



MIGRATION IN WEST BENGAL

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1. INTRODUCTION

Migration refers to the mobility of people from one place to another; it may be a permanent or temporary migration, as well as a short or long term migration. The study aims to analyze changing patterns, reasons for out-migration and also focus on spatial patterns, tempo of

urbanization in West Bengal based on Census data. The in migration and out migration streams and the reasons behind migration, educational level, work status, occupational patterns of migrants etc. have been discussed. The study is to address the issue of changing patterns of migration and their characteristics in West Bengal. Moving on the urban population can be decomposed into three components: natural increase in urban areas, reclassification of rural areas as urban and net migration from rural to urban areas. It is important to highlight these aspects at the outset, since urbanization is synonymous with nonagricultural activities.

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. 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. These models were concerned with socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the 'family' which is obviously more general framework of studying migration. Family Migration decision is the culmination of decisions made in three stages. First stage is associated with decision to move away from present place of residence. This can alternatively be termed as decision regarding 'choice of migration'. Here the family decides if it is at all require to migrate out from the present place or not on the basis of expected utility from migration. Second stage involves

simultaneous searching of new residence and location. In this stage family calculates the expected utility from migration in all alternative destinations.

Migration of rural labour as unskilled or semi-skilled one towards urban centre evolved as a common phenomenon in major rice producing belts of developing countries especially India credited for both positive and negative consequence upon livelihood of family household having migrant's member and economy of sending rural areas. Although deteriorating employment opportunities in rural area and better prospects in urban area contribute as the leading factor of rural out-migration, improved communication and road networks accelerates the mobility of population from rural areas .The impact of migration whether negative or positive is a controversial matter holding different point of view among scholars working in this field. Generally remittance made by the migrant's aid in the rise of total family income of the household. Besides contributing on family welfare remittance can improve the existing economic activities by rendering additional investment that could not be possible for non migrating households. But the size and amount of remittance made by migrants depends upon their capacity and socio-economic position at the place of migration. Migration is one of the major components in population change. It plays an important role in influencing the rate of growth of population of any region. People generally migrate for a better economic and social life. Hence migration plays a vital role for transformation of the society. This study is based on primary and secondary sources of data. The Main causes of labour communities out migration are – unemployment, poverty, crop failure, indebtedness, lower wages in agricultural sector labour, lack of industry. The most of labour communities get their jobs under traditional Dadon system (some payment in advance and works for certain period)

2. MOTIVATIONS

Migration is important for the transfer of manpower and skills and provides the needed knowledge and innovation for global growth. In order to address the issues raised by global migration, it is necessary to improve international coordination.

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.

Migrants often send home money (i.e., remittances) that benefit those left behind by increasing their consumption and improving their living conditions. At the same time, migration disrupts family life, which could have negative effects on the well-being of migrant-sending households living in the countries of origin.

People migrate for many different reasons. These reasons can be classified as economic, social, political or environmental : economic migration moving to find work or follow a particular career path such as, Lack of services, Lack of safety, High crime, crop failure, drought , flooding, poverty and war.

Most people migrate for economic reasons. People think about emigrating from places that have few job opportunities, and they immigrate to places where jobs seem to be available. Because of economic restructuring, job prospects often vary from one country to another and within regions of the same country.

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.

Reason for migration of males and females are different. For example, work and employment have remained the main cause for male migration (38 per cent) while it is only three per cent for the females. Contrary to this, about 65 per cent of females move out from their parental houses following their marriage.

Migration is important for understanding population and societal changes. Statistical modelling can be used to harmonize and estimate missing and conflicting international migration flows. Measures of uncertainty improve researchers' understanding of the quality of migration data and estimates.

In the long-run, large amounts of immigration will weaken the home country by decreasing the population, the level of production, and economic spending. If a country is losing citizens due to economic reasons, the situation will not improve until economic changes are made.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

The economics of migration has drawn attention of many economists and social scientists over the years. Decision making in migration has certain inherent complexities as it takes into account the characteristics of both areas of origin and areas of destinations. Similarly, it

