

Migration and Women Empowerment: A Study in Perspective of Women Migrating from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, to the Hugli Industrial Belt of West Bengal

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Abstract

In India, the majority of female migration takes place in the form of either marriage migration or associational migration. The socioeconomic condition of migrants is the reason behind their mobility. Customs and ethnic values are determinants of the engagement of women as earners in the family. The economic status of migrant women is an important factor affecting their employment. Rigid caste systems, economic backwardness, etc. are the reasons for migration. The percentage of migrants in India has been consistently declining from 1961 to 1991, with employment among males and marriage among females being the main reasons for migration. Female migrants dominate short-distance migration, with a higher percentage moving within the district compared to males. Education levels among migrants are lower than the total population, with males having a higher literacy rate than females. Work participation rates are higher among male migrants. The present paper is an analysis of female migration in the Hugli Industrial Belt.

Key Word: *Female Migration, Education, Employment, Marriage*

I. Introduction:

The article discusses the female migration patterns in India, focusing on female migration. The data from the 2015–2016 field survey is used to analyze migration levels, reasons for migration, work force participation rates, and education levels of migrants. The study highlights the trend of female migration among females, with employment and marriage being the primary factors driving migration. The analysis also delves into the different types of migration streams and distances traveled, shedding light on the sex-wise differences in migration patterns.

There has been an increasing feminization of internal labor migration in most developing countries over the past few decades. Although the reason for internal migration among female migrants, as reported by existing secondary sources in India, is predominantly marriage, there has been an increase in migration for economic reasons. While the only major data sources on migration in India (the Census and National Sample Survey [NSS]) provide information on various dimensions of migration, Women migrants are more likely to be vulnerable than their male counterparts in destination areas with regard to health, physical safety, and financial means.

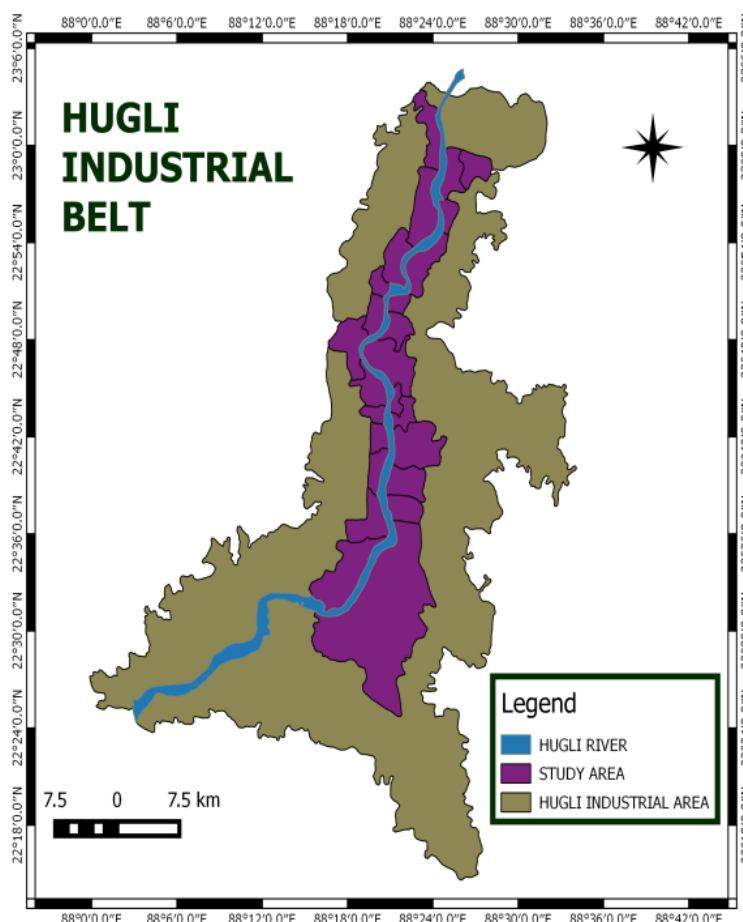
Marriage-related migration has traditionally been the single most important reason for female migration. This was also reflected in women's reporting of better income and work opportunities as pull factors for migration, while push factors indicated that their migration was mostly poverty-driven, as evident from the most frequently cited reasons: no money in the household, dissatisfaction with the work they did at home, and lack of employment in their home.

