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Migration: An Outcome of the Gene of Vulnerability

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Abstract:

This paper seeks to look into the element of population study of migration arising out of the various social, cultural, economic, religious and political reasons. The contemporary labour migration has created a huge potential towards strengthening the global economy. In economic literature, we commonly refer to this human migration as a movement of human capital or labour forces.

A well-known approach in explaining migration is to order them into 'push' and 'pull' factors. The former describes the degree of dissatisfaction of the rural people/developing countries in their present condition and the latter explains the measure of response to the opportunities of the city/developed countries.

The purpose of this paper is to look into the common causes of migration, chiefly in the developing countries and the vulnerability due to which it takes place. The paper summarises the intricacies of migration studies. It deals with the general nature and causes of migration which is followed by a diagrammatic representation of the causes for rural to urban migration. The characteristics of migration to West Bengal from the other states in India are observed through the Census data in a tabular form.

The paper also looks at the reasons behind rural to urban migration across countries and states and finds them to be broadly dissimilar. Findings in the paper show that the intra-state migration is much greater than that of inter-state migration. Also, women migration within as well as from outside the state is the highest due to 'marriage'. It is further observed in the paper that the highest Rural-Urban migration to West Bengal has been from Bihar followed by Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa.

Rural industrialisation is required to stop the individuals from migrating arbitrarily from their places of origin to the cities; while dispersed urbanisation is mandatory in order to extend the scope of opportunities available to migrants in cities.

Keywords: Migration, rural-urban, push-pull, poverty, unemployment

1. Approach and Framework of Analysis

One important element of the study on population is the study of migration arising out of various social, cultural, economic, religious and political reasons. Since the pre-historic age, there existed a trend among the general mass to move from one place to the other in search of better living and security conditions. These movements, for betterment are the natural instincts of each and every living being. The age-old phenomenon of leaving one's own habitat for greater opportunities and better scopes of ensuring higher standards of living is usually termed as human migration [Borjas, 2000; Maharatna, 2003]. Many causal factors, like improvement of economic state, search and/or replacement of better jobs, finding a healthy place of residence, scope for individual growth etc., either individually or in groups are responsible behind the human migration. In economic literature we commonly refer this human migration as a movement of human capital or labour forces. Population movements occur either in a haphazard or ordered manner. However, these population movements, whether haphazard or ordered, are sometimes regarded as a threat to the stability conditions and a challenge to establish lifestyle [McDowell and Haan].

The contemporary labour migration has created a huge potential towards strengthening the global economy. The exponents of economic globalization are advocating these free movements of human (labour) capital as a pre-condition for rapid economic growth. This may possibly be true in case of developed countries because drainage of the intellectual properties in the form of skill, talent and efficiency can find easy passage to restrain the free flow of highly experienced human capital from the underdeveloped and/or developing countries to the developed ones. One can therefore, argue that this free movement of human capital is nothing but a new way of brain-drain towards the developed countries. However, labour movement becomes inhabitable where there is economic disparity between geo-political regions.

Migration which is taking place across the borders, be it national or state level or within a village, has its own rationale. There are differences in factors promoting rural-urban voluntary migration and migration due to communal riots or those influencing seasonal rural-rural migration. Depending on whether a particular migratory movement is rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural or urban-urban,

the characteristics of the individual migrants taking up these forms of movements would vary depending upon the nature of the migration. Different forms of migration involving the migrants normally are temporary, seasonal, permanent and voluntary induced by disasters or organised by employers [Dasgupta, 1987].

Development in the rural areas can be achieved only through the creation of a balance between both the farm and the non-farm activities. The level of vulnerability and lack of infrastructural facilities in the rural areas rapidly results in taking up of the act of migration for the labour forces. The insignificant growth of non-farm activities in the rural sector together with the over-crowded manpower in the agricultural farms, commonly known as the disguised unemployment, of conventional agriculture ultimately leads to the scarcity of employment opportunities in the rural areas. One of the manifestations of such an outcome of the aforesaid situation is the mass migration of the rural labourers to urban sector for enhanced employment and income. However, improved infrastructural facilities encourage the trend of rapid rural to urban migration. The unskilled and inadequately educated migrants drift to the urban sector in order to find employment, normally in the urban informal sector and adjust themselves to the life in the city [Baker, 2008]. This form of rural to urban migration makes the urban sector densely populated weighed down by urban unemployment resulting in the rise in the urban slum area and encroachment of roads creating a burden on the urban social services.