involves the status of agriculture productivity and efficiency, extent of urban informal sector along with various others amenities available in the destination urban areas. 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. Greenwood (1971) found that people are reluctant to make long-distance movement because it widens the cultural gap between the migrant’s home and his place of destination. According to Mangalam (1968) it is preferable to a migrant to go to a destination where the social organization is as similar as possible to that of their place of origin. These psychic, nonmonetary costs of migration along with the monetary costs also play a role in migration process. Kuznets (1966) explained how economic growth and development could lead to migration. Demand for workers in different job changes with the technological advances. Technological change in agriculture reduces the demand for labour in agriculture. According to him, migration should compensate more rapid growth of demand for labour outside the agriculture sector as well as for the higher rate of natural increase of agricultural labour, as the population growth in the rural areas are higher than that of urban areas. Goldstein (1990) observed that the flow of temporary rural-to-urban migrants allows urban to meet their requirement of special labour force and service. This helps reduce the rural labour-surplus, and avoid burdening cities with the responsibility for absorbing vast numbers of migrants into their permanent population. Hossain (2001) studies rural urban migration in ten villages of Cumilla district of Bangladesh. His study mainly focuses on differentials and determinants of migration and finds that persons involved in the process of rural out-migration are adults and more educated. Most of them were engaged in studies or unemployed before migration. McCatty (2004) focuses on rural-urban migration and its influence on urbanization mainly in the developing countries. His paper analyzes three models that provide theoretical reasons for the process of rural urban migration: the Lewis dual sector model, the family/household migration model, and the Todaro model. Further, he argues that rural-urban migration is an inevitable consequence of both asymmetric policies, and economic development of urban areas. Consequently, migration should be seen as an equilibrating response to disequilibrium existing in the economy. As long as there are gaps in rural-urban employment opportunities caused by urban biasness, there will be migration; and

it is the responsibility of government to reduce this disequilibrium. The benefits and costs are also analyzed in this paper, and it is found that although there are benefits that can arise from rural-urban migration, the costs are pervasive in developing countries. The marginal social costs far outweigh the marginal private costs, and so urbanization is not efficient. The level of urbanization takes place at the point where marginal private costs equal marginal private benefits.

4. OBJECTIVE

- a) To examine the Internal Male -Female Migrants in West Bengal, 1961-2001
- b) To identify the factors which are responsible for Migration.
- c) To investigate the determinants of the level of migration and the choice of migration.
- d) To show the Trends Of Inter-District Migration In West Bengal.
- e) To examine the Trends Of Intra-District Migration In West Bengal.
- f) To show the Trend Of Migrants according to reason for Migration.

5. METHODOLOGY

Study on migration in West Bengal necessary to do primary survey to analyze the whole matter we have to form descriptive statistics. It is not possible for us to survey in this pandemic situation. So, this study is based on the secondary survey data.

The secondary data are collected from official website of Census of India. The study is based upon the data from 2001 Census, because 2011 Census Data does not hold the district-level migration figure. Using this data, this research study examine the issue in depth. This study is analyzed with the help of descriptive statistics, trend level, bar diagram and pie chart.

6. RESULTS

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

a) TOTAL MIGRANT

	Percentage of Total Population				
Categories					
	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 Migrants Tables - by Debasis Chakraborty, 2001

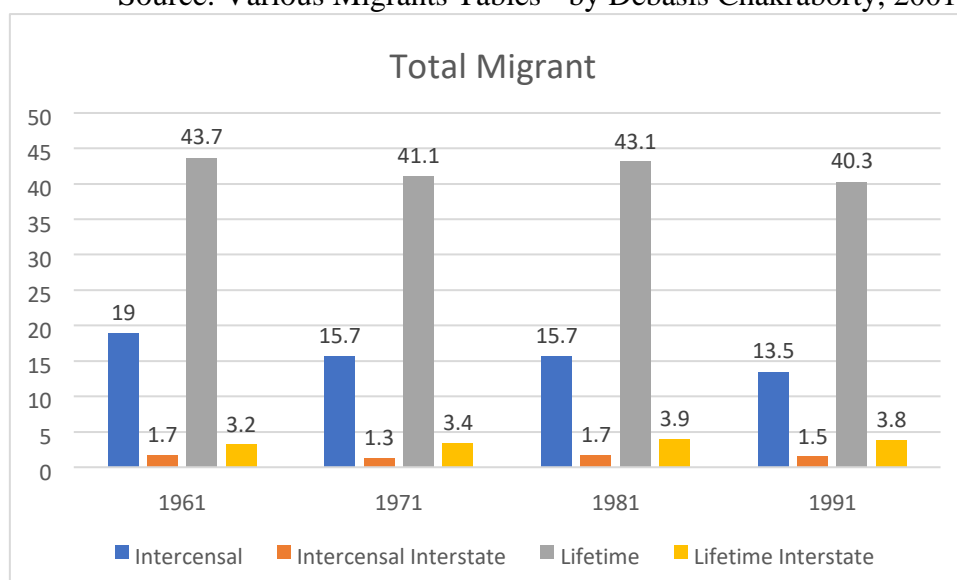


Figure-(i) TOTAL MIGRATION

The above table-1(a) and the respective bar diagram (figure - i) 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 luifetime intercensal type of migration has a slight increase from 3.3% in 1961 to 4.2% in 2001.

