

RECENT CHANGING PATTERNS OF MIGRATION AND SPATIAL PATTERNS OF URBANIZATION IN WEST BENGAL: A DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

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. It is noted that the proportion of migrants in West Bengal has increased from 27% in 1991 to 30% in 2001. In the case of inter -state migrants, West Bengal has more in-migrants than out-migrants. Bihar continues to be the main state of origin of immigrants in West Bengal with 62.43% in 1991 and 63.68% in 2001. West Bengal, the most favored destinations are in Bihar, comprising 36.76% in 1991 and 28.17% in 2001. It is also found that employment is the main cause of men's movement and marriage remains the most dominant for female migration. The focus on level of urbanization increased from 27.81% in the 2001 Census to 31.16% in the 2011 Census, but the pace or speed of urbanization is not uniform over the years in West Bengal.

Keywords: In migration, out migration, level of urbanization, tempo of urbanization and West Bengal.

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 non-agricultural activities.

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 Ravenstein (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.

Objectives

This study has the following objectives.

1. To understand the changing pattern of internal migration in West Bengal during the period 1991-2001.
2. To find out the reasons for out-migration from West Bengal to other states or union territories of India.
3. To examine the spatial patterns and tempo of urbanization in West Bengal.

Data and Research Methodology

The present study is based entirely on the secondary sources of data, the Census of India. For the purpose of the study, data are used from two census years, 1991 and 2001, but the 2011 census has been used for urbanization purpose. According to the Census reports migrants are classified

on the basis of place of birth and place of residence. This analysis is based on data on migrants by place of residence. The whole analysis of the study is carried out using simple statistical techniques like rates, ratios and percentage. Net Migration Rate is also calculated with the help following formula.

$$\text{Net migration rate} = \frac{\text{Total in-migrants} - \text{Total out-migrants}}{\text{Total population}} * 100$$

Where,

$$\text{In-migration rate} = \frac{\text{Total In-Migrants at the place of Enumeration}}{\text{Total Mid-year population at the place of Enumeration}} * 100$$

$$\text{Out-migration rate} = \frac{\text{Total Out-Migrants in the place of enumeration}}{\text{Total Mid-year population at the place of enumeration}} * 100$$

The linear model has been used to calculate the tempo of urbanization in West Bengal during 2001-2011.

$$\text{TR} = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{PU^{t-n}}{PU^t} - 1 \right) * 100$$

Where

TR= Tempo of Urbanization.

n = Number of Years.

PU = Percent urban at the year t and t+n.

Results and Discussion:

In-migrants, out-migrants and net migrants, India and West Bengal, 2001

Table 1 presents an idea about the in migration and out migration in India and West Bengal. West Bengal has been considered as in migrating state, but the table 1 predicts that the out migration from West Bengal to other states is continuously increasing and it shares significant proportion to out migrating state in India. On the basis of net migration during the last decade, the difference between in migration and out-migration in each state, Maharashtra stands at the top of the list with 2.3 million net migrants, followed by Delhi (1.7 million), Gujarat (0.68 million) and Haryana (0.67 million) as per 2001 Census. But Uttar Pradesh (-2.6 million) and

Bihar (-1.7 million) shares a large number of net migrants and both state considered as out migrating state.

Table 1: In-migrants, out-migrants and net migrants, India and states, 2001

Total Place of Enumeration	In migrants	Out migrants	Net migrants
Jammu & Kashmir	86768	122175	-35407
Himachal Pradesh	188223	165776	22447
Punjab	811060	501285	309775
Chandigarh	239263	106734	132529
Uttarakhand	352496	354718	-2222
Haryana	1231480	588001	643479
Delhi	2172760	457919	1714841
Rajasthan	723639	997196	-273557
Uttar Pradesh	1079055	3810701	-2731646
Bihar	460782	2241413	-1780631
Sikkim	22519	6238	16281
Arunachal Pradesh	71789	12507	59282
Nagaland	33594	51857	-18263
Manipur	4529	30867	-26338
Mizoram	22599	31739	-9104
Tripura	40262	23538	16724
Meghalaya	33710	20434	13276
Assam	121803	281510	-159707
West Bengal	724524	730226	-5702
Jharkhand	502764	616160	-113396
Odisha	229687	440893	-211206
Chhattisgarh	338793	444679	-105886
Madhya Pradesh	814670	842937	-28267
Gujarat	1125818	451458	674360
Daman Diu	48362	5401	45961
D & N Haveli	47649	3440	44209
Maharashtra	3231612	896988	2334624
Andhra Pradesh	421989	637360	-215371
Karnataka	879106	769111	109995
Goa	120824	32578	88246
Lakshadweep	4444	1149	3295
Kerala	235087	431821	-196734
Tamil Nadu	270473	674304	-403831
Puducherry	105208	35755	69453
A & N Islands	29538	8011	21527
India	16826879	16826879	0