The purpose of this paper is to look into the common causes of migration, chiefly in the developing countries and the vulnerability due to which it takes place. The above discussion and the discussion that follow summarises the intricacies of migration studies. This paper deals with the general nature and causes of migration which is followed by a diagrammatic representation of the causes for rural to urban migration. In the next section, the characteristics of migration to West Bengal from the other states in India are observed through the Census data in a tabular form, followed by concluding remarks.

2. Migration: Nature and Causes in the Developing Countries

The course of the human civilisation reveals that people used to wander from place to place in search of food and shelter. So, the normative nature of migration can be described as a process of searching better opportunities for a better living. The decision to migrate depends upon the individual's carefully considered choice of destination. The basic reason for migration is an attempt towards changing one's level of living by way of changing the socio-economic environment. Reasons for migration may be classified as follows: economic reasons like for better employment opportunities and non-economic reasons like education, marriage, health treatments etc. On the other hand, the factors encouraging a migrant to migrate fall into the three categories: demand-pull, supply-push, and networks. The demand-pull factors like high urban wages attract low wage earners in the rural areas to move from the rural to the urban areas. Other reasons for migration from the rural to the urban area would be in order to find better employment opportunities. Again, the supply-push factors like the subsistence agriculture in the rural area force an economic agent to migrate to the urban area for better employment opportunities which are apparently absent in the current place of its origin. There are some non-economic reasons for migration as well like unstable conditions caused by wars and political uncertainty. Networks and informational flows between the rural and the urban areas as well as between the two subsequent rural areas or the urban area induce the populace to move freely between the above mentioned places [Martin *et. al*, 2008; Smit, 1998].

Migration can be classified broadly into two types, permanent and temporary. Permanent migration by the labour force is commonly taken up when they hold full information about the place of their destination. From the economic development point of view, one can argue that permanent migration of a sizable section of population from a certain geo-political region to the other may be an indicator of economic deprivation in the area of their previous residence. Permanent migrations are also at times a traditional response or survival strategy of people confronting the prospect, impact or aftermath of disasters [Hugo, 1996]. Temporary migrations, alternatively, emerge due to several reasons. Temporary migrants move away to some other place in order to escape from the unstable conditions at the current place of residence or to find better opportunities and conditions, with regard to their current destination.

The reasons behind rural to urban migration across countries and states are broadly dissimilar. A well-known approach in explaining migration is to order them into **push** and **pull** factors. The former describes the degree of dissatisfaction of the rural people in their present condition and the latter explains the measure of response to the opportunities of the city [Dasgupta, 1987]. The natures of different types of ensuing migration are assumed to be based on either the push-based or on the pull-based factor(s). Pull-based migrations are a result of the better opportunities, employment, living standards, monetary benefits and access to services in the urban areas. On the contrary, push-based migrations are the result of the discernment of improved prospects in the urban area. Normally when the rural people have tough situations to face and life in general becomes troublesome under particular situations in the rural area, they decide to migrate to the urban area under all circumstances. The principal reasons for migration to the urban area are lack of work, food, meagre living conditions, political instability, violence, armed conflicts, natural calamities and absence of economic benefits in the local region.

The major causes of migration from the rural area to the urban area can be elaborated as follows¹:

2.1. Poor Living Conditions

The rural problems accounting for the reasons of migration are primarily the inaccessibility of the fertile, arable and grazing land in the rural areas. Also limited access to the basic needs like food, water, work or other fundamental requirements instigate the labour force to migrate. The consequences of environmental catastrophes, such as drought and flood force thousands of people to leave their native place of origin.

