83	4.12	2.04	6.45	1.63	4.90	1.10	-0.97	-0.21	0.78	-0.94
West Bengal	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Source: Migration Tables, 1991, 2001.**

**Figure (d)**



**Figure (e)**



In the above table (Table-3) and respective two bar diagrams represents the inter-district migration trend in West Bengal. **Figure(d)** shows the migration of year 1991 and **Figure(e)** shows the migration of year 2001. It reveals that most of the districts have higher share of rural-

rural migration in both the census years. In 1991, apart from Calcutta (now Kolkata), Burdwan has the highest percentage of rural-urban migration (18.63 percent). In 2001 it decreased slightly to give the third highest rural- urban migration figure (16.61 percent) only after Calcutta (now Kolkata) and N-24 Parganas. The last column represents the change in all migration streams for all the districts from 1991 to 2001. It states that from 1991 to 2001 in most of the districts there has been a decline in inter-district mobility across all the streams. District-wise N-24 Parganas has highest increase in rural-urban migration (2.22 percent) and Burdwan has highest decrease in rural-urban migration in 2001 than in 1991 (2.02 percent).

**Table-4 Trend of Intra-District Migration in West Bengal (in percentage)**

( R- Rural, U- Urban )

District	1991				2001				Change			
	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U
Cooch Bihar	90.30	6.61	1.99	1.10	87.27	5.33	5.22	2.17	-3.03	-1.28	3.23	1.08
Jalpaiguri	82.47	11.90	2.96	2.66	79.10	9.73	6.41	4.76	-3.37	-2.18	3.45	2.10
Darjeeling	68.06	10.31	7.87	13.77	67.39	8.63	8.11	15.87	-0.66	-1.68	0.25	2.10
West Dinajpur	87.03	7.95	2.53	2.49	88.65	5.42	3.98	1.95	1.62	-2.53	1.45	-0.55
Malda	92.11	4.90	1.87	1.12	91.83	3.86	2.48	1.83	-0.28	-1.04	0.61	0.71
Murshidabad	87.39	8.73	2.34	1.54	85.09	10.04	3.02	1.85	-2.30	1.31	0.68	0.31
Nadia	78.59	10.81	6.06	4.54	78.51	9.96	5.34	6.19	-0.08	-0.85	-0.72	1.65
N 24 Parganas	66.82	17.81	5.51	9.86	51.08	18.14	4.10	26.67	-15.73	0.33	-1.40	16.81
S 24 Parganas	89.27	6.87	2.51	1.35	87.02	8.50	2.42	2.05	-2.24	1.64	-0.09	0.70
Howrah	65.70	26.81	2.79	4.69	65.15	19.24	4.25	11.37	-0.56	-7.57	1.45	6.67
Hoogly	81.02	13.43	2.72	2.83	71.37	10.52	5.14	12.97	-9.65	-2.90	2.42	10.13
Medinipur	89.41	6.09	2.95	1.55	87.87	6.29	3.42	2.41	-1.54	0.20	0.48	0.86
Bankura	89.24	5.68	3.70	1.38	90.00	3.14	6.00	0.86	0.76	-2.54	2.30	-0.52
Purulia	91.38	5.22	2.27	1.12	91.86	5.16	1.70	1.28	0.48	-0.06	-0.57	0.15
Burdwan	75.10	15.18	2.91	6.81	71.77	15.13	4.95	8.14	-3.33	-0.05	2.04	1.33

Birbhum	86.75	7.45	4.31	1.49	85.47	7.52	5.07	1.95	-1.28	0.07	0.76	0.46
West Bengal	83.45	10.12	3.23	3.20	79.94	9.69	3.95	6.42	-3.51	-0.43	0.72	3.22

Source: Migration Tables, 1991, 2001

Figure(f)