b) Male Migrants

Categories	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 Migrants Tables - Debasis Chakraborty, 2014

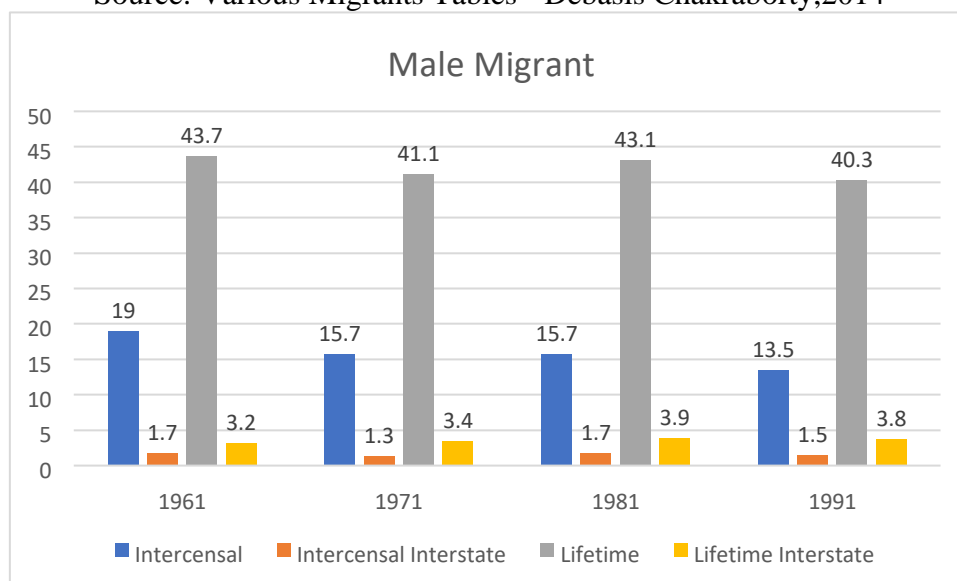


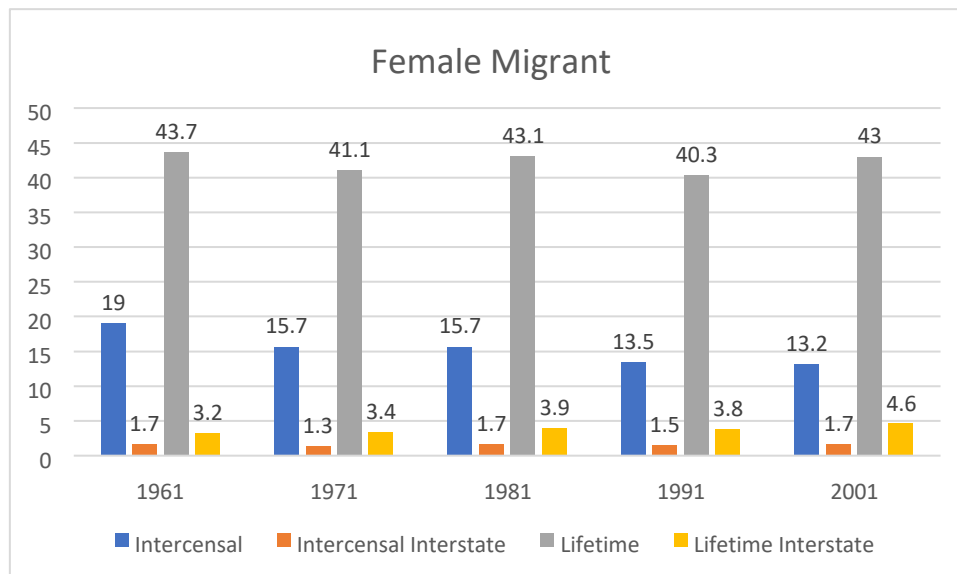
Figure-(ii) MALE MIGRANTS, 2001

c) Female Migrants

Categories	Percentage of total population				
	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 Migrants Tables - by Debasis Chakraborty, 2014

FIGURE-(iii) FEMALE MIGRANTS



The picture for female migrants 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 also suggests that rural male migrants as well as the urban male migrants have decreased at a continuous rate from 1961 to 2001. Absolute figure in the year of 2001 suggests that the proportion of the lifetime migrants is the highest irrespective of classes. A decrease in the interstate migration actually says that people are getting absorbed in their states itself.

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 – by Raju Sarkar

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.