¹ Federal Department of Justice and Police, Switzerland

In a comparable study conducted in the less developed districts of India, Dungarpur, Rajasthan in 1993, Haberfeld *et. al* (1999) finds that despite a short-term decline in labour supply for local production in the land, as a result of the migration process, migrant labour provided by tribal households contributes significantly to their annual income. This study also shows the radical contribution of the migrating labour-force (which is almost 60%) provided by the tribal population to the annual income.

2.2. Population Growth and Stagnant Economic Development

The massive rate of population growth and stagnant economic development gives rise to tremendous migratory pressures. Governmental policies are not properly directed towards the betterment of the rural people and existence of high level of corruption also fails the limited number of policies which are directed towards the rural up gradation. The rapid population growth outpaces the growths of human and physical infrastructure required for a moderately well-organized economic, political and social life [Todaro, Smith; 2008].

2.3. Political Instability

Undesired changes in political power within the state impede upon the stable environmental characteristics of the people in the area. People face life threatening conditions and are not free to exercise their right to political views. They are forced to leave their place of origin and migrate to some other region. Absence of access to loans, insurance, unemployment benefits and social welfare protections also provoke the worker to migrate.

In another comparable study conducted by Bharadwaj *et. al* (2008), it was found that the Partition of India in 1947 along the supposedly religious lines into India, Pakistan, and what in due course became Bangladesh resulted in one of the largest and most rapid migrations in human history.

In another study conducted by Rafique (2003), it was observed that the floods that had struck several districts of West Bengal in 2000 were devastating in nature. The impact however was different among the different classes; the well off had substantial paddy stores to recoup in the post-flood misery but the smaller cultivators had no option but to secure loans on credit. Landless labourers were, however, compelled to migrate in search of work.

2.4. Lower Wages

Compared to the urban areas the wages received by the work force in rural areas are much lower which accounts for the migration of the labour force from their native place. In this context it can also be noted that the pursuit of the orthodox development strategies for the rural areas and the emphasis particularly on industrial modernization, technological sophistication and metropolitan growth has created to a substantial geographical imbalance in the economic opportunities of the two areas and has led to the uncontrollable influx of the population in the urban area [Todaro, Smith; 2008].

From the above mentioned points it can be deciphered that migration can be temporary as well as permanent. Temporary migration can further be broken down into very short and short durations of migration. Very short duration of temporary migration by the workforce is usually internal which implies within the state. The duration of the stay for the temporary immigrants in the host country is limited, either by contract or by their own choice [Dustmann, 1999]. It is usually taken up by the people when they face a number of problems in the place of their habitat which they consider to be short-lived.

The Multi National Companies (MNC's) located in the developed countries, often recruit workforce from the less developed countries as a requirement to fulfil their objectives. These workforces are generally placed for assignments and special works in the developed countries. This is a kind of temporary migration taken up by the workforce. This labour force retains their citizenship in the country of their origin and returns back after the completion of the assignment. This pattern of migration is followed by the MNC's and as well as by the workforce for more than a decade now [Winters].

Migration of the agricultural labourers from the place of their habitat which is normally the rural area to the city or the urban area in order to find better opportunities in terms of work, employment, residence, benefits in times of crisis, calamitous season for crops and natural catastrophes acts as the push factor from the rural area for the labour class. These sorts of migration are considered to be the seasonal migration. Seasonal migrants are characterised by lower education levels, poorer levels of income from agriculture and by inferior geographical locations. It is also observed from the migration literatures that migration decisions are often taken up by the households as a whole and not by the individual migrants. These decisions are also influenced primarily both due to maximising incomes and minimising risks. The primary reason for seasonal migration taking place at the grass-root level is scarcity of lands, small land-to-man ratio, inter-regional disparities caused by the development of the urban areas due to industries. It is also revealed from migration studies that there has been a rise in the income levels of the migrant labourers who were away from their habitat for a certain period of time [Rao, 1986; Haberfeld *et. al*, 1999; Mendola, 2006].