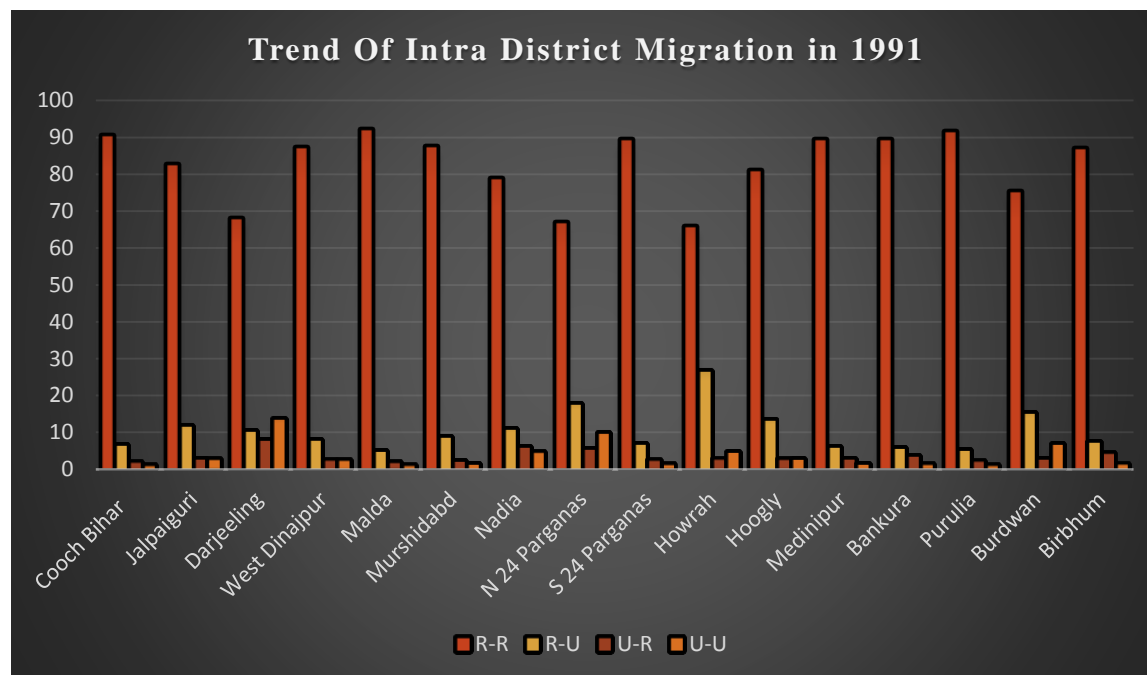
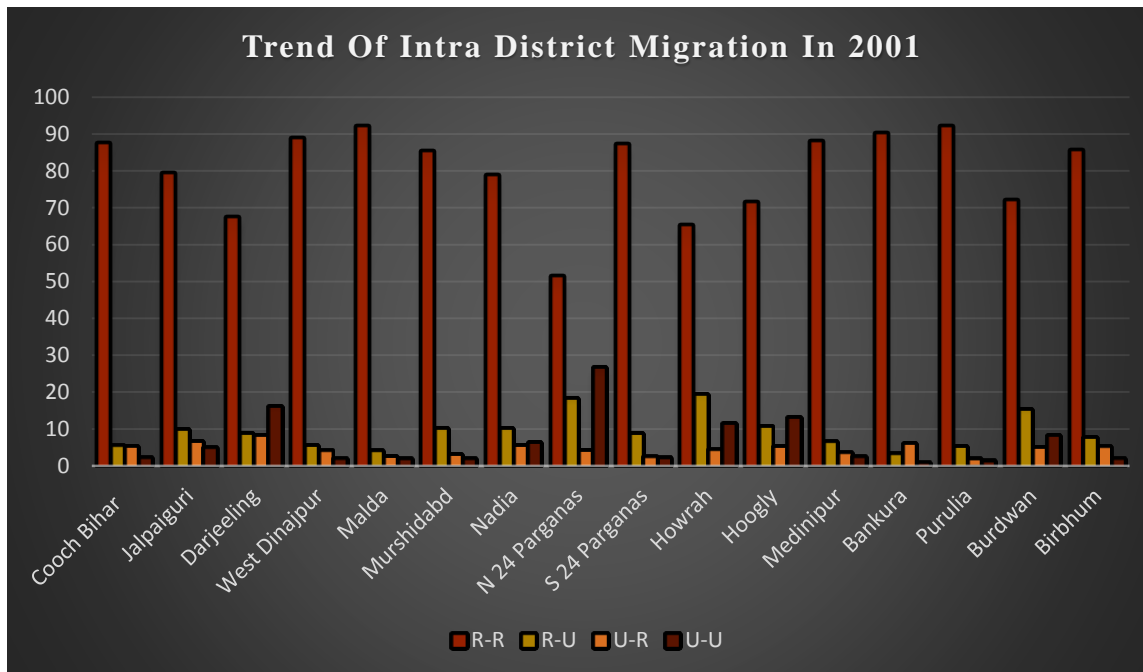