Table- 3 Trend of Migrants according to Reasons for Migration (in Percentage) a) Male Migrants

Male Migrant Trend							
Categories	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Natural Calamities	Others
1991	17.45	3.8	3.46	35.7	2.87	0.57	36.14
2001	46.98	6.22	2.82	0.91	4.18	21.53	17.35

Source : Migration Tables, 1991 and 2001- by Anindita Sengupta

Figure-(i) TREND OF MALE MIGRANTS, 1991

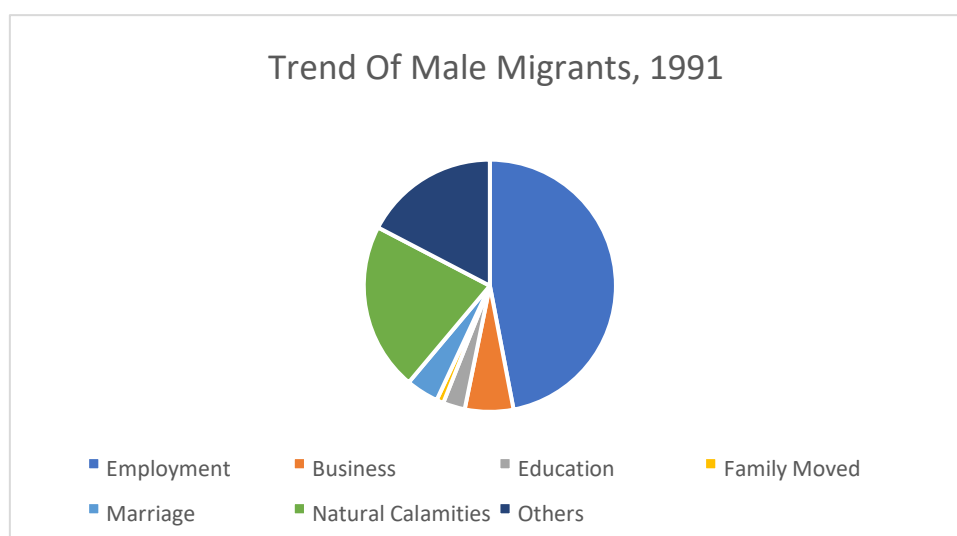
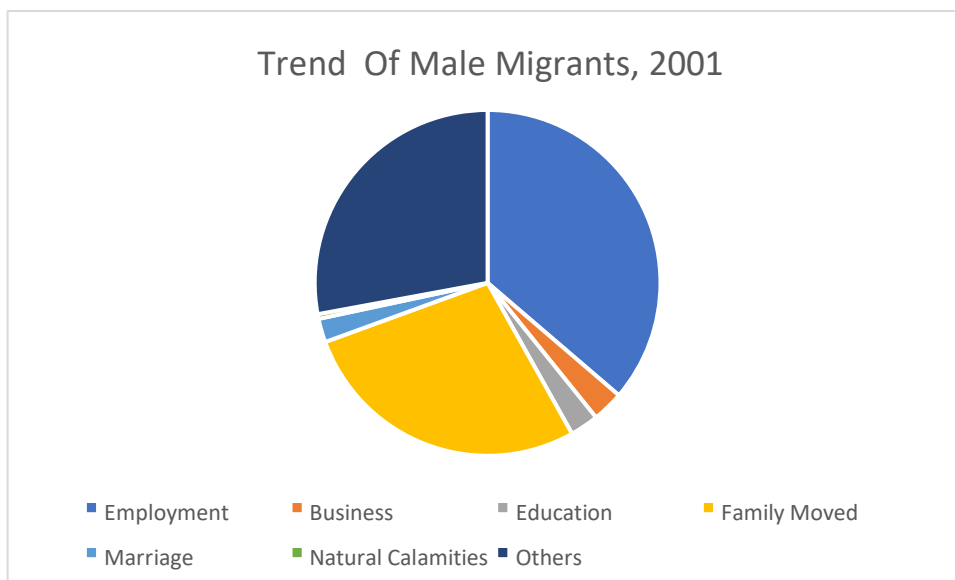


Figure – (ii) TREND OF MALE MIGRANTS, 2001



b) Female Migrants

	FEMALE						
Year	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Natural Calamities	Others
1991	2.08	0.32	0.69	15.68	68.14	0.19	12.85
2001	3.51	0.36	0.62	59.89	2.34	22.77	10.51