Human migration is the physical movement of humans from one region to another, sometimes over long distances or in large groups. Similarly, movement of students and scholars from their home town to the place of education for generally twelve months or more are considered as student migration which is temporary in nature. It is taken up by them entirely to acquire skills and training. Outstation student's education is growing in many developed as well as underdeveloped countries. Students not only help to maintain their home state's competitiveness, they also represent a valuable pool of skilled immigrants for governments wishing to recruit —tried and tested individuals into their labour forces. A unanimous view is that both economic and cultural forces play an important role in the migration of students. Major factors stimulating the migration process are increased standard of living and the employment rate in the destination country. It has also been found that migration is easier between more similar countries, and especially a shared language

plays an important role in the procedure [Hawthorne 2008; Dreher, Poutvaara 2005]. During the age of globalisation, the internationalisation of higher education increased dramatically and has become a market driven activity for a certain time. The following Figure shows the causes of migration between two rural sectors, rural and urban sector and also between two urban sectors.

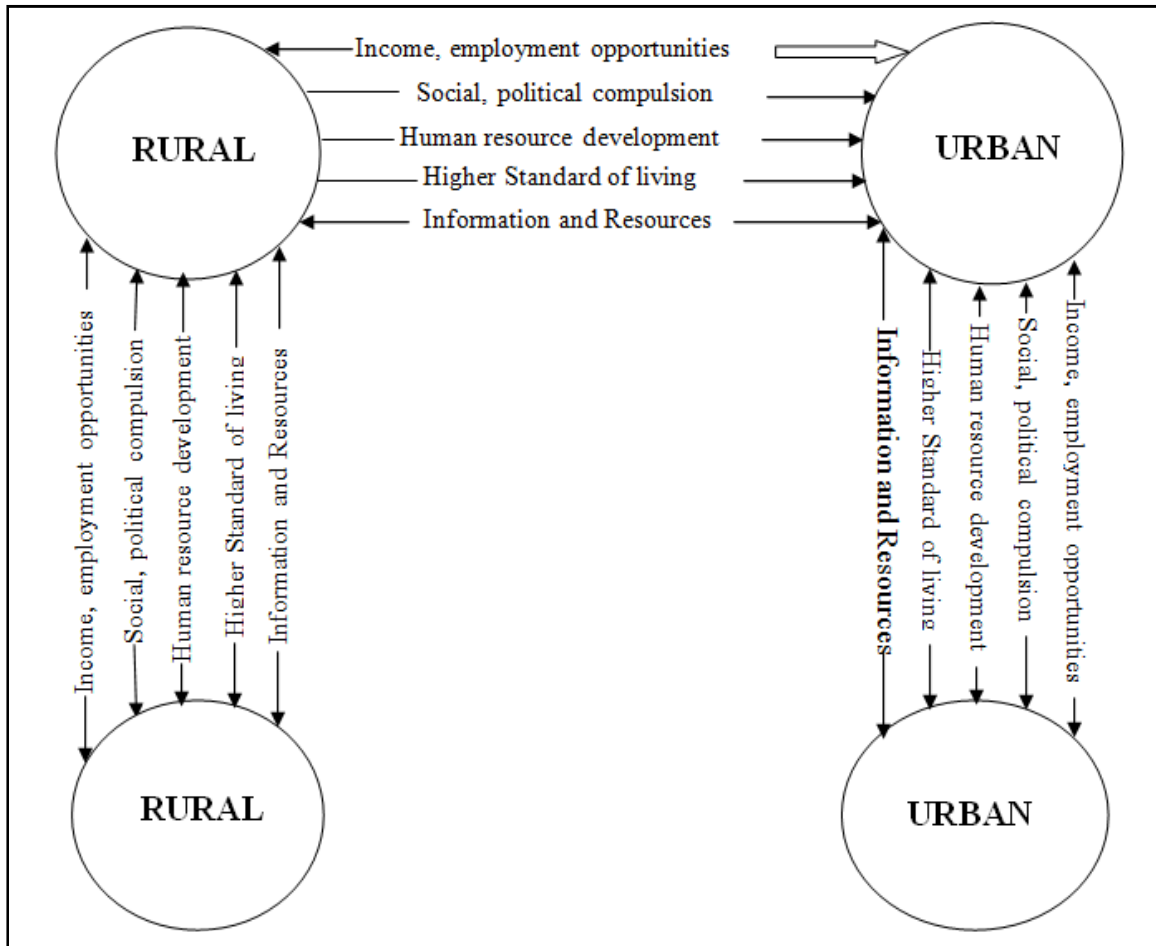


Figure 1: Causes for migration between the rural and the urban sector

Seen in the above Figure, it can be deciphered that there are primarily five reasons for migration, namely the income, employment opportunities; social, political compulsion; human resource development; higher standard of living and the information and resource flows. These are the reasons primarily leading to the migration from one rural to the other rural area, rural to urban area and also between two urban areas. These reasons actually act as a mutual ground for migration between the mentioned sectors.

Considering the causes of migration between the two rural sectors, we observe from the figure that there is a flow of migrants from one rural area to the other due to all the factors mentioned above. A higher income, standard of living and employment opportunity in a certain rural area induce the agricultural labourers to move to another rural area. Social compulsions like being rejected from the village as a matter of some mistake committed, cultural minority, lack of adequate human resource development in that particular rural area compels the mass to drift to another rural area. The political compulsions like unstable political parties, lack of desired facilities also compel the mass to move away to another rural area. All these factors representing rural-rural migration are shown in the figure by both sided arrows. Information and resource flows continue between both the sectors, facilitating the migration process simultaneously.

Rural to urban migration is the most ubiquitous form of migration process in the developing countries. Channelization of income and employment opportunities from the urban sector to the rural is much higher than the flow of income and employment opportunities from the rural to the urban sector, shown by a block arrow in the figure. Social and political compulsions, constraints of human resource developments in the rural areas and quest for higher standard of living compared to the current living conditions of the workforces induce the individuals to migrate to the urban areas but the opposite does not hold true, which is shown by single sided arrows in the figure.