Figure (g)





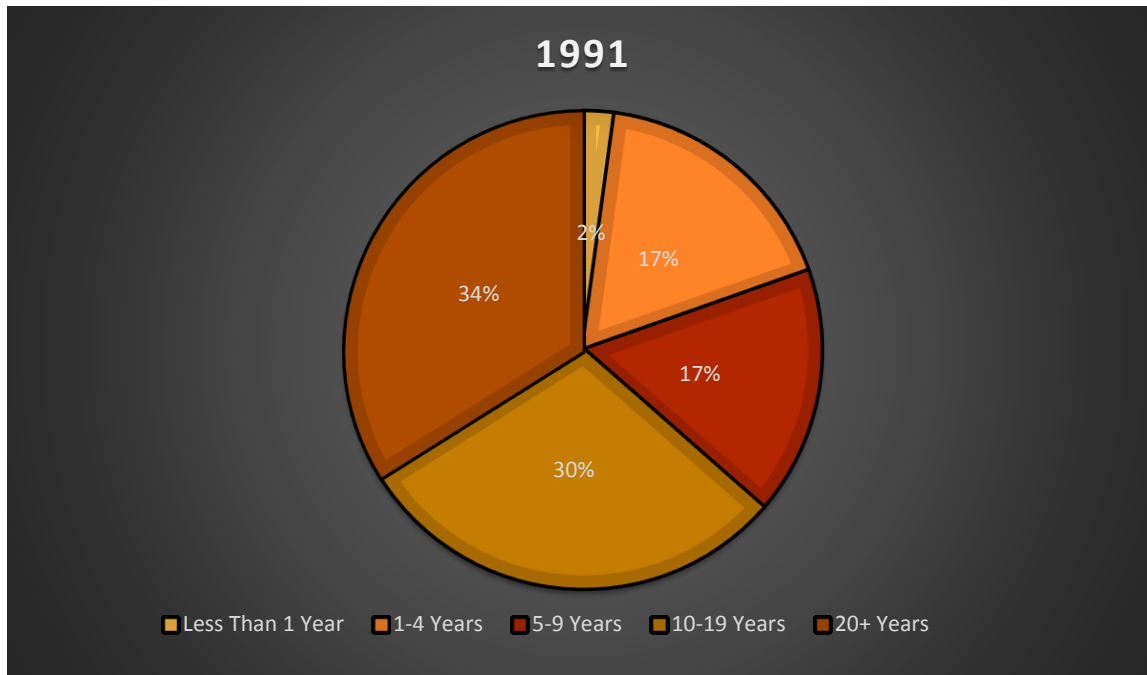
Above the table (Table-4) and respective two bar diagrams represents the intra-district migration trend in West Bengal in 1991 and 2001. In West Bengal, within the district also, as in the case of inter-district case, there is predominant role of rural to rural migration in both census years. What is more important is that it has declined across most of the districts from 1991 to 2001. This decrease is highest for Howrah (-7.57 percent) and it increased most for S-24 Parganas (1.64 percent). Overall rural-urban migration declined in West Bengal from 10.12 percent in 1991 to 9.69 percent in 2001.