Inter-state migration of women from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal is driven by several factors, including economic opportunities in urban areas, family ties, and social conditions. Census 2011 data shows a significant trend of women moving from rural to urban centers for employment. Many Bihari and Uttar Pradesh women migrate to West Bengal, where they seek work and better living conditions.

It's important to note that while West Bengal attracts a high number of immigrants, Bihar remains the main source of these migrants.

Study Area:

The study area selected is a realm of slums situated on the eastern and western banks of the River Hugli, which is geographically identified as the "Hugli Industrial Belt of West Bengal." This is one of the economically prosperous regions of West Bengal due to the greater prosperity of agriculture as well as industries. Geographically, the Hugli Industrial Belt is located within 88°10'12''E to 88°34'00''E and 22°28'12'' N to 22°58'12'' N.



Objective:

1. To study the pattern of female migration within the Industrial Belt of Hooghly.
2. To study the change in the socioeconomic status of Dalit women after migration.

II. Data and Methodology:

Households of laborers and daily wage earners from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are migrating to Kolkata and its suburbs, mainly in the Hugli Industrial Belt. The location of the labor slum, ethnic characteristics, language, surname, etc. help identify migrants. .

stratified purposive sampling. Solvin’s formula ($N = Q/P * 1/e^2$) to determine sample size

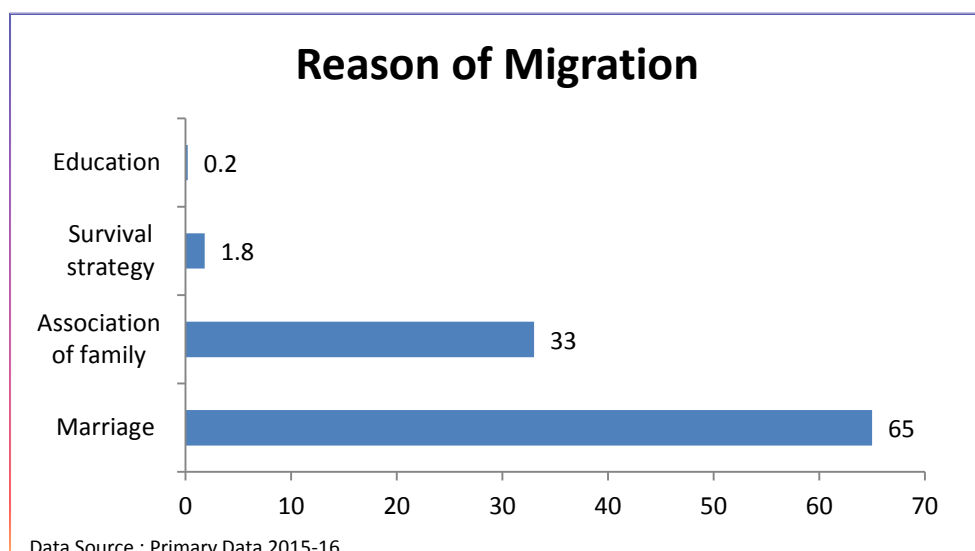
Data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data (household survey), secondary data (census, NSSO, official websites) Causes of women's mobility and impact on the status of women's employment, particularly those who belong to the Dalit community.

III. Discussion:

The present paper describes the various aspects of female migration with respect to interstate migration, which takes place within the Hugli Industrial Belt of West Bengal from Purvanchal (Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar). The nature of migration is generally rural to urban.

Reasons for Female Migration:

The present paper describes the various aspects of female migration with respect to interstate migration, which takes place within the Hugli Industrial Belt of West Bengal from the Purvanchal zone (Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar). The nature of migration is generally rural to urban.