The characteristics of urban to urban migration are quite similar to the features of the rural to rural migration. This type of movements are a common phenomenon for the interstate and inter country movements, it generally does not take place within a state. As shown in the figure, all the mentioned causes of migration are equally responsible for the movement of the labour force from one urban sector to

the other. Urban to urban migration usually takes place when the workforce of a particular urban area seeks better work and employment opportunities and improved monetary benefits compared to the previous place of its origin.

For a large and developing country like India, the complexity of movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamics of the society. At this crucial juncture of economic development in our country, migration study assumes a special importance.

A broader scale process of urbanisation involves the increasing concentration of populations into the urban areas. Thus migration from the rural to the urban area is one of the principal mechanisms of urbanisation. However, the underlined reasons for migration to the urban areas vary substantially among countries. A useful way of characterising the situation is to distinguish between pull-based migration and push-based migration. In both the situations, migration is related to people's perceptions of the differentials between urban and rural areas. The distinction between the two types of migrations is related to whether these perceptions are reflected in the actual experience of the migrants after their arrival in the urban zone. Pull-based migrations involve differential schemes being driven by the real differences in living standards, job opportunities, income opportunities and access to services. It is generally, argued that much of the rural-urban migration is fuelled by the rapid urban growth process which actually reveals the skewed distribution of income and employment opportunities.

On the other hand, push-based migration involves migration fuelled by perceptions of better things to come in the urban areas. However, the perceptions are not worn out in the living experience of the migrants. Under such circumstances, development of shanty-towns on the edges of sprawling urban areas is observed. These new disorganised settlements are characterised by unsanitary living conditions, poor to non-existent infrastructure and services, extreme poverty and high levels of criminality.

The main feature of the migrating labourers in the developing countries is the lack of wealth, assets and any income, so primarily they migrate in search of better income, living and work in the destination of their migration. From the study conducted by Stark (1984) it can be inferred that rural to urban migration is undertaken primarily to improve an individual's or a household's comparative income position with respect to that of the other individuals or households in the relevant reference group, so to say the village here.