**Table-5 Trend of Migrants according to Duration of Migration (in Percentage)**

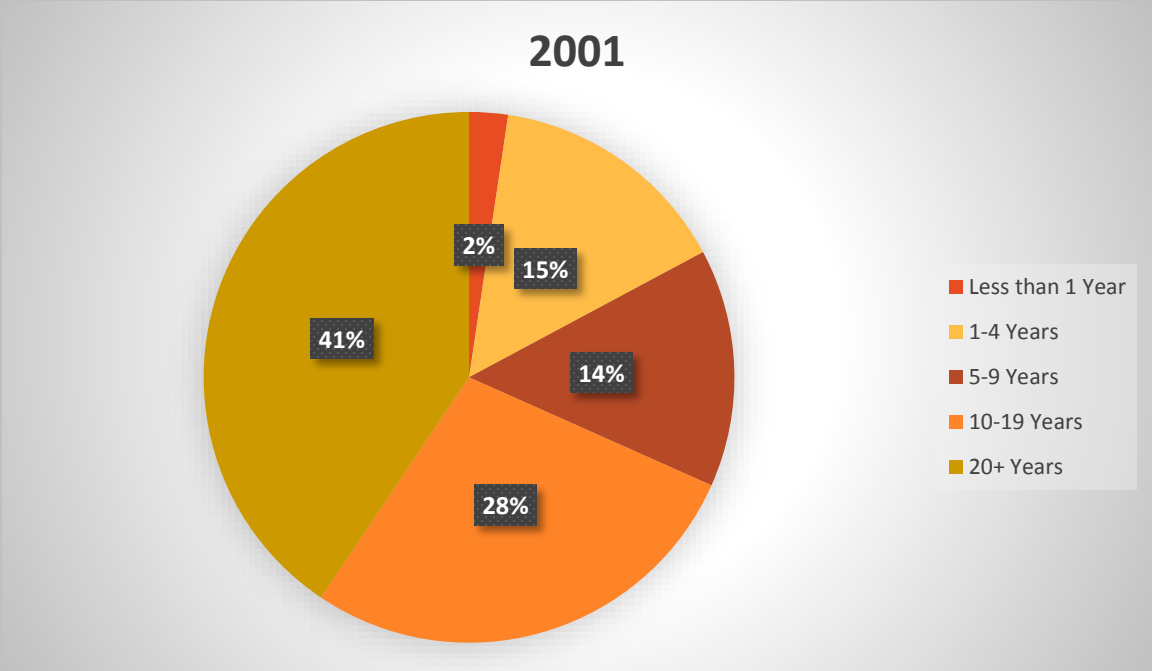
Year	Streams	Less Than 1 Year	1-4 Years	5-9 Years	10-19 Years	20+ Years
	Male	2.3	15.7	14.2	26.47	33.61
	Female	1.75	16.88	17.04	28.73	29.97
	Total	2.01	16.32	15.67	27.64	31.73
1991	Male	2.48	13.32	12.79	24.43	41.51
	Female	2.03	14.75	14.64	28.07	35.85
	Total	2.24	14.07	13.76	26.35	38.52

Source: Migration Tables, 1991 and 2001, Vijay, G. (2005)

**Figure (h) : Trend of Total Migrants according to Duration of Migration In 1991 (in Percentage)**



**Figure (i) : Trend of Total Migrants according to Duration of Migration In 2001 (in Percentage)**



Above the Table-5 and respective two pie chart depicts the trend of migrants regarding duration of migration in 1991 and 2001. The duration of migration has been classified into five categories, duration of migration less than one year, more than year but upto four years, from five years to nine years from ten years to nineteen years and twenty years and above. Data reveals that overtime migrants with longest duration (more than twenty years) and migration with shortest duration (duration with less than 1 year) increased from 31.73 per cent to 38.52 per cent and 2.01 percent to 2.24 percent respectively. But other duration of migrants have decreased overtime.

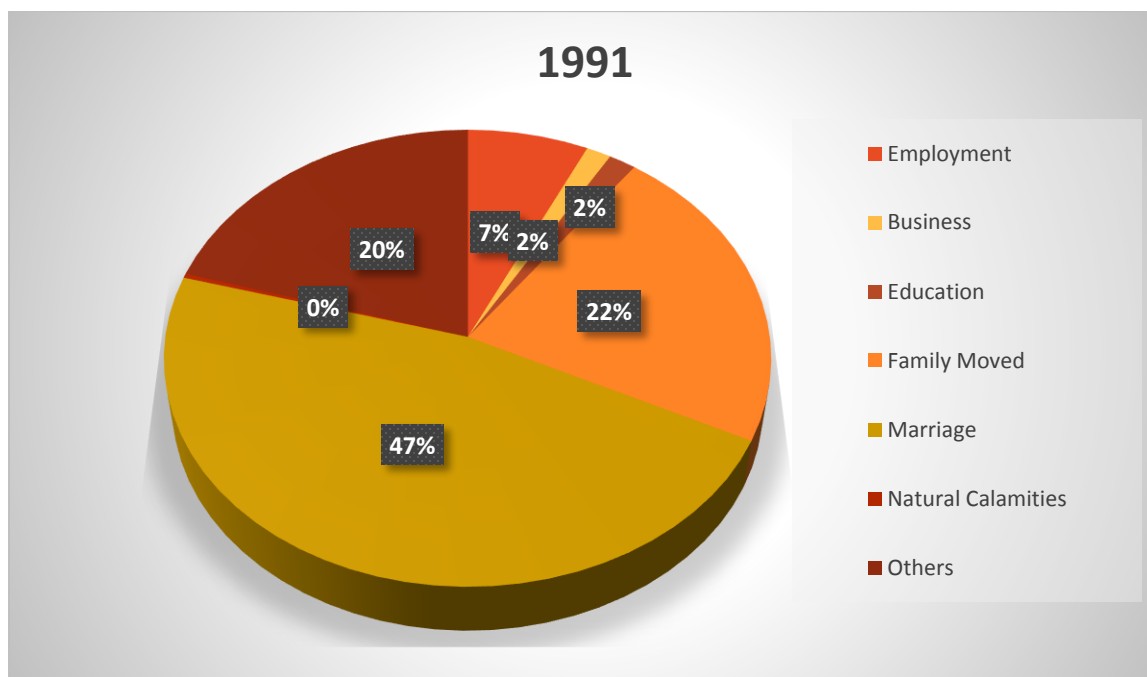
**Table-6 Trend of Migrants according to Reasons for Migration (in Percentage)**