Source :Migration Tables, 1991 and 2001 - by Subhasis Saha

Figure-(i) TREND OF FEMALE MIGRANTS, 1991

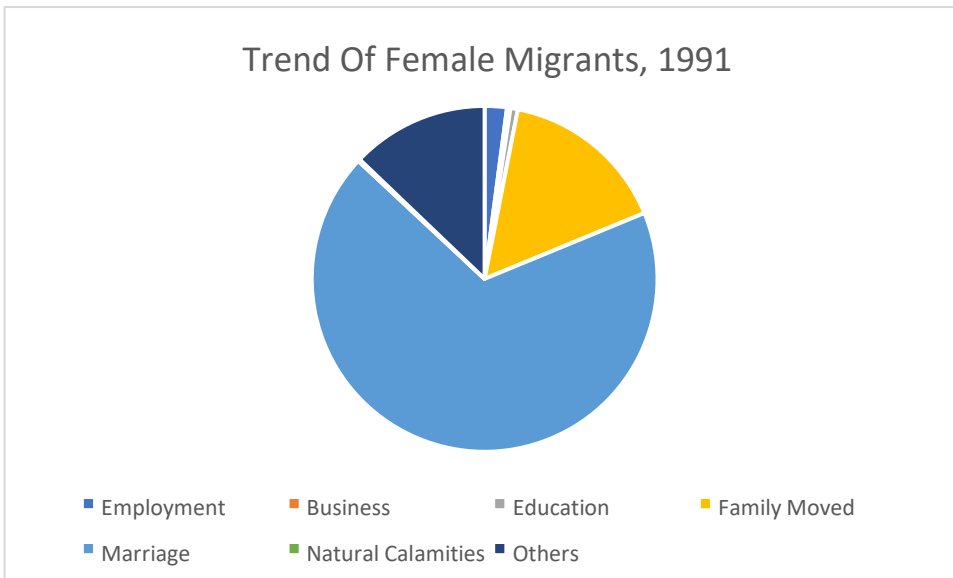
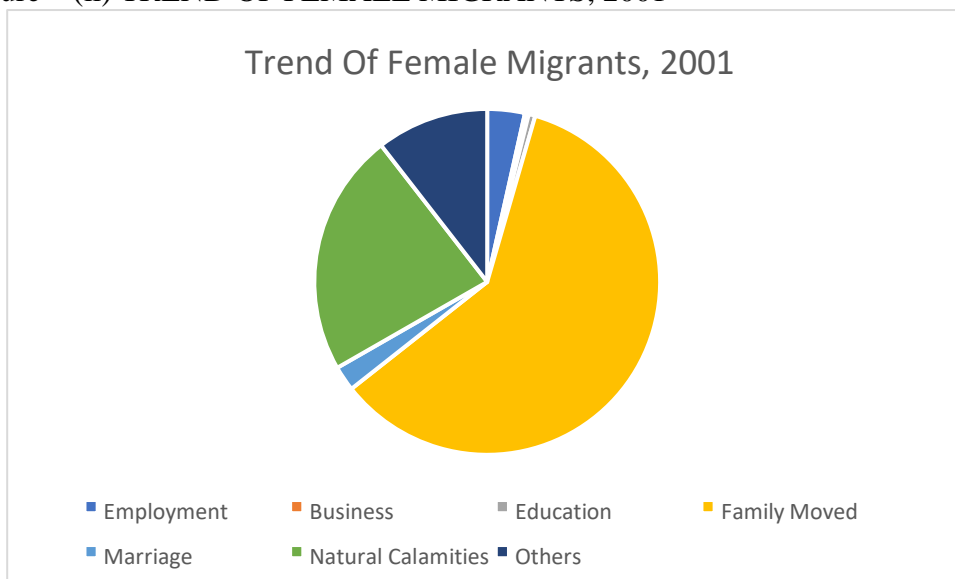


Figure – (ii) TREND OF FEMALE MIGRANTS, 2001



Above the table – 3 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.

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-4 Trend of Inter-District Migration in West Bengal (in Percentage)

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	24.6 1
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
Hoogli	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	-	-	0.79	-
									0.09	0.46		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
Burdwan	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	-	-	0.78	-
									0.97	0.21		0.94
West Bengal	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				

Source: Migration Tables, 1991, 2001 – by Kingsuk Maity

In the table-4 the study has analyzed the percentage of Interstate net migrants in various for the period of 1961 to 1991. For this it is divided into three different headings, namely, percentage of total net migrants, percentage of total rural net migrants and percentage of total urban net migrants. A quick look to the following table will suggest that almost all the advanced states have positive net in-migrants. It means these economies, being the advanced one, attract people from all parts of the country and thus become a state with concentration of population. On the other hand the economically backwards states experienced a net out migration due to their lack of basic facilities like health, education, transportation etc.

