

## TRENDS AND ISSUES IN MIGRATION IN KARNATAKA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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### Abstract:

Karnataka is the eighth largest state in India, and predominated by diversity of geographical, socio-economic characters. Due to this diversity, it is important to study the migration pattern in Karnataka. Inter-district migration relates to those migrants who move from one district to another district within the state. This movement is accelerated due to socio-economic factors like growth of industry, agricultural development and urbanization. This paper tries to analyze the trends and issues related to migration in Karnataka. It also talks about the reasons for migration in Karnataka.

**Keywords:** Migration, Diversity, Urbanization, Intra-state and Interstate.

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### Introduction

Migration is a complex subject driven by a variety of socioeconomic variables, urbanization tendencies, and environmental concerns. Migration trends in the state have changed significantly during the last few decades. Karnataka is known for both intra-state and inter-state migration. The state receives migrants from many regions of India, mainly from neighboring states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. It also experiences outmigration from its agrarian northern districts to urban centers in the south, such as Bengaluru and Dakshina Kannada.

The unique feature of migration in Karnataka is clearly gendered, with an overwhelming majority of male migrants who frequently travel to help their families financially. Younger people below 14 years also migrate in large numbers, usually in search of improved education and healthcare access. The bulk of migrants are from socially excluded groups, with a large proportion of landless people among them. According to recent studies, migration flows vary across the state. Urban areas such as Bengaluru and Dakshina Kannada are popular tourist destinations, whilst northern districts such as Raichur and Kalaburagi see significant outmigration. Reasons for this tendency include both economic possibilities in the south and the negative consequences of climate change in the north.

### The Concept of Migration

The Oxford English Dictionary defined 'migration' in the same manner that the movement of a person or persons from one country, locality, place of residence, etc., to another.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) defined migrant as “a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons”. National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) has defined migrants as “an individual who changed their usual place of residence or changed their last place of residence. Census of India has stated migrant who has changed their last place of residence or place of birth. In this study migrants are those who has left their place of residence from rural areas and went any place either rural or urban only for economic reasons.

Migration is, at its core, a typical human behavior. Humans have always relocated from one country, location, or place of habitation to another. People tend to move from residences of our family or guardians to our own and move between regions, cities, and towns and also commute between countries. Migration is devised from the Latin word ‘migrare’ which means ‘to move or settle/ shift’. Migration means the relocation of usual place of habitation for various causes for particular period. They may be male or female, younger age or older age and working or dependent along with their social group and religion.

### **Types of Migration**

Migration is classified into two forms based on administrative boundaries: international migration, often known as external migration, and internal migration.

### **Emigration and immigration**

These are the terms used to describe the process of external migration, whereas internal migration is known as interstate or intra-state migration. Intra-state migration has two dimensions: inter-district and intra-district movement. Intra-district migration occurs when people move from one village to another. Internal migration is the process of changing one's residence within a national boundary. Internal migration has four streams: rural to rural (R-R), urban to rural (U-R), rural to urban (R-U), and urban to urban (U-U). R-R migration is also known as rural turnover, and R-U movement is referred to as rural push. Similarly, urban turnover is U-U migration, whereas pushback is U-R migration. In the period of liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG), the rural to urban migration movement is becoming increasingly significant due to urbanization. Both external and internal migrations follow two migration processes: in-migration and out-migration. In-migration is the process of increasing population, whereas out-migration is the process of decreasing population at any given location.

### **Place of destination and Place of origin**

There are two places where migrants prefer to migrate or wish to depart from where they are currently living. The place that a migrant chooses is referred to as the **place of destination**, whereas the place that the migrants depart is referred to as the **place of origin**. The place of origin can be the normal resident's home, the birthplace, or the final habitation. Place of destination is decided by the stream of migration.

## Migration cycle

A large number of migrants migrate from one location to another for survival, business, or other reasons, and then return to their original birthplace or place of origin. That process has concluded as a **migration cycle**.

## Brain drain and Brain gain

India continues to lose talented people due to a lack of infrastructure and a scarcity of well-paying jobs. **Brain drain** is the migration of highly educated, brilliant, and skilled individuals from one country to another. It refers to the transfer of human capital from poor countries to developed countries. This is an economic push factor for migration. In contrast to the preceding statement, India hires brains from other countries through migration, which is referred to as need-based voluntary pull factors called **brain gain**. Essentially, defense technology and nanotechnology experts.

