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Spatial Analysis of Inter State Migration in West Bengal

Nafisa Banu

Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

Abstract:

Migration is one of the major component in population change and important role in influencing the rate of growth of population of any region. Over the decade out-migration rate has increased through in previous West Bengal is recorded net in-migration. This paper attempted to analyze the migrants by place of birth and discussed the types, reason, patterns and duration of inter-state migration in different migration streams- rural-urban, rural-rural, urban-urban, and urban-rural in West Bengal. The study used the secondary sources of data from census of India publication, 2001. It is found that, the reason 'work/employment' was the dominant one behind the movement of male migrants, whereas, 'marriage' is the most dominant one for female migration in West Bengal.

Keywords: Inter-state migration, in-migration, out-migration, migration pattern

1. Introduction

Migration plays an important role of growth of population of any region; people moves to different distances and this movement is governed by different reasons. Distance of place plays an important role on population movement. Migration is not only the shift of people from one place of abode to another but also is fundamental to the understanding of the ever changing 'space-content' and 'space-relation' of an area (Gosal,1961).Migration has threefold impact-on the area of in-migration , out-migration and migrants themselves. Migration, whether takes place long or short-distance; duration of short or long time, in all cases it transform of both-the area of origin and the area of destination and also modified not only the way of life but also their metabolism and their mentality. Thus, the area of out-migration, in-migration and the migrants themselves never remain the same. Smith and Chandra (1991), in their paper on "migration patterns in India", analyzed patterns of migration in spatial perspective and tried to identify the areas of in- and out- migration by differentiating between the actual growth rate and average rate of natural increase. The migration vehicle carries these specialized and brilliant persons to the communities or areas where their services can be used efficiently than previous places. The districts identified as net in migration where actual growth rate of population is exceeded the average rate of natural increase of population and districts where the actual rate of growth fell short of the average rate of natural increase, have been categorized as region of net out-migration.

The word migration refers Population movement with the change of residence. The change of residence may occur from one village to another village or town to another town or village to town, within or between the district, within or outside the country. This study based on census data, 2001 and birthplace was classified as rural or urban, and as (a) within the district of enumeration, (b) outside the district but within the district of enumeration, (c) outside the state of enumeration but within India. In 2001, India, after intra district and inter district movement interstate migration constitutes 13.78 percent of the total migrants. Using 2001 census data, it is possible to study the pattern of interstate migration in different migration streams-rural-rural, rural –urban, urban-rural, urban-urban. These streams of migration is generally relating to the degree of economic and social development in the area of origin and as well as area of destination. This paper, therefore, examines the patterns of interstate migration in West Bengal. The present paper aims at analyzing various processes involved in interstate migration to find out the causes for inter-state migration of people from the West Bengal to other states of India.

According to census of India, a person is treated as migrant if he was born outside the place of enumeration or his place of immediate residence. Interstate migrants are who those born (or with last residence) in the states/union territories of India, but beyond that of enumeration. Based on the rural or urban nature of the birthplace (or place of last residence) and the place of enumeration, internal migrants can further be also be classified into four migration stream i.e. rural-rural, rural-urban, urban –rural, urban-urban. The census data captured the reason of migration i.e. work/employment, Business, Education, Marriage, Moved after birth, Moved with household and others.

The whole analysis of the present study is carried out using simple statistical technique like rates, ratios, and percentage.Net migration Rate is also calculated with the following formula.