Figure-(i) - TREND OF INTER-DISTRICT MIGRATION, 1991

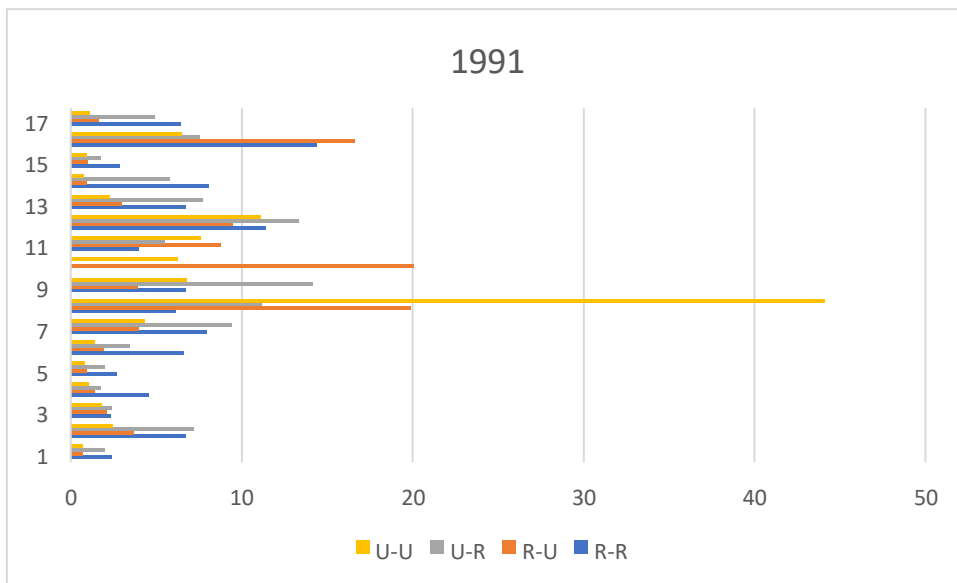


Figure-(ii) - TREND OF INTER-DISTRICT MIGRATION, 1991

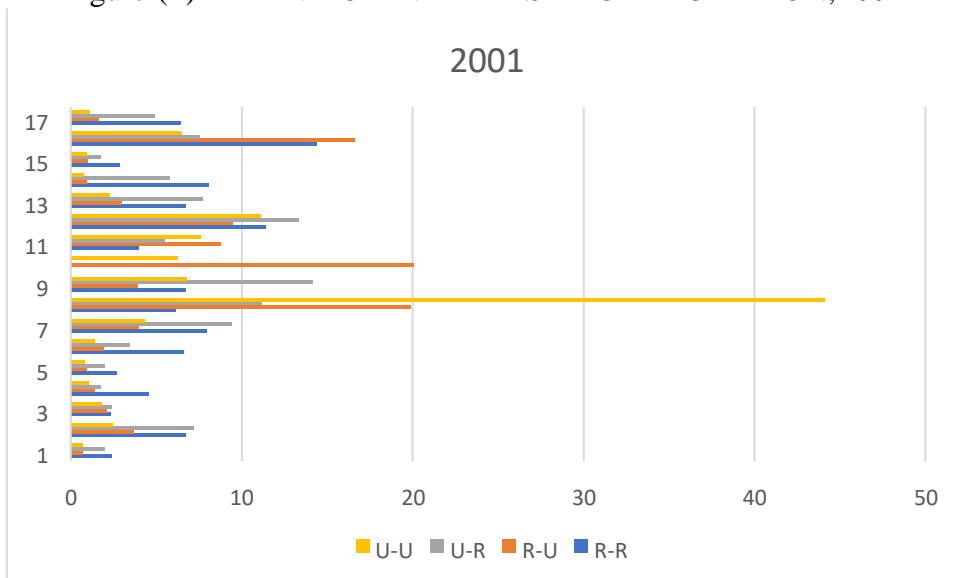


Table-5 Trend of Intra-District Migration in West Bengal (in percentage)