## Review of Literature

1. Uma, H. R., GR, M., & Habeeb, M. (2013) discussed that for many poor people around the world, migration is a way of life that has existed for generations. However, globalization has significantly impacted the extent of migration: people are now more aware of opportunities abroad, and travel has become easier. Seasonal migration of agricultural labourers is not a new occurrence in Karnataka or India. During their rule, the British mobilized labor for commercial crop production, mining, and other administrative objectives. Following independence, the Government of India (GOI) implemented the socialist-capitalist (mixed economy) model of development through five-year plans.
2. Kundu, A., & Saraswati, L. R. (2012) examined migration and urbanization patterns in recent decades reveals a clear downward trend. It might be claimed that the migratory process includes an inbuilt screening system that selects persons from better economic and social strata. The decrease in the proportion of migrants relocating in pursuit of work, along with a rise in business and study-related mobility, lends credence to this claim. Poverty-induced migration, on the other hand, has gradually declined in importance as a source of mobility.
3. Pandey, A. K. (2014) observed in his study that India is a traditional civilization with a comparatively low mobility rate. The existing literatures also support the fact that India's migration rate is among the lowest in the world. The migration rate in India was dropping until the 1991 census, but it reversed for the first time in the 2001 census. Between 1991 and 2001, the internal migration rate increased by 3%. Scholars have linked it to the structural reforms in India's economy that were implemented in 1991 in response to a severe economic crisis. Although, before 2001, it was too early to conclude that the reversal in migration trends was due to the process of economic reform.
4. Bhagat, R. B. (2011) revealed in his study that both in- and out-migration rates had a significant positive association with per capita income, percentage of workforce and share of state gross domestic product in the non-agricultural sector. This means that higher income and the sectoral transformation of the economy from the agricultural to the non-agricultural

sector tended to be associated with both higher in-migration and higher out-migration rates. By contrast, poverty was not found to be strongly related to increased out-migration at the state level.

### Objectives

1. To understand the concept of migration and its types
2. To know the migration trends in all India level
3. To evaluate migration trends in Karnataka
4. To derive findings and offer suggestions

### Methodology

The study is based on secondary data. Secondary data have been collected from Census data published by the government of India in 2001 and 2011. It also collected information from NSSO and District Census Books. Journal articles and internet sources are used.

**Table 1. State wise Migrants in India**

State Wise Migration as Per Census - 2011					
S. No.	States/Uts	Persons	S. No.	States/Uts	Persons
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	52,129	19	Madhya Pradesh	24,15,635
2	Andhra Pradesh	37,37,316	20	Maharashtra	79,01,819
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,19,244	21	Manipur	22,750
4	Assam	5,72,064	22	Meghalaya	52,797
5	Bihar	7,06,557	23	Mizoram	62,828
6	Chandigarh	2,06,642	24	Nagaland	1,10,779
7	Chhattisgarh	10,21,077	25	Nct Of Delhi	20,29,489
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	63,779	26	Odisha	8,51,363

9	Daman & Diu	73,782	27	Puducherry	70,721
10	Goa	1,15,870	28	Punjab	12,44,056
11	Gujarat	30,41,779	29	Rajasthan	17,09,602
12	Haryana	13,33,644	30	Sikkim	46,554
13	Himachal Pradesh	2,96,268	31	Tamil Nadu	34,87,974
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,22,587	32	Tripura	92,097
15	Jharkhand	8,24,259	33	Uttar Pradesh	31,56,125
16	Karnataka	28,87,216	34	Uttarakhand	6,17,094
17	Kerala	7,13,934	35	West Bengal	16,56,952
18	Lakshadweep	6,135		<b>India</b>	<b>4,14,22,917</b>

Source: Census 2011

Table 1 shows that the 2011 Census recorded approximately 45.6 crore (456 million) migrants in India, accounting for 38% of the total population. Intra-state migration constituted about 88% of all internal migration, with 39.6 crore persons migrating within their states. Inter-state migration accounted for approximately 5.4 crore migrants. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar emerged as the largest sources of inter-state migrants and Maharashtra and Delhi were the primary destinations for migrants.