Source: D2 Migration Tables of all states and U.T's of India, Census of India 2001

Changing Patterns of Out-Migration in West Bengal

The flow of migration to West Bengal from different parts of the Indian continent is an old phenomenon dating back to the early nineteenth century, when the process of urbanization began in areas of eastern India, based in the city of Kolkata. Historically Kolkata was developed by the British as a port city. It was also the seat of colonial administration and the center of colonial trade. Industrial growth was also observed in the surrounding area of Kolkata, as it had facilities such as inland waterway facilities, port facilities, etc. Therefore, Kolkata was the main city of the eastern part of the country since the past and played an important role to attract the massive population of the surrounding states as well as other parts of the country. So from the outset, there was a flow of migrants in the state of West Bengal from other parts of the country. But the scenario has changed a lot during the decade. Now, more and more people have migrated to other states, even to distant states as well. The net migration rate has declined over the decade. The net migration rate was 1.28 in 1991, which fell 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 decline in the net migration rate is due to the large number of out-migrants to other states during the decade (1991-2001). The volume of migrants shared by different states is shown in Table 2. It provides a mixed scenario in which some of the surrounding states such as Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Assam together with states like Maharashtra and Delhi protected the overwhelming majority of Migrants West of Bengal. However, the gender division of migrants highlights that women dominate short-distance migration, while males dominate long-distance migration. Male migration is very pronounced in economically developed states such as Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana.

Patterns and characteristic of the out-migration in West Bengal

Table 3 shows that among the four migration flows, Urban-Urban was the most dominant, followed by Rural-Rural, Rural-Urban and Urban-Rural in both years of the Census. It is quite interesting to note that the large percentage of people migrated from the urban areas of West Bengal to the urban areas of other states, while in the case of in-migration to West Bengal from other states, most of the rural inhabitants of other states migrated to the urban areas of West Bengal. It was almost two-thirds of the total migrants, out-migrated to urban areas in other states. The propensity to migrate, particularly from rural areas, to urban areas in other states, has also increased by 7 points over the decade.

Table 2: Total number of out-migrants and percentage 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	1.61	7382	1.7	11003	1.56	44,983	2.72	25,473	3.48	19,510	2.12
Haryana	12794	1.12	5794	1.33	7000	0.99	56,250	3.41	33,093	4.52	23,157	2.52
Delhi	81049	7.11	43438	9.99	37611	5.33	1,71,904	10.41	97,458	13.3	74,446	8.11
Rajasthan	21680	1.9	10850	2.5	10830	1.54	45,505	2.76	26,108	3.56	19,397	2.11
Uttar Pradesh*	106552	9.35	32639	7.51	73913	10.48	1,64,212	9.95	51,812	7.08	1,12,400	12.24
Bihar*	419032	36.76	101918	23.44	317114	44.98	4,75,348	28.79	1,15,609	15.78	3,59,739	39.16
Assam	90864	7.97	41324	9.5	49540	7.03	81,654	4.95	34,949	4.77	46,705	5.09
Orissa	127959	11.23	50053	11.51	77906	11.05	1,40,860	8.53	57,114	7.8	83,746	9.12
Madhya Pradesh	70856	6.22	38010	8.74	32846	4.66	46,295	2.8	23,760	3.24	22,535	2.46
Gujarat	22550	1.98	12660	2.91	9890	1.4	40,262	2.44	24,895	3.4	15,367	1.67
Maharashtra	69090	6.06	38730	8.91	30360	4.31	2,09,044	12.66	1,38,563	18.91	70,481	7.67
Andhra Pradesh	24309	2.13	11660	2.68	12649	1.79	29,815	1.81	16,071	2.19	13,744	1.5
Karnataka	10130	0.89	5540	1.27	4590	0.65	31,248	1.89	20,683	2.82	10,565	1.15
Kerala	3770	0.33	2080	0.48	1690	0.24	5,309	0.32	3,284	0.45	2,025	0.22
Tamil Nadu	10180	0.89	5110	1.18	5070	0.72	12,108	0.73	7,123	0.97	4,985	0.54
All Total	11,39,915		4,34,869		7,05,046		16,51,054		7,32,573		9,18,481	

Source: D2 Migration Tables of all states and U.T's of India, Census of India 2001

Table 3: Percent distribution of lifetime out-migrants from the state of West Bengal to other States/UTs of India of each sex by migration streams (1991- 2001).