2. Study Area

The state of West Bengal has been taken as the study area. It is fourth-most populous state of the nation and located eastern region of India. West Bengal is extended from 21°25'N to 26°50'N and 86°30'E to 89°58'E and it embraces an area about 88,968 sq.km. It is bordered by the countries of Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh, and the Indian states of Orisa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, and Assam. The state capital is Kolkata. The state can be divided into three main physiographic regions i.e. the Himalayan or Sub Himalayan plain region, The Delta region and The Rahr plain. West Bengal is on the eastern bottleneck of India, stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the south. The Ganges is the main river, which divides in West Bengal into two parts i.e. North Bengal and South Bengal. The Teesta, Torsa, Jaldhaka and Mahananda rivers are flows in the northern hilly region. The western plateau region has rivers such as the Damodar, Ajay and Kangsabati. The Ganges delta and the Sundarbans area have numerous rivers and creeks. West Bengal's climate varies from tropical savanna in the southern portions to humid subtropical in the north. The main seasons are summer, rainy season, a short autumn, and winter. While the summer in the delta region is noted for excessive humidity, the western highlands experience a dry summer like northern India, with the highest day temperature ranging from 38 °C to 45 °C. At nights, a cool southerly breeze carries moisture from the Bay of Bengal. In early summer brief squalls and thunderstorms known as *Kalbaisakhi*, or Nor'westers, often occur. West Bengal receives the Bay of Bengal branch of the Indian ocean monsoon that moves in a northwest direction. Monsoons bring rain to the whole state from June to September. Heavy rainfall of above 250 cm is observed in the Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar district. During the arrival of the monsoons, low pressure in the Bay of Bengal region often leads to the occurrence of storms in the coastal areas. Winter (December–January) is mild over the plains with average minimum temperatures of 15 °C. A cold and dry northern wind blows in the winter, substantially lowering the humidity level. However, the Darjeeling Himalayan Hill region experiences a harsh winter, with occasional snowfall at places.

The state contributes 7.8% of India's population. The state's decennial growth rate 1991–2001 was 17.8%. The gender ratio is 934 females per 1000 males. As of 2001, West Bengal has a population density of 903 inhabitants per square kilometer making it the top-most densely populated state in India. About 72% of people live in rural areas and 28% people live in urban areas. The proportion of people living below the poverty line in 1999–2000 was 31.9%.