Year	<b>MALE</b>
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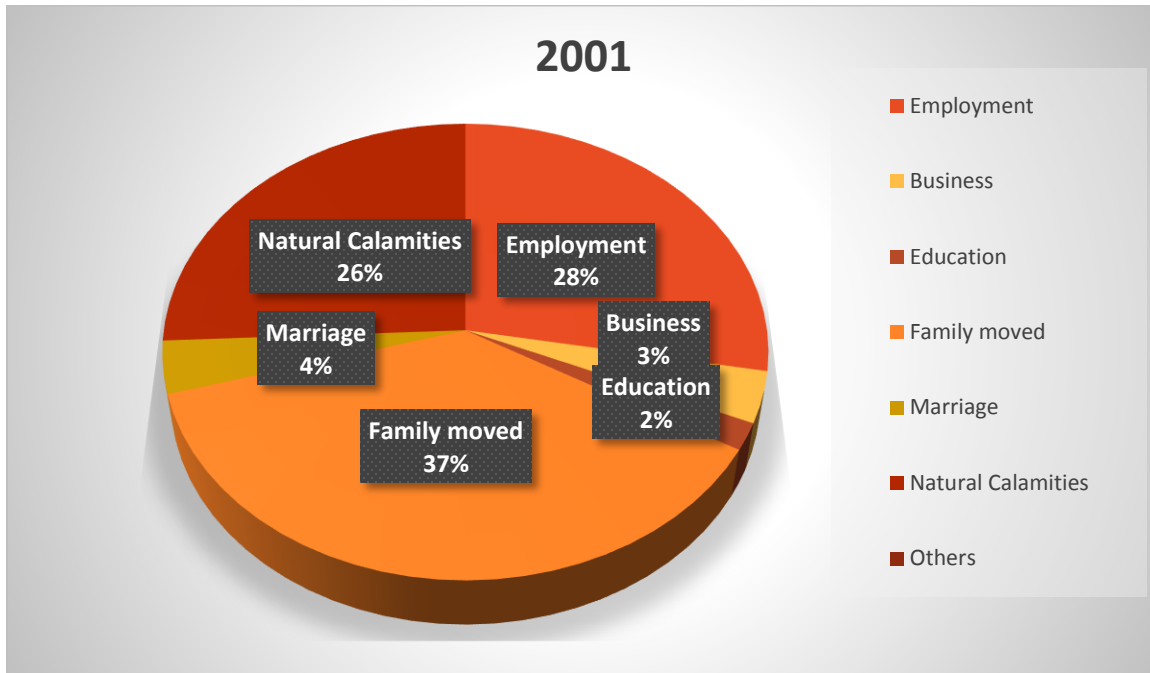
	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Natural Calamities	Others
1991	17.45	3.80	3.46	35.70	2.87	0.57	36.14
2001	46.98	6.22	2.82	0.91	4.18	21.53	17.35
<b>FEMALE</b>							
	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Natural Calamities	Others
1991	2.08	0.32	0.69	15.68	68.18	0.19	12.85
2001	3.51	0.36	0.62	59.89	2.34	22.77	10.51
<b>TOTAL</b>							
	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Natural Calamities	Others
1991	7.05	1.45	1.59	22.15	47.09	0.31	20.38
2001	24.02	3.13	1.66	32.06	3.21	22.19	13.74

Source: Migration Tables, 1991 and 2001, Anindita Sengupta, 2017

Figure(j)