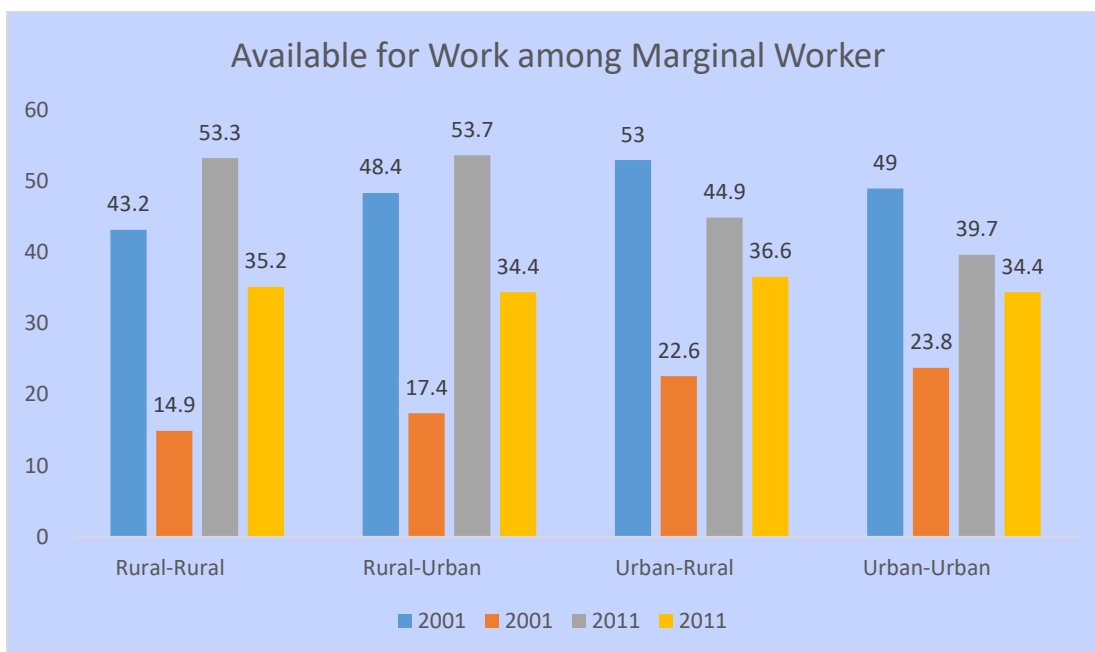
**Table 2. Distribution of Migrant Workers based on Gender in Karnataka**

	Seeking/Available for Work among Marginal Worker				Seeking/Available for Work among Non-Worker			
	2001		2011		2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Rural-Rural	43.2	14.9	53.3	35.2	7.6	6.8	8.2	11.6
Rural-Urban	48.4	17.4	53.7	34.4	9.4	9.2	7.8	10.3
Urban-Rural	53.0	22.6	44.9	36.6	14.1	8.2	10.5	9.3
Urban-Urban	49.0	23.8	39.7	34.4	13.5	9.1	9.8	8.7

Urban								
Total (%)	45.9	15.5	49.5	35.3	11.3	7.7	9.4	10.4
Total Population ('000)	2,360	5,737	5,276	15,602	3,979	10,564	5,580	21,121