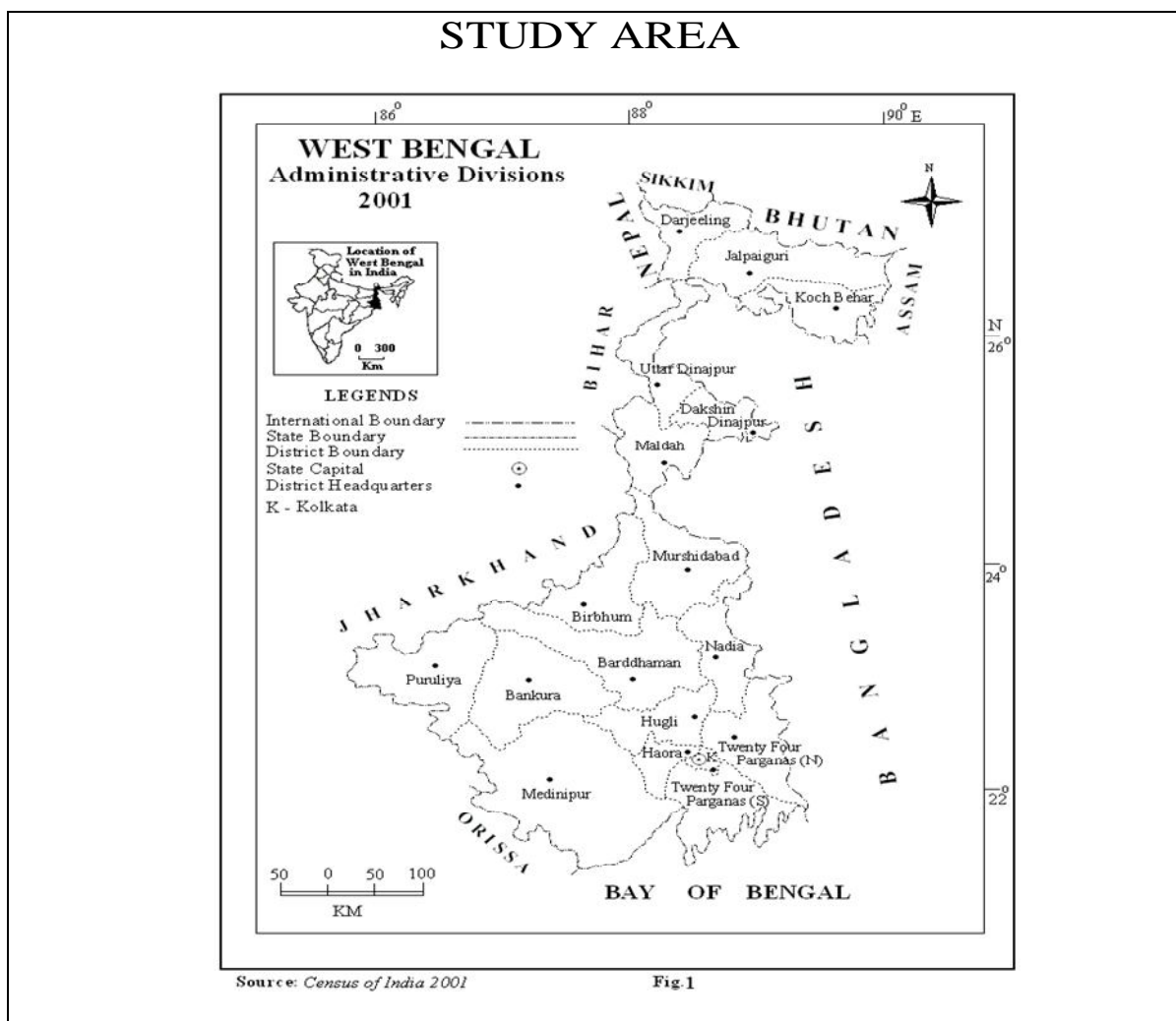


Figure 1: Study Area

3. Discussion

The pattern of migration usually found historically all over the world has been from rural to urban areas. According to 2001 census, 181.7 million person intra-district migrants, 76.8 million persons inter-district migrants, 42.3 million person interstate migrants were reported in West Bengal. Migration has special significance in case of West Bengal as it is the fourth most populous state, and ranked first in terms of population density (census, 2001). The migration flow to West Bengal from different parts of the Indian continent is an old phenomenon which could be traced back to the beginning of the 19th century when the process of urbanization began in the areas of Eastern India, based on Kolkata city. Historically Kolkata was developed as a port city also the seat of the colonial administration and the centre of colonial trade by the Britishers. Most of the major labour movement from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orrisa to the tea gardens in Assam and plantation in Africa took place through Kolkata (Giri,1998). Industrial growth also observed in the surrounding area of Kolkata as a certain facilities such as internal river facility, port facility etc. However very beginning, there was a flow of migrants into the states of West Bengal from the others parts of the country. But now the scenario has changed a lot over the decade. Now, more and more people migrated to others states, even the distance states also. The decrease of net migration rate is because of more number of out migrants to other states reported 2001 census.

On the basis of distance migration may be classified as short-distance, medium distance and long distance migration. Intra- district migration relates to short-distance movement within the district of enumeration. Inter- district migrants relates to the medium-distance migration within the state of enumeration from one district to another. And Inter-state migrants relates to the long distance migration from one state to another state within the country of enumeration. Table -1 depicts the percentage share of migrants by sex which indicates that in short-distance migration within the district, the percentages of female migrants are 80.09 whereas in medium-distance and long-distance migration the percentages of females are 64.94 and 45.74 respectively, while the corresponding figures for males are 19.91, 35.05, and 54.26 percent respectively .According to migration pattern manifests that short-distance female migration and share of female migrants decreases with increase of distance from the district while the proportion of male migrants increases with distance from the district which implies that long distance migration in West Bengal is male dominant. Short –distance migration constitutes 18.12 percent, medium- distance and long-distance constitutes 5.68 and 3.11 percent respectively to the total population of the West Bengal.