**Figure(k)**



Above the table-6 and respective two pie charts (figure-j, figure-k) represent the share of various reasons for migration in total migration from rural to urban in West Bengal. It reveals that in totality, in 1991, the dominant reason for migration was marriage (about 47.09 per cent). The highest share of this was female (about 68.18 per cent). In 2001 the most dominant reasons for migration was moved with family. It accounted more than 32 per cent of total migration. The second most important reason was „employment“. In terms of male migration it can be seen that in 2001, male members of the family moved mainly due to employment (nearly 47 per cent). It is clear that there has been a shift of importance for the reason for migration in case of males. Initially in 1991 „employment“ as the reason for migration was in third place in terms of sharing, while in 2001 it became the foremost important reason for migration. Similar is the case of female migration. In 1991 marriage was the leading reason for migration but in 2001 „moved with family“ became the most dominant reason for female migration from rural to urban in West Bengal.

### **C. Out-migration in West Bengal**

The migration flow to West Bengal from different parts of the Indian continent is an old phenomenon which can be traced back to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the process of urbanization began in the areas of Eastern India, based on the Kolkata city. Historically Kolkata was developed by the Britishers as a port city. It was also the seat of the colonial administration and the centre of colonial trade. Most of the major labour movement from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa to the tea gardens in Assam and plantation in Africa took place through Kolkata. Industrial growth was also observed in the surrounding area of Calcutta as it had certain facilities such as internal river transport facility, port facility etc. Therefore, Kolkata was the main city of the eastern part of the country from the very past and it played a decisive role in attracting the mass population from the surrounding states as well as from the other parts of the country. So from the very beginning, there was a flow of migrants into the state of West Bengal from the other parts of the country. But the scenario has changed a lot over the decade. Now, more and more people migrated to other states, even to the distant states also. The net migration rate has decreased over the decade. The net migration rate was 1.28 in 1991 which was decreased to 1.01 in 2001. The more decreased was observed in case of male migrants which was 1.86 in 1991 and in 2001 the male net migration was 1.44. The decrease of net migration rate is because of more number of out-migrants to other states during the decade (1991-2001). With the increase number of out-migrants, especially male out-migrants, their pattern of migration has also been changed over the decade and this changing pattern of out-migration is discussed in the following paragraphs.

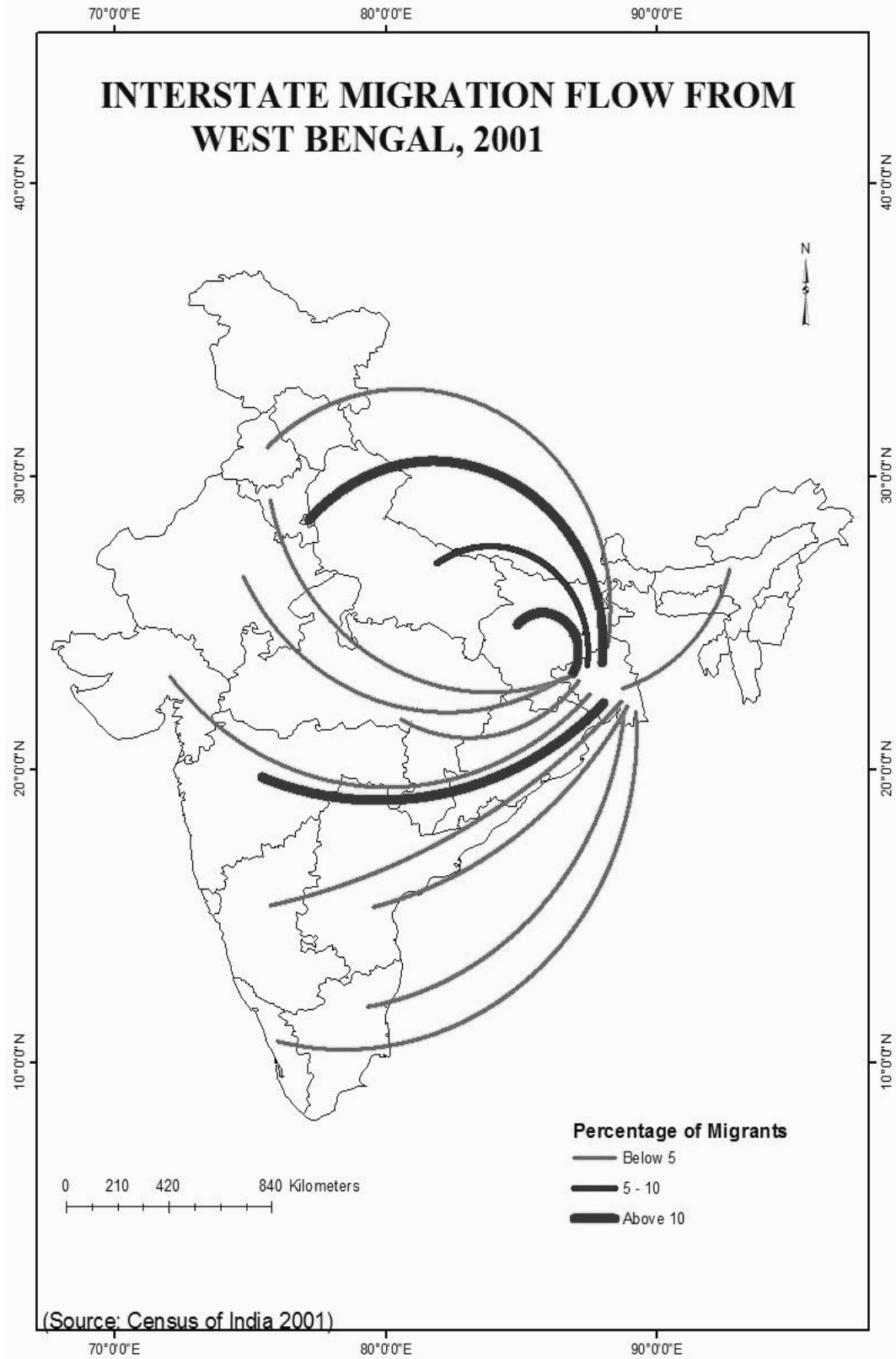
The volume of migrants shared by different states is shown in **table 7**. It provides a mixed scenario where some of the surroundings states like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Assam along with states like Maharashtra and Delhi sheltered the overwhelming majority of the out migrants from West Bengal. However, gender division of the migrants brings out that females dominate the short distance migration whereas males dominate the long distance migration. Male migration is very pronounced in the economically developed states like Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana.