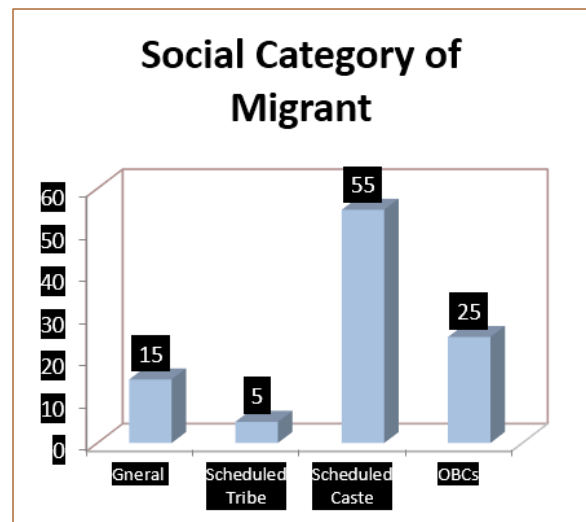
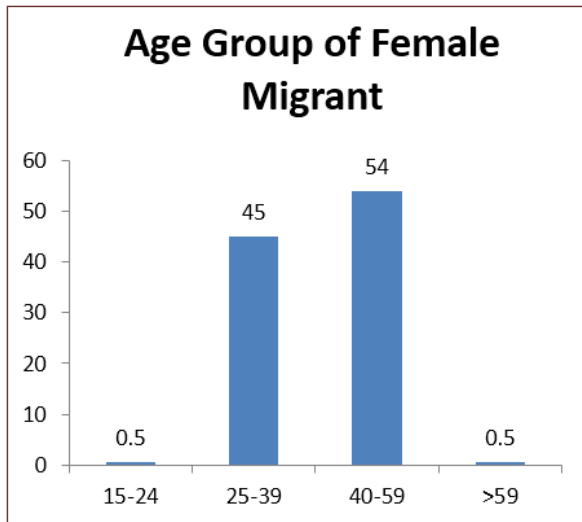


From the field survey and primary data we come to know that among the reasons of migration, majority of women migrated due to social factor and marriage is foremost factor. About 65% women migrated after marriage followed by 33% women migrated mainly due to association of family. It include women of all ages. Nearly 1.8% women migrated for the search of job while only 0.2% women migrated for the education. This indicate that under the study area women are migrating with their husband or family in majority while in search of job a very small number of women are migrating. If we look at the education as the factor of migration, we find that very less number of women are migrating.

Demographic Characteristics:

If we look at the demographic characteristics of the respondents, we find that the majority of females are in the age group of 40–59. About 54% of females are in the age group of 40–59, followed by the age group of 25–39, and in this age group, we find 45% female. In the age group of 15–24 and more than 59, only 0.5% of females belong.

Regarding the social category of the migrants, we found that in the majority, about 55% of females belong to the Scheduled Caste Category, followed by OBCs at 25%, general castes at 15%, and scheduled tribes at only 5%. This data indicates that the number of scheduled castes is higher than 50% in other categories, which indicates that the economic condition of the scheduled caste population is perhaps not so good in the source states. However, the condition of other backward castes is also not satisfactory, as nearly 25% of the females from the community migrated to the study area.