Place of Birth	No. of Migrants			sex ratio in %		% to the total migrants			% of migrants to the total population
	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	
Born elsewhere in the district of enumeration(short distance Migration)	14526298	2892376	11633922	19.91	80.09	67.33	49.51	73.95	18.12
Born elsewhere in the district of W.B.(medium distance Migration)	4556260	1597360	2958900	35.05	64.94	21.12	27.34	18.81	5.68
Born in India beyond the state of enumeration(long -distance migration)	2491932	1352219	1139713	54.26	45.74	11.55	23.15	7.24	3.11
Total	21574490	5841955	15732535	27.07	72.92	100.00	100.00	100.00	26.91

Table 1: Migrants by Place of Birth and Sex in West Bengal, 2001

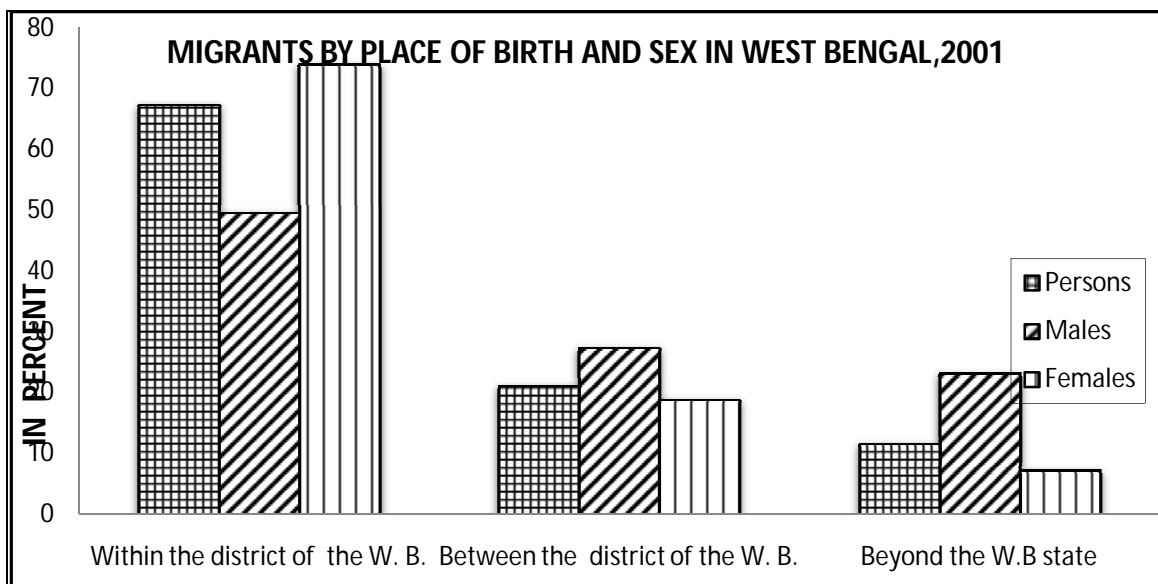


Figure 2: Migrants by place of birth and sex in West Bengal, 2001

This movement is mainly due to marriage, migration of labourers at the time of harvesting and migration for education etc. In 2001 there were 14.52 million intra district migrants comprising 19.01 percent males and 80.09 females and accounted for total 58.89 percent of the total migrants of the state. According to 2001 census, there were 4.55 million inter-district migrants representing 18.47 percent to the total migrants of the state. Inter-state migrants comprising 54.26 percent males and 45.74 percent females accounted 10.10 percent total migrants of the state. There were 21.57 million and 1.63 million international migrants in the state which constitute 87.47 and 12.52 percent of the total population of the state. However, gender division of the migrants bring out that females dominate the Intra-district and Inter-district migration whereas males dominate the Inter-state migration.

Type of migration	Persons	Males	Females	Sex ratio in %age		%age to the total migrants
				Male	Female	
Internal Migration	21574490	5841955	15732535	27.08	72.92	87.47
Intra-district migrants	14,526,298	2,892,376	11,633,922	19.91	80.09	58.89
Inter-district migrants	4,556,260	1,597,360	2,958,900	35.06	64.94	18.47
Inter-state migrants	2,491,932	1,352,219	1,139,713	54.26	45.74	10.10
International migrants	3,090,393	1,636,343	1,454,050	52.95	47.05	12.52
Unclassifiable	37	22	15	59.46	40.54	0.00015
Total migrants	24,664,920	7,478,320	17,186,600	30.32	69.68	100

Table 2: Migration Types in West Bengal, 2001 (by Place of Birth)