**Table 7: Total number of out-migrants from West Bengal to other major states in India, 1991 & 2001**

Place of Enumeration	Place of Origin-West Bengal					
	1991			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Punjab	18385	7382	11003	44983	25473	19510
Haryana	12794	5794	7000	56250	33093	23157
Delhi	81049	43438	37611	171904	97458	74446
Rajasthan	21680	1085032	10830	45505	26108	19397
Uttar Pradesh*	106552	32639	73913	1642212	51812	112400
Bihar**	419032	101918	317114	475348	115609	359739
Assam	90864	41324	49540	81654	34949	46705
Orissa	127959	50053	77906	140860	57114	83746
Madhya Pradesh***	70856	38010	32846	46295	23760	22535
Gujrat	22550	12660	9890	40262	24895	15367
Maharashtra	69090	38730	30360	209044	138563	70481
Andhra Pradesh	24309	11660	12649	29815	16071	13744
Karnataka	10130	5540	4590	31248	20683	10565
Kerala	3770	2080	1690	5309	3284	2025
Tamil Nadu	10180	5110	5070	12108	7123	4985
All Total	1139915	434869	705046	1651054	732573	918481

**Source: D2 Migration tables of all states and U.Ts of India, Census of India 2001**

**\*Including Uttarakhand\*\*Including Jharkhand \*\*\*Including Chattisgarh**



Source: census of India 2001, Md. Selim Reja, 2007



Table 8 showed the percentage distribution of migrants who were moved to other states from West Bengal in 1991. It indicated that the states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa were the most preferred state for the people of West Bengal to migrate. The next sizeable percentage of migrants went to the states like Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. The states namely Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu were least migrating states. It may be said that, likewise in case of in-migration, the neighbouring states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Orissa had the major share. But the pattern of out-migration had changed a lot in 2001 and it was evident from the same Table. It indicated that more than one-fourth (26.48%) of the total migrants went to the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana. So it can be said that that more people now would like to go to the distant states and that's how the regional biasness in case of out-migration has been reduced to some extent over the decade.