The consequence of migration from the rural to the urban area also brings about many harmful effects to the urban area. According to the study conducted by Mitra and Murayama (2008) in India rural-urban migration has been found to be modest, accounting for 30% growth in urban area in the context of urban poverty, slums and informal sector employment; in other words, much of the urban-ills are a result of rural-spills.

In Haberland's study we find the main reason for seasonal migration is scarcity of land. It has been established that a small land-to-man ratio is a major factor in rural labourers' decision to migrate to other areas.

Migration benefits both the migrant and the also the household sourcing the migrant. It alleviates poverty both by reducing the burden of the migrant on the households and also by the earnings of the migrant which is send back to the household (Zewdu et al. 2009). Researches show that the primary reason for rural-urban migration is to look for better opportunities and it is facilitated by improvements in agricultural productivity and growing non-farm/non-agricultural economies. Growing landlessness, small and fragmented land holdings, lack of nonfarm activity, and lower agricultural productivity are the main rural push factors for people to migrate from rural to the urban area.

The major problems faced by the migrating labour force are the lack of low-cost housing, physical insecurity, and lack of access to basic services, robbery, physical harassment and subsequent health problems [Afsar 2003; Hossain *et al* 2003].

3. Key Findings: The Case of West Bengal

Migration in West Bengal has been a prevalent phenomenon for several years. The current population of the state is more than 91 million. There are nineteen districts in the state. Covering a total area of 88,750 km², it shares its borders with the countries of Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh; and the Indian states of Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, and Assam.

Biplab Dasgupta (1987) in a study finds that the rural families in West Bengal took their turns to migrate for a temporary period and eventually followed the practise of 'badli' or substitute labour in the jute mills of Calcutta which enabled various members of the same family to rotate job between agriculture and work in the factory. In the same study it has also been found that in many cases migration lead to the setting up of the two parallel units by the individuals- one in the village and the other in town.

In yet another study conducted by Maharatna A. (2003), it has been inferred that mass emigration of entire families during the partition of 1947 from Bangladesh inflicted a net burden on India particularly on the states like West Bengal and Assam.

3.1. Results and Key Finding *Source: Census of India, 2001*

Nature of Migration	Within the state			Outside the state			Combined		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Rural to Urban	22,49,464	8,67,960	13,81,504	11,56,265	7,39,258	4,17,007	34,05,729	16,07,218	17,98,511
Urban to Urban	21,60,767	9,41,649	12,19,118	4,87,818	2,60,003	2,27,815	26,48,585	12,01,652	14,46,933
Total	44,10,231	18,09,609	26,00,622	16,44,083	9,99,261	6,44,822	60,54,314	28,08,870	32,45,444

Table 1: Total Number of Intra and Inter-State Migrants to West Bengal from Rural to Urban and Urban to Urban Sectors
Source: Census of India, 2001

Total migration to West Bengal is found to be around 60.5 lakh in 2000-01. It is revealed from Table-1 that out of the total migrants travelling to West Bengal, the intra-state migration (72.84%) is much greater than that of inter-state migration (27.16%). Out of these data, one can find that the intra-state female migration (58.97%) out sizes that of their male counterparts (41.03%). On the other hand, the picture reverses when we look into the inter-state migration; where female migration (39.22%) is less than the male migration (60.78%). This may be due to the fact that female migration due to marriage has the highest percentage among the different causes of migration. It can also be observed from the above table that rural-urban intra-state migration to West Bengal is much lesser (51.01%) than inter-state (70.33%) migration. Correspondingly, urban to urban intra-state migration (48.99%) is also greater than the inter-state migration (29.67%).