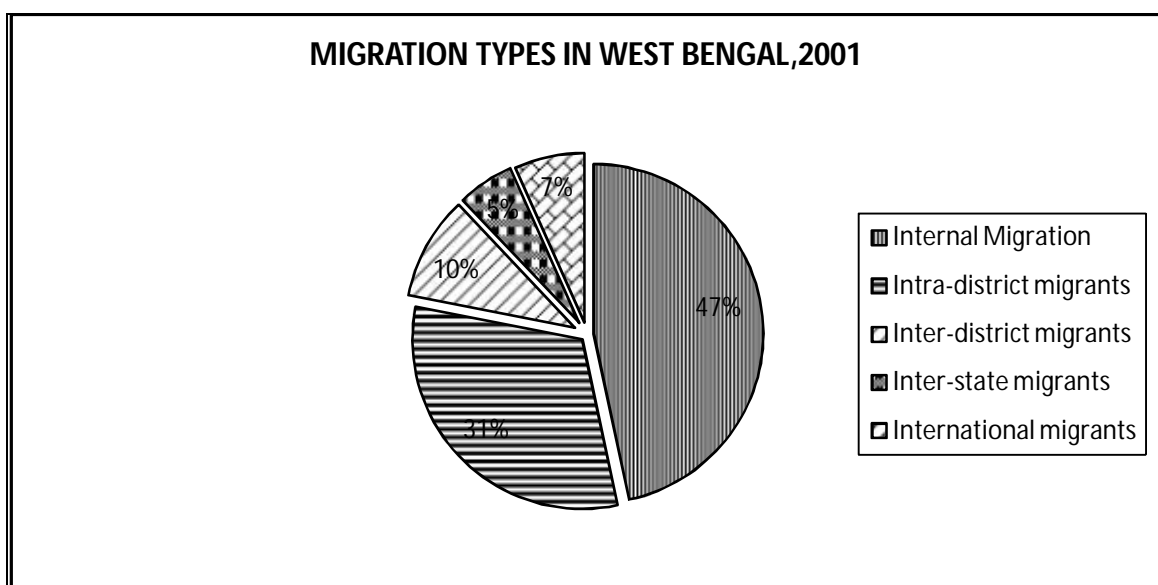


Figure 3: Migration types in West Bengal, 2001

According to the place of last residence, the duration of residence of Inter-state migration at the place of enumeration has been assessed by different time intervals viz., less than 1 year, 1-4 years, 5-9 years, 10 years and above. It shows that in West Bengal 103157 Inter-state migrants reported their duration of residence less than 1 year comprising 54.82 percent males and 45.18 percent females, 332403 persons 1-4 years, 288964 persons 5-9 years, 1523550 persons 10 years and above reported. Duration of last residence 10 years and above 62 percent for Inter-state migration among all duration of Inter-state migration in West Bengal.

Duration of residence	Persons	Males	Females	Sex Ratio in %age		% to the all duration
				Males	Females	
Less than 1 year	103,157	56,549	46,608	54.82	45.18	4.19
1-4 years	332,403	161,724	170,679	48.65	51.35	13.52
5-9 years	288,964	144,595	144,369	50.04	49.96	11.76
10 years and above	1,523,550	848,772	674,778	55.71	44.29	62.00
All duration	2,457,162	1,330,989	1,126,173	54.17	45.83	100