Patterns of Migration	Total		Male		Female	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
Rural-Rural	31.74	27.55	18.27	15.68	40.04	37.01
Rural-Urban	17.42	24.04	22.56	31.8	14.25	17.85
Urban-Rural	11.53	8.4	10.68	7.11	12.05	9.42
Urban-Urban	38.67	38.06	47.77	42.92	33.07	34.18

Source: Census of India

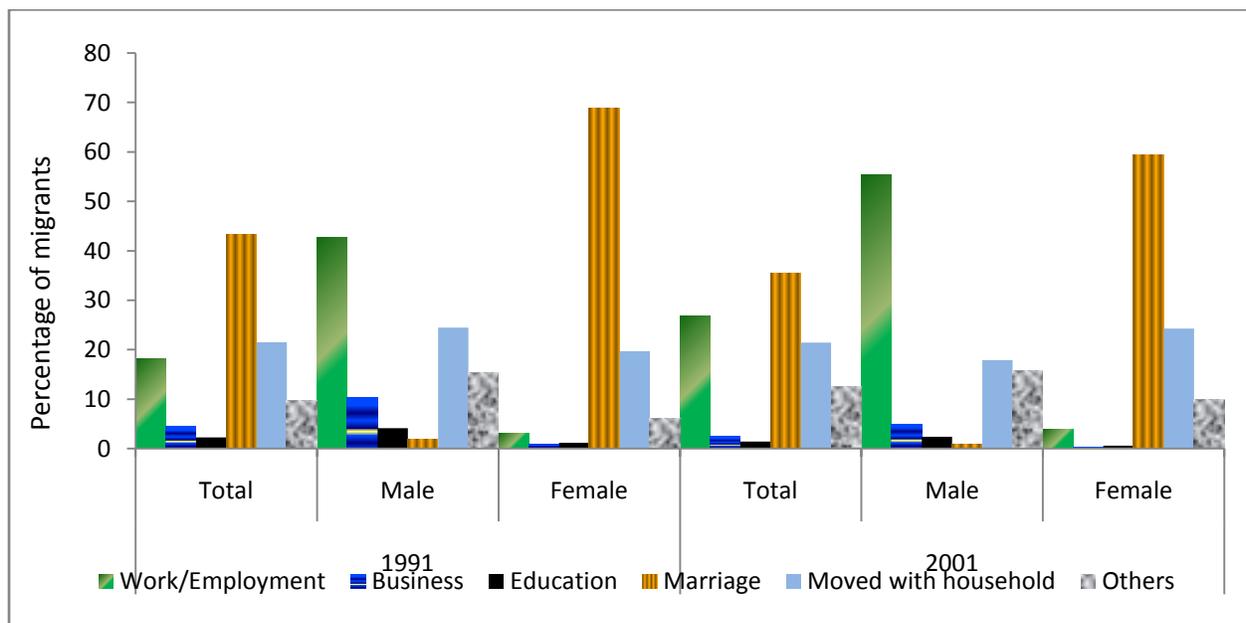
The data presented in Table 3 show that, in the case of male out-migrants, the urban-to-urban stream was the predominant, while the rural-rural flow was the predominant among out-migrant women in the two censuses. In case of male out-migrants the Rural-Urban stream constituted one-third of the total male out-migrants. The proportion of males out-migrants in the rural-urban

current has increased from 22.56 per cent in 1991 to 31.80 per cent in 2001. There has been a sharp increase in rural-urban migration in recent years as more young people travel to work in urban construction and services in the growing informal sector (Srivastava and Bhattacharyya, 2003). Migration of the rural population to urban areas could also be explained in other ways that the relative lack of employment opportunities in rural versus urban areas forced people to migrate to urban areas (Greenwood, 1971; Mukherjee, 2001). Overall, it can be concluded that male out-migrants predominate in urban migration and almost three-quarters of migrants migrated to urban areas in 2001. The highest female inter-state out-migrants have been observed in the rural-rural stream and It is due to marriage migration.