Reasons for Migration	Nature	Within the State			Outside the State		
		Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Work/ Employment	R to U	16.57	37.72	3.29	38.52	57.84	4.25
	U to U	8.73	17.72	1.79	23.09	41.07	2.57
Business	R to U	2.33	5.55	0.30	4.68	7.01	0.54
	U to U	1.70	3.48	0.33	5.11	8.99	0.68
Education	R to U	2.04	4.15	0.71	0.92	1.26	0.31
	U to U	1.06	1.83	0.47	2.17	3.28	0.90
Marriage	R to U	39.37	1.28	63.32	17.83	0.48	48.58
	U to U	27.07	0.81	47.35	22.31	0.69	46.98
Moved after Birth	R to U	3.61	5.67	2.32	2.43	2.43	2.42
	U to U	12.75	17.35	9.20	3.50	3.99	2.94
Moved with Household	R to U	22.03	25.60	19.78	22.50	16.76	32.68
	U to U	29.55	32.88	26.98	28.81	24.62	33.94
Others	R to U	14.05	20.02	10.30	13.13	14.22	11.20
	U to U	19.14	25.93	13.89	15.00	17.35	12.33
Total	R to U	100 (22,49,464)	100 (8,67,960)	100 (13,81,504)	100 (11,56,265)	100 (7,39,258)	100 (4,17,007)
	U to U	100 (21,60,767)	100 (9,41,649)	100 (12,19,118)	100 (4,87,818)	100 (2,60,003)	100 (2,27,815)

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Intra and Inter-State Migrants according to Reasons
Source: Census of India, 2001

Table 2 reveals that women migration within as well as from outside the state is the highest due to 'marriage'. Considering the percentage distributions, we observe that migration within the state is 63.32% for the rural to the urban area, while for the urban to the urban area it is 47.35%. Migration from outside the state to West Bengal is 48.58% from the rural to the urban sector and 46.98% from the urban to the urban sector. The other primary reason of migration for women is the 'movement with the households', which refers to the migration due to a change in the husband's, father's or son's transfer in the job position. The data for the same observed from the above table for intra-state migration can be noted as 19.78% and 26.98% respectively for the migration between the rural-urban sector and the urban-urban migration.

Migration activity taken up by men to West Bengal is observed to be primarily in search of work and employment. This particular migration for men from within the state is observed to be 37.72% in case of rural to urban sector and 17.72% in case of urban to urban sector. On the other hand, this particular migration from outside the state is observed to be 57.84% and 41.07% respectively for the rural-urban and urban-urban migrations.

States	Rural-Urban			Urban-Urban			Total		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
J&K	0.11	0.12	0.08	0.41	0.48	0.32	0.20	0.22	0.17
HP	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.11	0.10	0.12	0.07	0.06	0.08
Punjab	0.65	0.56	0.80	1.68	1.68	1.68	0.95	0.85	1.11
Uttaranchal	0.15	0.14	0.18	0.33	0.36	0.31	0.21	0.20	0.22
Haryana	0.50	0.46	0.58	0.93	0.99	0.87	0.63	0.60	0.68
Delhi	0.10	0.08	0.14	2.13	1.89	2.40	0.70	0.55	0.94
Rajasthan	2.20	1.95	2.64	4.99	5.08	4.88	3.03	2.76	3.43
U P	15.44	15.60	15.16	14.42	15.45	13.24	15.14	15.56	14.48
Bihar	58.88	61.26	54.67	33.97	37.64	29.78	51.49	55.11	45.88
Sikkim	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.20	0.15	0.25	0.10	0.08	0.14
Ar P	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.05
Nagaland	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.06	0.06	0.07
Manipur	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.06	0.05	0.07
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
	0.33	0.28	0.40	1.39	1.37	1.41	0.64	0.57	0.76
Meghalaya	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.57	0.50	0.65	0.21	0.16	0.29
Assam	2.33	1.71	3.43	7.88	6.79	9.11	3.98	3.03	5.44
Jharkhand	9.91	8.50	12.39	13.23	10.13	16.77	10.89	8.93	13.94
Orissa	5.88	6.49	4.80	6.27	6.98	5.45	5.99	6.61	5.03
Chhatisgarh	0.49	0.39	0.68	0.77	0.63	0.93	0.58	0.45	0.77
MP	0.38	0.30	0.52	1.27	1.08	1.48	0.64	0.51	0.86
Gujarat	0.60	0.50	0.79	1.72	1.62	1.84	0.93	0.79	1.16
Maharashtra	0.22	0.20	0.26	2.38	2.10	2.70	0.86	0.69	1.12
A P	1.01	0.78	1.42	2.02	1.78	2.29	1.31	1.04	1.73
Karnataka	0.10	0.09	0.12	0.44	0.41	0.47	0.20	0.17	0.24
Goa	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.03
Kerala	0.27	0.23	0.35	0.89	0.87	0.93	0.46	0.39	0.56
T N	0.15	0.12	0.19	1.25	1.18	1.34	0.48	0.40	0.60
U T	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.11	0.10	0.13