Table 3: Duration of Inter-state migrants by Last residents in West Bengal

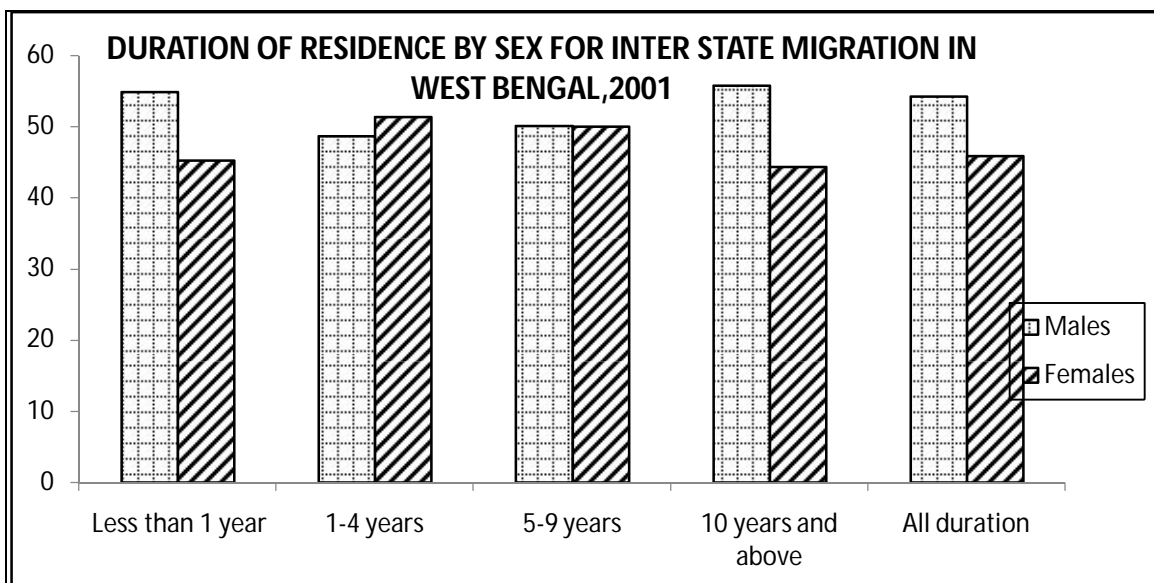


Figure 4: Duration of residence by sex for Inter State migration in West Bengal, 2001

The Indian census started collecting information on reasons for migration since 1981 based on place of last residence. In 1991, the reasons for migration have been into seven broad groups-work/employment, business, education, marriage, and natural calamities like flood, drought etc, family moved and others. In 2001, the reason 'Natural Calamities' was dropped from the list. An additional reason was added in this list i.e. on 'moved after birth'. A number of mothers moved to either their natal residence or to a place with better medical facility or delivery. Whereas the women are not treated as these temporary places of residence, the children born are treated as migrants when they accompany their parents to their parents to their place of normal residence.

Being different from the place of enumeration for the children born, it is useful to separate this information from other categories. However, at inter-state level migration, the percentage of migrants in this category is very meager, 2.32 percent in West Bengal.

The census data related to reasons and duration of residence for Inter-state migration has been accommodated in above table. The data revealed that, out of total inter-state out migrants, 27.69 percent went to other states for the purpose of 'work/employment'. The time duration in relation to the specific reason was huge. It was all the way, the last residence duration 10 years and above dominated the scene. Out of total inter-state migrants, 3.98 percent for business purpose, only a negligible percentage of migrants cited as a reason for migration from West Bengal to other states/union territories. The proportion of migrants, migrated for education 1.06 percent whereas time duration more for 1-4 years. Another important reason for which the people migrated to other states due to the reason of 'marriage, where proportion of females were dominated. 24.40 percent inter-state migration for marriage purpose comprising last residence 10 years and above 434597 people. Moved with household and others reasons constituting 23.24 percent and 17.39 percent of the total inter-state migrants.

Duration of residence	All duration	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10 years and above	% to the total Inter-state Migration
work /employment	680,493	45,960	81,187	71,371	481,819	27.69
business	97,816	1,489	8,261	11,481	76,556	3.98
education	26,074	1,130	12,168	4,345	8,418	1.06
Marriage	599,481	4,584	73,287	82,905	438,597	24.40
Moved after birth	57,504	1,530	7,821	8,806	31,356	2.34
Moved with household	570,995	35,371	106,655	76,441	323,262	23.24
Others	424799	13,093	43,024	33,615	163,542	17.29
Total Migrants	2,457,162	103,157	332403	288,964	1,523,550	100.00