Reasons for Out-Migration in West Bengal

One of the important aspects of the study of migration is to find out the reasons why any person leaves their residence and finds a new residence. The reasons for migration can be divided into two main aspects, the so-called "push" and "pull" factors (Lee, 1966). Push factors are those in your old place, which force people to move. For example, there may be civil wars or wars in general in the country, but political or religious oppression, climate change, lack of employment or simply poverty are important push factors.

Fig.1 Reasons for Migration from West Bengal to other States/UTs by sex (1991-2001).



The factors of attraction are factors in the destination country that encourage people to move; these include peace and security, the possibility of better employment, better education, social security, a better standard of living in general, as well as political and religious freedom. West Bengal has received a large number of migrants from across the country. They have come to the state for different reasons; Some have emigrated in search of employment; The others have moved to get married. It is also observed that, of total interstate emigrants, the reason for which employment is the main behind the movement of male migrants, while the reason why social mobility likes "marriage" remains the most dominant For female migration.

Trend of Urbanization in West Bengal

During the last two decades, West Bengal has experienced urbanization involving a rapid expansion of urban areas and remarkable rise in urban population. The level of urbanizations is usually measured by the share of urban population in the total population. 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.

Tempo of urbanization

Tempo of urbanization refers to speed of urbanization and is measured as a change registered in the level or degree of urbanization over the years. From the following table 5, it is clear that tempo or speed of urbanization is not uniform over the years.

Table:5 Percent of urban population and Tempo of urbanization (1901-2011)

Census Year	Level of Urbanization	Tempo of urbanization
1901	12.20	0.00
1911	13.05	0.70
1921	14.41	1.04
1931	15.32	0.63
1941	20.41	3.32
1951	23.88	1.70
1961	24.45	0.24
1971	24.75	0.12
1981	26.47	0.69
1991	27.43	0.36
2001	28.03	0.22

Source: Calculated from Census of India (1901-2011)

Spatial Pattern of Urbanization in West Bengal, 2011

West Bengal as a whole has an urbanization of 28.9 percent in 2011. The pattern of urbanization of the district indicated that of the 19 districts of West Bengal, Kolkata recorded the highest degree of urbanization, where 100 percent of the total population lived in the urban areas year of census 2001 and 2011. Based on the levels of urbanization, the state can be divided into three broad categories, namely: 1) Areas with high degree of urbanization, with more than 40.00 percent of the total population as urban. 2) Areas with moderate degree of urbanization, taking 20.00 to 40.00 percent of the total population as urban. 3) Areas with low degree of urbanization, with less than 20.00% of the total population as urban.

Table 6: Pattern of Urbanization among the districts of West Bengal (2011)

Category	Index	Number of the District	Name of the District
High Urbanization Rate	More than 40.00 per cent	Three	Kolkata, Howrah, and North 24 Parganas
Moderate Urbanization Rate	20.00 to 40.00 per cent	Six	Burdwan, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hugli, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling district
Low Urbanization Rate	Less than 20.00 per cent	Ten	Birbhum, Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Cooch Bihar, South Dinajpur, Bankura, Puruliya, East Mednipur, and West Mednipur

Computed by Author

High Urbanization Rate:

Districts have the rate of urbanization above 40 percent are included in the highest category. The high rate of urbanization was recorded in the district of Kolkata, Howrah and North 24 Parganas due to the high number of educational, social and cultural institutions, availability of educational facilities, high urbanization process, industrial and economic development, availability of employment, development, transportation and communication and so on.

Moderate Urbanization Rate:

Districts with urbanization rates vary between 20 and 40 percent are included in this category. The moderate rate of urbanization was recorded in Burdwan, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hugli, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts.

Low Urbanization Rate:

Districts with an urbanization rate of less than 20 percent are included in the lowest category. The low rate of urbanization was found in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Cooch Bihar, South Dinajpur, Bankura, Puruliya, East Mednipur and West Mednipur. Institution, poverty, industrial development, economic development, job opportunities, etc.

Findings, Conclusion and Suggestions

The study has concentrated on the issue of changing patterns of migration and their characteristics in West Bengal. It is noted that the proportion of migrants in West Bengal has increased from 27 per cent in 1991 to 30 per cent in 2001. In other words, the intensity of migration is increasing regardless of the reason behind this; this can be marriage, employment, education or any other cause. In the case of immigration the main country of origin is Bangladesh, it constitutes 97.84 percent of the immigrants to West Bengal. In the case of interstate migrants, 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.

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