**Table-8: Share of Out-Migrants by different states to the total inter-state out-migration from West Bengal (1991-2001). ( In Percentage)**

Place Of Enumeration	Place of Origin- West Bengal					
	1991			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Punjab	1.61	1.7	1.56	2.72	3.48	2.12
Haryana	1.12	1.33	0.99	3.41	4.52	2.52
Delhi	7.11	9.99	5.33	10.41	13.3	8.11
Rajasthan	1.9	2.5	1.54	2.76	3.56	2.11
Uttar Pradesh*	9.35	7.51	10.48	9.95	7.08	12.24
Bihar**	36.76	23.44	44.08	28.79	15.78	39.16
Assam	7.97	9.5	7.03	4.95	4.77	5.09
Orissa	11.23	11.51	11.05	8.53	7.8	9.12
Madhya Pradesh***	6.22	8.74	4.66	2.8	3.24	2.46
Gujrat	1.98	2.91	1.4	2.44	3.4	1.67
Maharashtra	6.06	8.91	4.31	12.66	18.91	7.67

Andhra Pradesh	2.13	2.68	1.79	1.81	2.19	1.5
Karnataka	0.89	1.27	0.65	1.89	2.82	1.15
Kerala	0.33	0.48	0.24	0.32	0.45	0.22
Tamil Nadu	0.89	1.18	0.72	0.73	0.97	0.54

Source: D2 Migration tables of all states and U.Ts of India, Census of India 2001

**\*Including Uttarakhand\*\*Including Jharkhand \*\*\*Including Chattisgarh**

## **POLICY SUGGESTION**

Depending on various findings of the study, the present section put forwards some of the policies that can be implemented for using population mobility as a tool of economic development in both rural and urban areas.

- Steps must be taken to boost up the urban service sector as it is the most attractive sector for urban in-migrants. Pro-migrant policies including some economic and social benefits e.g free health insurance, employees' provident fund, greater loan facilities at lower rate etc. must be provided to the migrants so that it helps the labourers as well as self-employed persons of urban informal sector.
- Policies must be formed to upgrade the level of agricultural efficiency of rural farm sector so that rural people get sufficient surplus from the agriculture sector and contain themselves in the rural region. This will retard rural-urban migration and slow down population mobility. This will enhance dynamism in the rural sector and will eventually reduce the disparity between rural and urban sectors.
- Policy towards the development of rural informal (non-farm) is expected to have positive impact on rural employment. This is so because the absorption capacity of rural non-farm sector is greater than the formal sector. This will obviously reduce rural-urban population mobility and help to achieve a balanced development between rural and urban sectors.
- Government might take policies to promote rural SSIs which are one of the major backbones of rural economy. They should be provided soft credit, better business infrastructure and rationing of inputs as well as output prices can create favourable conditions for the development of SSIs and this will certainly enhance livelihood opportunities of the rural masses.

## CONCLUSION

The study has concentrated on the issue of changing patterns of migration and their characteristics in West Bengal. It is noted that the net migration rate of West Bengal has decreased from 2.44% per cent in 1991 to 0.96% per cent in 2001 as per census data. Whereas employment and business remain the main cause of male out-migration, marriage to the neighbouring state appears to be the main cause of female out-migration. In case of out-migration for men, the urban-urban stream was the dominating one while the rural-rural stream was dominating among the female out-migrants in the census years 1991 and 2001.

West Bengal has more in-migrants than out-migrants. Employment and business remain the main cause of male out-migration, while marriage to the neighboring state appears to be the main cause of female emigration. The development of West Bengal was very centered in Calcutta, it means that the urbanization has centered mainly in Calcutta and the neighborhoods of the neighborhood of this great city. Moving on the rate of urbanization increased from 27.81 per cent in the 2001 Census to 31.16 per cent in 2011 Census in West Bengal. The state of West Bengal is undoubtedly still a net migration state, but if West Bengal wants to maintain its attraction to migrants, it requires a new impetus in development.

The flow of migrants particularly the male migrants from West Bengal to other states over the decade (1991-2001), is directed to the relatively developed states namely Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana in search of 'Work/employment' and the share of the neighbouring states in inter-state out-migration had considerably decreased over the time. Therefore it can be said that, the male out-migration hardly follow the distance decay model and a considerable percentage of male migration is observed in distant states also. However, in case of female out-migrants, the neighbouring states still hold the lion share. Another important fact is that the southern states namely Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu were least migrating states. As urban areas offer more job opportunities than the rural areas, the maximum percentage of migrants migrated to the urban areas of these states. Nearly three-fourth of total male migrants and half of the total female migrants migrated to the urban areas and rural-urban migration stream recorded the highest increase over the decade.

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