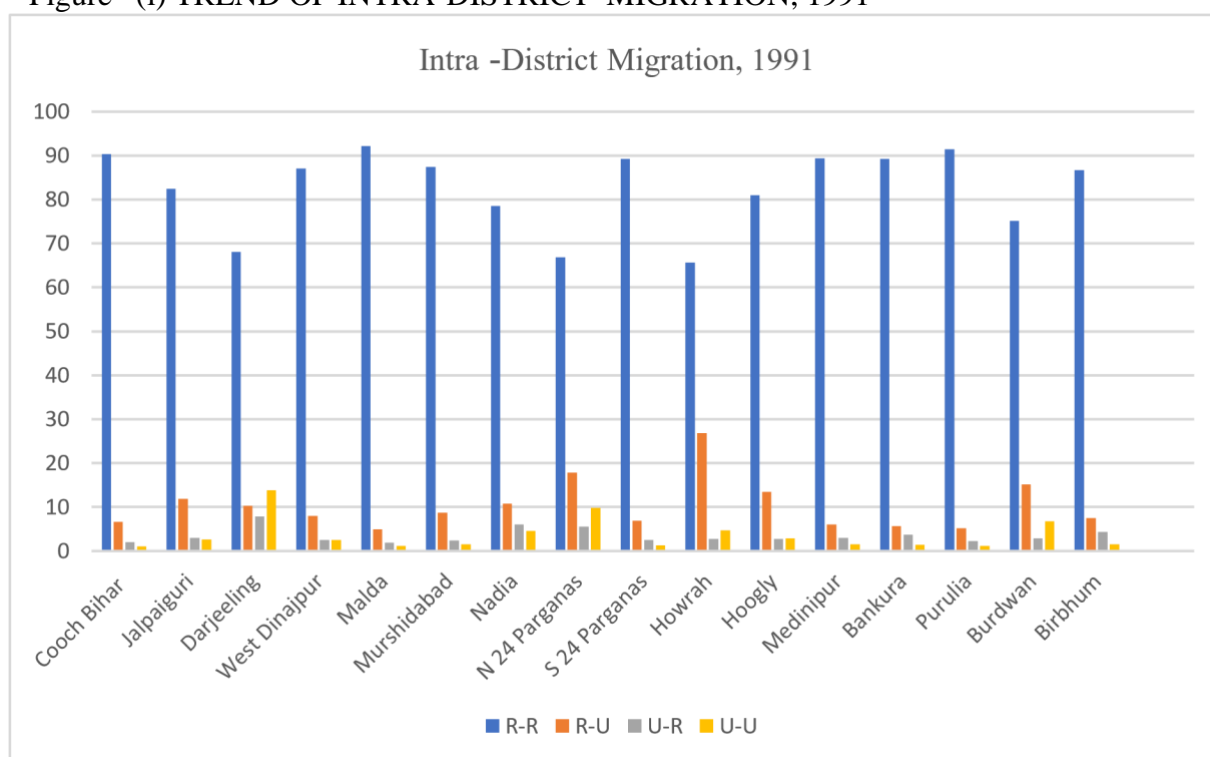
District	1991				2001				Change			
	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U	R-R	R-U	U-R	U-U
Cooch Bihar	90.30	6.61	1.99	1.10	87.27	5.33	5.22	2.17	-3.03	-	3.23	1.08
										1.28		
Jalpaiguri	82.47	11.90	2.96	2.66	79.10	9.73	6.41	4.76	-3.37	-	3.45	2.10
										2.18		
Darjeeling	68.06	10.31	7.87	13.77	67.39	8.63	8.11	15.87	-0.66	-	0.25	2.10
										1.68		
West Dinajpur	87.03	7.95	2.53	2.49	88.65	5.42	3.98	1.95	1.62	-	1.45	-0.55
										2.53		
Malda	92.11	4.90	1.87	1.12	91.83	3.86	2.48	1.83	-0.28	-	0.61	0.71
										1.04		
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	-	-	1.65
										0.85	0.72	
N 24 Parganas	66.82	17.81	5.51	9.86	51.08	18.14	4.10	26.67	-	0.33	-	16.81
									15.73		1.40	
S 24 Parganas	89.27	6.87	2.51	1.35	87.02	8.50	2.42	2.05	-2.24	1.64	-	0.70
										0.09		
Howrah	65.70	26.81	2.79	4.69	65.15	19.24	4.25	11.37	-0.56	-	1.45	6.67
										7.57		
Hoogly	81.02	13.43	2.72	2.83	71.37	10.52	5.14	12.97	-9.65	-	2.42	10.13
										2.90		
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	-	2.30	-0.52
										2.54		
Purulia	91.38	5.22	2.27	1.12	91.86	5.16	1.70	1.28	0.48	-	-	0.15
										0.06	0.57	
Burdwan	75.10	15.18	2.91	6.81	71.77	15.13	4.95	8.14	-3.33	-	2.04	1.33
										0.05		