Table 3: Percentage distribution of state wise migration to West Bengal according to the sector

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table 3 shows the Percentage distribution of migration to West Bengal (WB) according to the states. It majorly portrays the nature of migration from Rural to the Urban and Urban to Urban sectors from all the other states to West Bengal, according to the sex of the individual migrant. It is observed that the highest Rural-Urban migration to West Bengal has been from Bihar followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP), Jharkhand and Orissa. Among these states the migration of the male members has been higher than their female counterparts for all the states except for Jharkhand where female migration has been exceptionally high. The reasons behind the movement of the individual labour forces from Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa into West Bengal is primarily due to the fact that these states are the neighbouring states to West Bengal due to which migration is an easy option for them. The other reason for migration is the absorption of the migrating work force into the informal sector. The works and/or petty businesses undertaken by them mostly are driving, cooking or setting up a small restaurant, work involving priesthood, security guards and the like.

The lowest levels of migration to West Bengal as observed from the above table in case of the Rural-Urban sector is from Goa followed by Union Territory (UT), Himachal Pradesh (HP), and the North-Eastern states which include Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh (Ar P), Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya. Taken in the percentage terms, the number of individuals migrating from the rural sector to the urban sector West Bengal is lower compared to the migration of the urban to the urban sector individuals. Observing similar trends of migration from the mentioned states in case of Urban-Urban migration, it can be said that migration from the North-Eastern states has been quite insignificant.

4. Concluding Remarks

Migration as a process involves a lot of intricacies as an outcome in the developing countries. This project looked into the migration processes and the following consequences of it for West Bengal as a whole. In spite of the fact that India, as a developing country, has shown quite significant development in various sectors of its economy but the economy is still facing the problems of poverty and unemployment both in rural and urban sector. Migration as observed from the paper is an outcome of the weaker conditions in the rural areas acting as the push factors. It also exists due to the want for better opportunities and employment conditions in the urban area, acting as the pull factors from the rural area.

In spite of the fact that India, as a developing country, has shown quite significant development in various sectors of its economy but the economy is still facing the problems of poverty and unemployment both in rural and urban sector. The root problem lies in the

rural sector that people in rural sector remain unemployed and so suffers from acute poverty. Agricultural work in the rural area is not enough to reduce their problems. Therefore, in order to cope with such issues of the rural sector, the individual labour force take the escape route of migration from their original place of origin to the other areas like the cities or any other rural areas in order to get hold of better opportunities in the form of income and employment in the future course of time.

Rural industrialization or development of the rural areas, so to say, has to be enhanced in order to put a stop to the rural to urban migration as a whole and also to reduce the problems of the rural sector to some extent. It can be an efficient tool also to combat with the problems of poverty and unemployment. Development of the rural area through employing and absorbing more people in different fields will raise the income of the rural population and their standard of living, which will automatically put them in a better situation. Therefore, rural industrialization can be considered as a provision for the development for the rural sector which increases the job opportunities for the people in the rural sector and also boosts their life styles. Hence, migration here acts as the linkage between the rural and the urban sectors. A perfect balance has to be obtained between the rural and the urban areas in order to boost healthy migration between the two areas. So, rural industrialisation along with dispersed urbanisation needs to be taken into consideration in the state to ensure the proper welfare of the people. The rural industrialisation is required to stop the individuals from migrating arbitrarily from their place of origin to the cities; while dispersed urbanisation is mandatory in order to extend the scopes to the people who are in search of the opportunities of the city. A pragmatic approach has to be relied upon for this.

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