Table 4: Reasons and Duration of inter-state Migrants in West Bengal

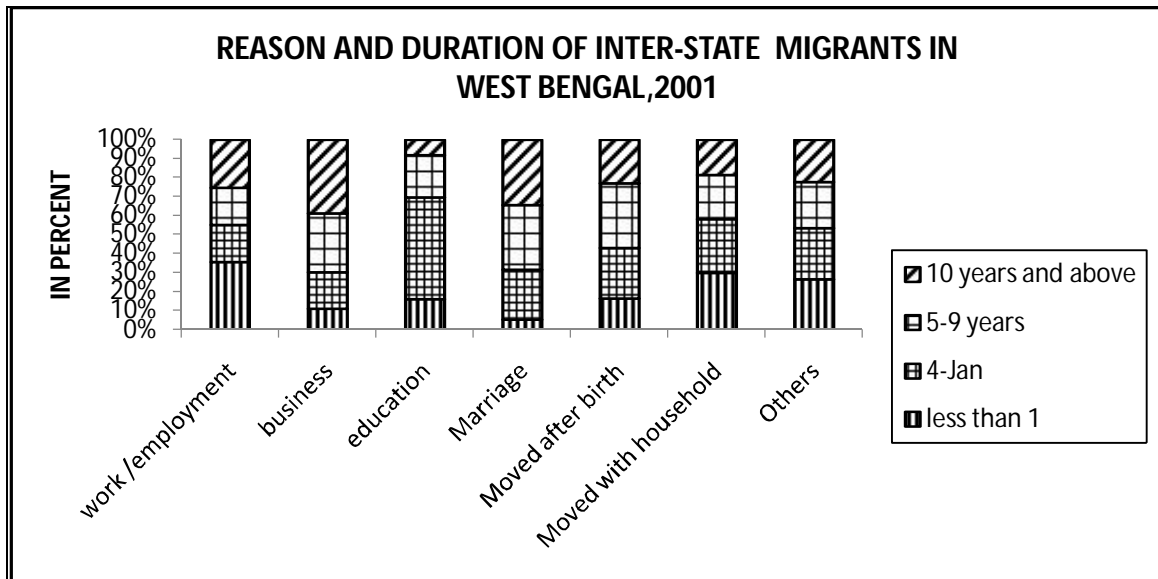


Figure 5: Reason and duration of Inter – State migrants in West Bengal, 2011

Four types of migration streams, Rural-Rural, Urban-Rural, Rural-Urban, Urban-Urban are followed by the census of India. Inter-state migration also sex-selective. The highest percentage of migrants reported work/employment, particularly, the proportion of male migrants was observed in rural-urban stream followed by urban-urban, rural-rural, urban –rural stream in 2001 census. Highest male migration was observed highest rural-urban stream as a reason for work/employment and in case of female highest out migration reported rural to rural stream by the reason of marriage. There has been a sharp increase in rural-urban migration in recent years as more young men travel to work in construction and urban services in the expanding informal sector (Srivastava and Bhattachariya, 2003). For business, education and others purpose males are migrated percentage more than females in all stream of migration. In urban-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban streams with family move females more migrated than males.

Migration Streams	Sex	Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Others
Rural-Urban	Both	42.74	3.11	1.15	22.66	19.38	9.08
	Males	68.39	5.05	1.68	13.09	0.39	9.58
	Females	6.3	0.35	0.39	36.27	46.37	8.36
Rural-Rural	Both	13.92	1.18	0.31	14.09	61.53	8.36
	Males	48.56	4.16	1.01	25.07	2.88	16.9
	Females	2.21	0.17	0.08	10.38	81.35	5.5
Urban-Urban	Both	30	3.15	2.43	27.79	22.56	10.5
	Males	54.86	5.76	3.56	19.71	0.48	11.6
	Females	4.88	0.52	1.29	35.95	44.88	9.36
Urban-Rural	Both	20.91	1.83	1.2	19.69	41.17	13.3
	Males	48.19	4.05	2.26	19.49	1.22	22.1
	Females	3.05	0.38	0.51	19.81	37.32	7.64