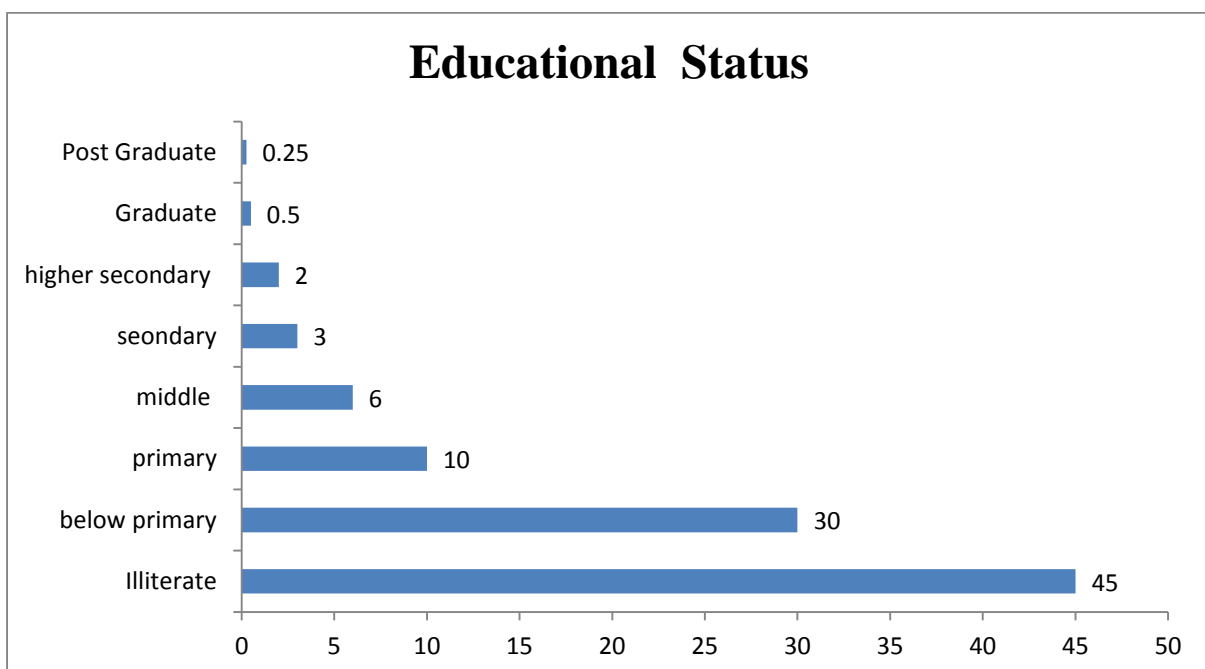


Data Source: Primary Data 2015-16

Education and Pre Migration Status:

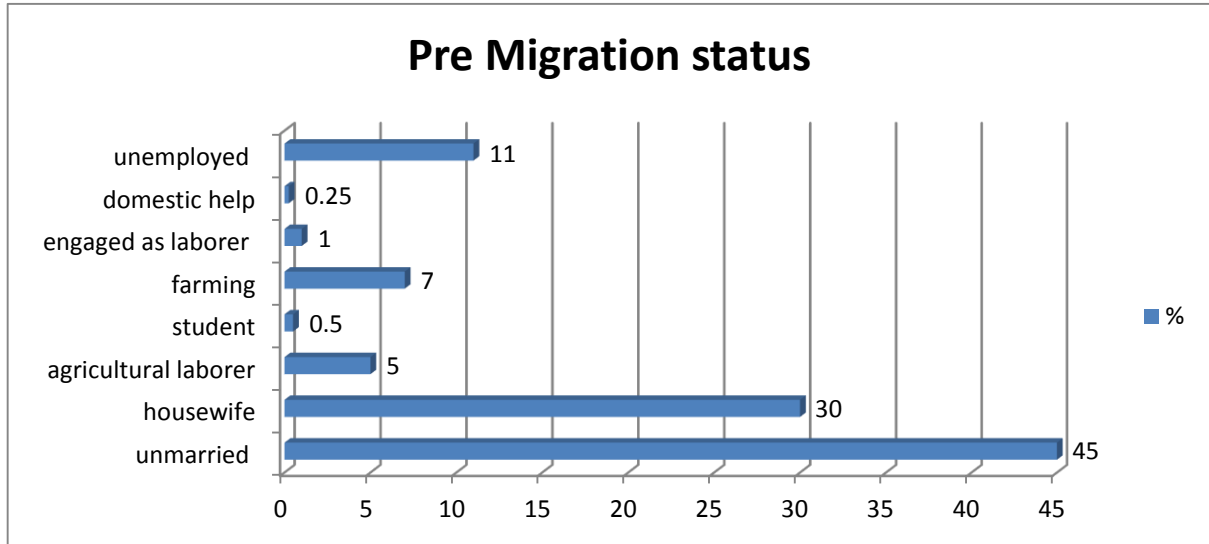
The data presented shows the educational status and pre-migration status of individuals in the study area. It includes information about literacy levels, education levels, and employment status. The data is from primary data sources in 2015–16.