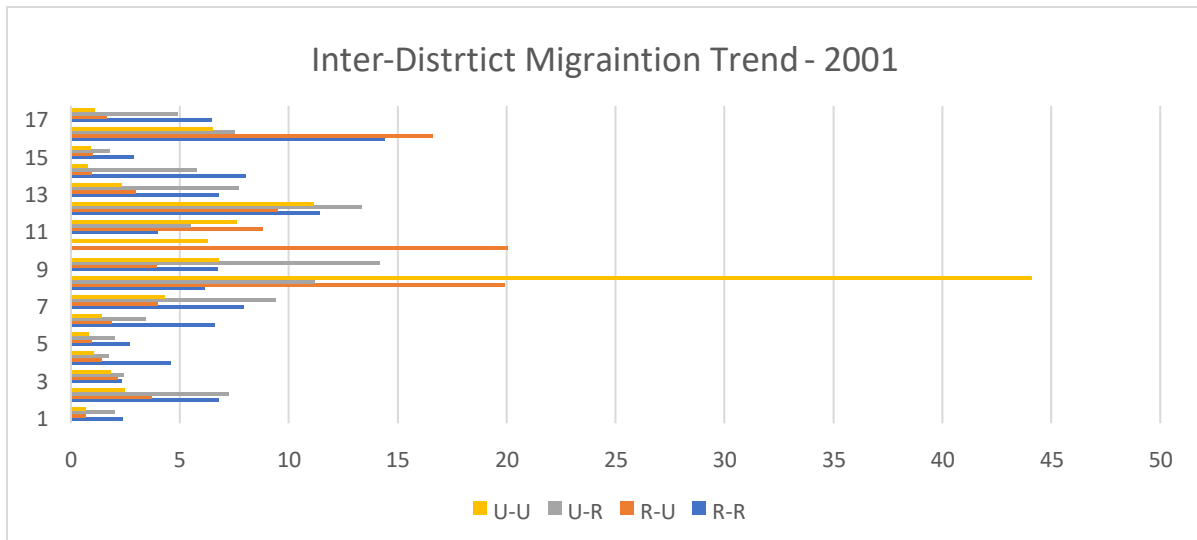
Birbhum	86.75	7.45	4.31	1.49	85.47	7.52	5.07	1.95	-1.28	0.07	0.76	0.46
West Bengal	83.45	10.12	3.23	3.20	79.94	9.69	3.95	6.42	-3.51	-0.43	0.72	3.22

Source: Migration Tables, 1991, 2001 - by Shyam Sunder Thakur

Table-5 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 Haora (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.

Figure –(i) TREND OF INTRA-DISTRICT MIGRATION, 1991





7. POLICY SUGGESTIONS

- Encourage the welfare of the rural villages by the reliable and sustainable rural electrification system can stop the migration towards the big city. Because today's development can't perform without the electricity.
- Countries should promote stability, education and employment opportunities and reduce the drivers of forced migration, including by promoting resilience, thereby enabling individuals to make the choice between staying or migrating.
- The rural areas must be given special attention while development so as to retain the population which migrates to the urban areas. All the basic amenities must be provided in the rural areas.
- Better job prospects in rural areas will surely reduce the rate of migration. One important facet of study on population is the study of migration arising out of various social, economic or political reasons. Thus migration as a component of population change has significance well beyond its impact on the changing population size and composition of a human settlement.
- The solutions to the problems of rural-Urban migration include: 1. Provision of social amenities: The provision of social amenities such as water, electricity, cinemas, roads and telephones in rural areas will go a long way in reducing the rate at which youth move to Urban areas.
- Combat poverty by promoting economic development and job creation

8. CONCLUSION

Migration is changing the, demographic, socio-economic and development profile of India. This study suggests an impact on the women who are living absence of her husband. Relatively aged women are more likely to live with their husband or family as compared to younger women. This may be reason the husbands of aged women are settled and can bear to keep their family with them when they migrate, while the husbands of newly married women are still not settled enough to maintain their family with them. Women who belong to the lower standard of living category are left behind due to male out-migration, whereas women belong to the higher standard of living category are mostly living with their male member. But this results need to be highly explored more as data limit for assessing this type of particular circumstances. Women whose husbands have out-migrated tend not to work and this may be reason in the absence of their husband since women's responsibilities regarding their children's health and education, social expectation and dependency on others, increases. Women's greater involvement in agricultural activity and increased responsibility in maintaining households may or may not improve their socio-economic status.

Another reason that the wives of migrant men may get little time to work outside of the home might be that, in the absence of the husband, the wife has to shoulder the responsibility of taking care of other members of the extended household. Indian society does not readily allow married women to live alone. While this extended household pattern gives social protection to the wife, it may restrain their empowerment if decision-making powers are transferred to other male members.

Women in the society from where male members migrate are likely to assert more authority within the household, including having more decision-making authority regarding childrearing, household expenditure and healthcare.

The most general factors which increase the mobility of women, decision-making powers and that decrease the restrictions placed on them are the age, level of education, marital period, occupation and urban residence of the women in question. The common variable which has an inverse impact on the decision-making powers, the restrictions placed on them and mobility of women is the husband's educational level. However, the findings do not show how factors interact to influence the women empowerment. Despite this limitation, the results will be beneficial in identifying those classes of women where society, policy makers and institutions can direct their endeavours and interventions to ensure a tangible enhancement in women's empowerment.

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