Table 5: Reason and Migration Stream by Sex in West Bengal

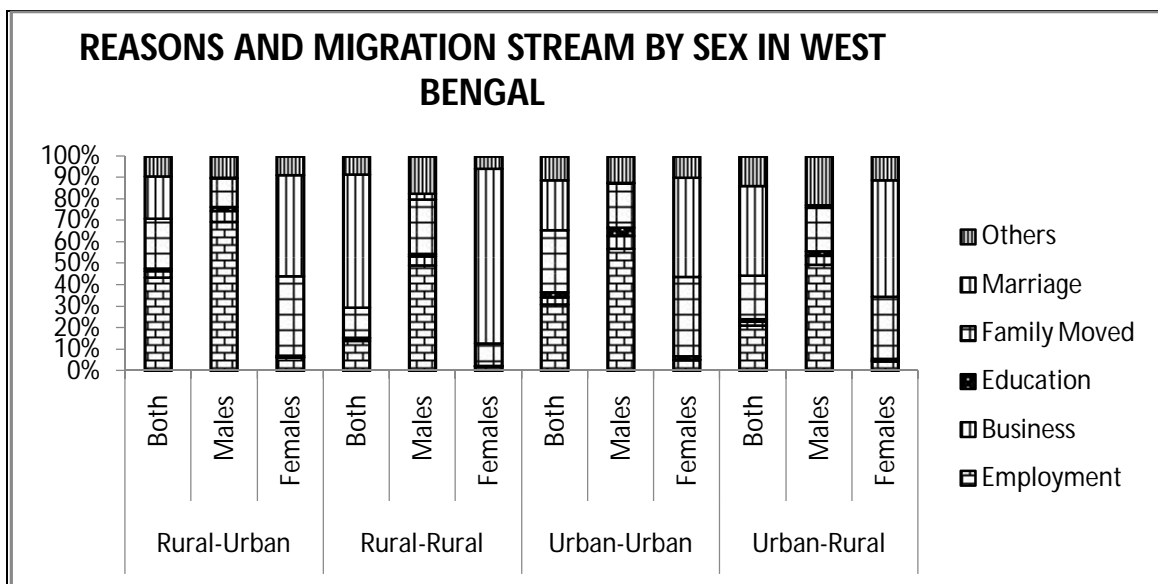


Figure 6: Reasons and migration stream by sex in West Bengal

The net migration rate has decrease over the decade .The net migration rate was 1.28 in 1991 which decrease to 1.01 in 2001. The decrease of net migration rate is because of more number of out migrant to the other states during the decade. The pattern of migration has changed with the increase number of out- migrants. Above table shows that the volume of migrants and percentage share of different states. The out migration patterns provide a mixed scenario like Maharashtra Delhi along with like some of the surrounding states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam sheltered the majority of out migrants from West Bengal. Sex differential of migration is followed by out migrants from West Bengal. Males are covered long distance migration and Females covered short distance migration. Males are migrated in the economically developed states like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana mainly for seeking 'work/employment'. Females migrated other states mainly due to marriage. In West Bengal volume of migration is not associated with distance. The number of opportunities is positively associated with the number of in-migrant at the place of destination.

4. Summary and Conclusion

The pattern of interstate out migration from West Bengal to others state time duration and gender selective. Males hardly follow the distance decay model, males migrated distance state for seeking job opportunities, females migrating neighbouring state. The highest percentage of interstate migration stream reported, rural-urban stream followed by urban-urban, rural-rural, urban –rural stream in 2001 census. Duration of residence was also varying due to different reason. The rural-urban and urban-urban streams recorded a very considerable percentage of female out migration due to the reason of 'family moved'.

Duration of residence for interstate migration by last residence in West Bengal observed highest for 10 years and above and least for less than one year. Work/employment is the dominant factor for interstate migration and it share 27.69 percent to the total interstate migration followed by marriage, moved with household, others, business, moved after birth, and education. Work/employment was the dominant one behind movement of male migrant to the total interstate migrants from West Bengal to others state/union territories where marriage was the most dominant factor for female migration. Apart from marriage the female migration due to 'family moved' also shares the important reason for female out migration. Interstate migration from West Bengal to other developed states of the India more dominant for males than females.

In West Bengal development is very much Kolkata centric. Since British period no much important node has emerged. At the same time, the city has reached saturated level in terms of congestion and population pressure. Others part remain unattractive for business investment. Despite the West Bengal is still in-migrating state the out migration from West Bengal to other state continuous increasing and it share major proportion to total interstate out migration of India.

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