If we look at the educational status of the migrants in the study area, we find that the majority of women in the area are illiterate, which accounts for about 45%, followed by those below the primary level (30%), primary level (10%), middle school (6%), secondary school (3%), higher secondary (2%), graduate (0.5%) and postgraduate (only 0.25%). This indicates that the majority of women are still socially underdeveloped due to their educational status. However, the majority of females in the age group 40 and above are either illiterate or less educated, while girls in the age group 6–39 are the majority literate. Though we cannot deny the fact that the majority of women are deprived of better education and higher education, this is one of the major issues of migration, where people migrate from one place to another in search of food, cloth, and shelter as their primary goals while education and health are secondary.



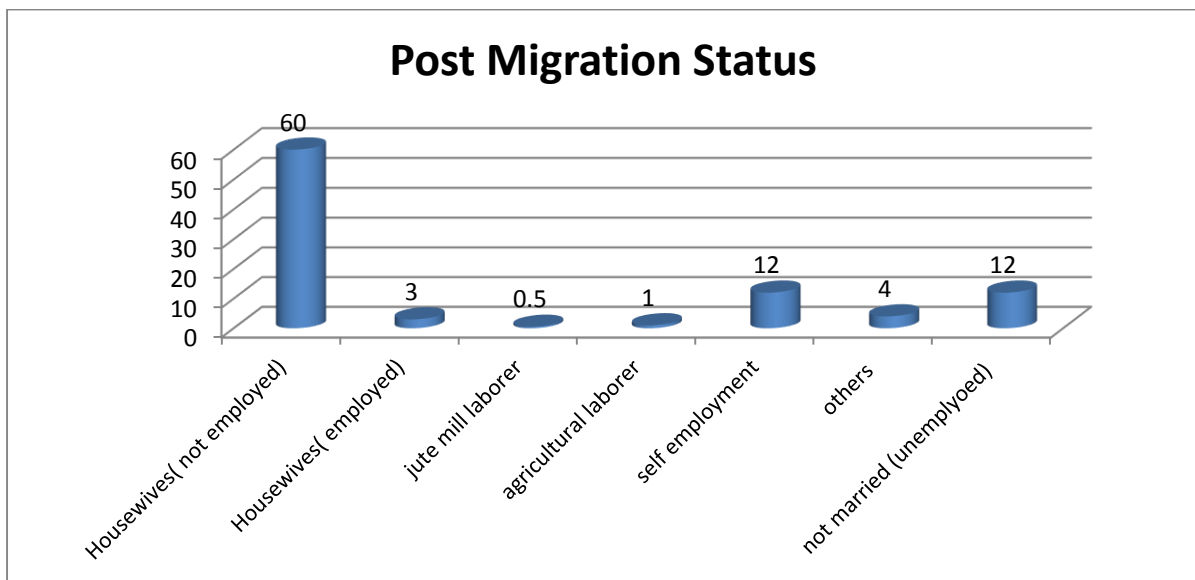
Data Source: Primary Data 2015-16

If we analyze the pre-migration status of women, we find that before migration, the majority of women were single and unmarried, and they migrated to the study area mainly after marriage. Nearly 45% of women in the study area were unmarried before their migration, followed by housewives who accompanied their husbands during migration, and they account for 30%. From the primary data, we come to know that 5% of women were engaged as agricultural laborers, 7% as farmers, 0.5% were students, 0.25% were engaged as domestic helpers, and 11% were unemployed. Therefore, we can assume that the majority of women migrate due to social reasons, followed by economic reasons.



Data Source: Primary Data 2015-16

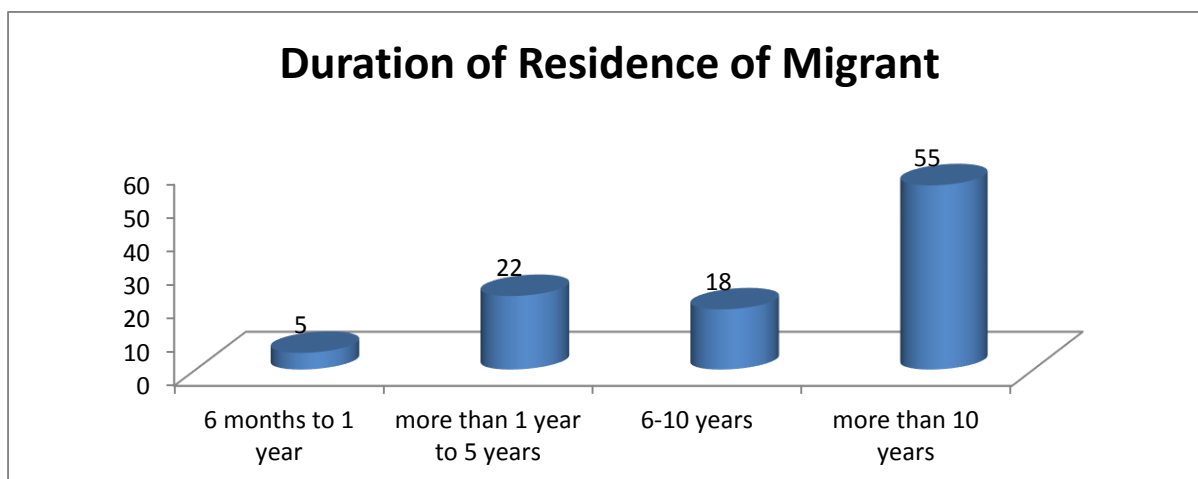
If we look at the post migration status of women we find that more than 60 % female migrants are housewives or not employed, nearly 12% female migrants are self-employed and unmarried, about 3% female migrants are housewives and employed, 0.5 % migrants are jute mill labourer while 4% female migrants have different status which is not specified.



Data Source: Primary Data 2015-16

Duration of stay and present employment:

If we look at the period of stay of female migrants in the study area, we find that in the majority, the duration of stay is more than 10 years, and it accounts for more than 55%. On the other hand, about 18% of female migrants are living in the study area for more than 6 years and less than 10 years; 22% of female migrants’s duration of living is 1–5 years, while only 5% of female migrants duration of living is 6 months to less than 1 year.



Data Source: Primary Data 2015-16

IV. Major Findings:

1. According to the 2001 census, 54% of interstate migrants are women.
2. Marriage and affiliations account for the majority of female migration.
3. Women move more than males do, even though they are counted differently.
4. More women from the most vulnerable social groups migrate as a method of survival.
5. The rigid caste structure and the low economic standing of the original regions are two important causes.
6. The career prospects of female migrants with lesser educational attainment were better.
7. Women migrate in phases; at first reliant on their husbands, they eventually take the lead in social and economic decisions and manage the household.
8. The increased amount of migration from other states to the Hugli Industrial Belt is mostly due to factors like the accessibility of basic necessities, medical facilities, affordable housing, social security, etc.
9. 6. The Hugli Industrial Belt has seen a higher rate of interstate movement, mostly because of its easy access to social security, affordable housing, healthcare, and other essentials.

V. Conclusion:

The primary reason for the majority of female migration within the Hugli Industrial Belt is marriage, which is a common practice in Indian societies. Women migrate as housewives, daughters, etc. in the first stage, but they eventually take on diverse tasks. This suggests that migration raises employment opportunities. However, since illiterates are more likely to find work as unskilled labourers, we are unable to find a positive correlation between educational attainment and employment prospects. The densely populated Hugli Industrial Belt offers these female migrants a variety of career options, ranging from small-scale factory or jute mill labourers to small-scale cottage industries, domestic help, agricultural labourers, self-employment, and more. This study examines the trends of female migration in West Bengal's Hugli Industrial Belt. The primary drivers of this trend of migration from rural to urban areas are marriage and job prospects. The majority of migrants are housewives (30%) and single women (45%); the majority also belong to the Scheduled Caste (55%). Low literacy rates are observed; the majority of women only have an elementary education or are illiterate. The majority of female migrants have lived in the research area for longer than a year. The two main findings under investigation in this field are the low rates of employment and involvement in higher education.

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