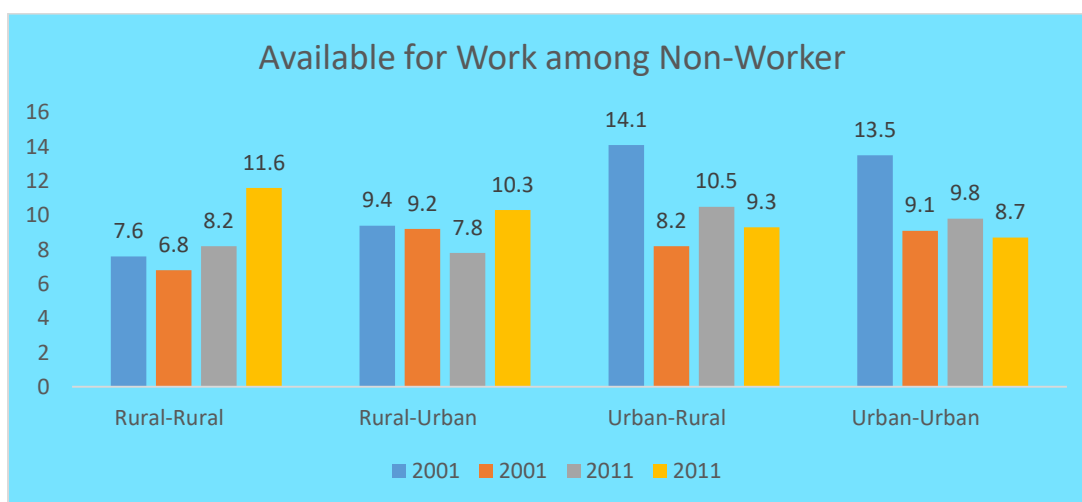
Source: Census Data 2011 and 2001

**Figure 1: Distribution of Migrant Workers based on Gender in Karnataka**



Source: Inserted by authors based on Census data.

**Figure 2: Distribution of Migrant Workers based on Gender in Karnataka**



Source: Inserted by authors based on Census data.

Table 2 and Figure 1 & 2 shows the migration data on male and female with respect to rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural migration. It indicated that females were more mobile than males, with 37% of the population classified as migrants in 2011,

showing a trend of increasing female migration compared to previous decades. Specifically, there is increasing trend in all types of migration compared to total migrants in 2001 and 2011. Percentage wise male migration increased in the category Rural-Rural and Rural to Urban. There is declining trend in urban to rural and urban to urban category related to available for work among marginal workers. With regard to female migrants there is increasing trend in all categories and percentage change is much higher related to available for work among marginal workers. Under the category of available for work among non-worker there increasing trend in Rural – Rural migration related to male and in all other categories there is decreasing trend. With regard to females there is increasing trend in all categories except Urban-to-Urban migration.

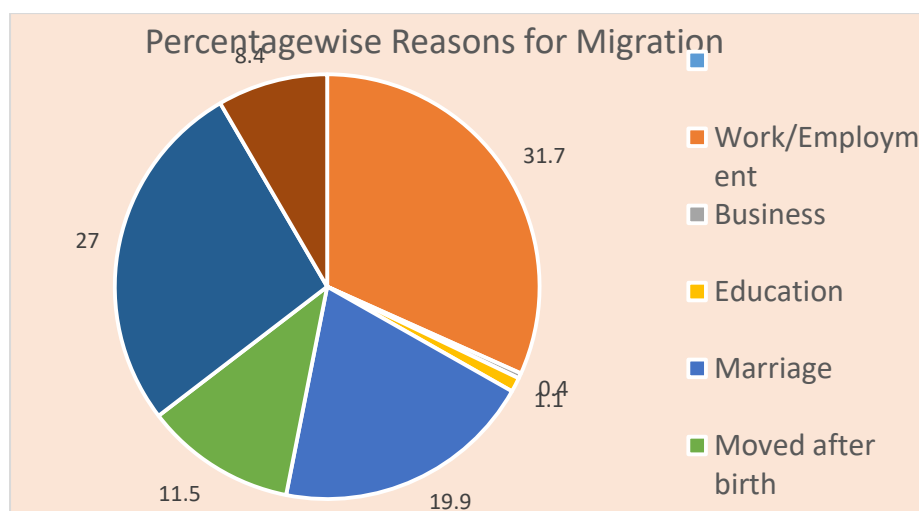
### Reasons for Migration

**Table 3. Reasons for Migration in Karnataka (2011 Census)**

Reasons	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	473,979	225,316	248,663	100.0	100.0	100.0
Work/Employment	150,394	122,323	28,071	31.7	54.3	11.3
Business	1,921	1,625	296	0.4	0.7	0.1
Education	5,134	3,577	1,557	1.1	1.6	0.6
Marriage	94,182	738	93,444	19.9	0.3	37.6
Moved after birth	54,581	28,197	26,384	11.5	12.5	10.6
Moved with households	127,761	49,528	78,233	27.0	22.0	31.5
Other	40,006	19,328	20,678	8.4	8.6	8.3

Source: 2011 Census

**Figure 3: Reasons for Migration in Karnataka**



Source: Inserted by the Authors

The table 3 and figure 3 shows that 31.7 percent of people migrate due to employment opportunities, 27 percent moved with households, 19.9 percent movement is due to marriage and 11.5 percent moved after birth.

## Findings

Migration trends in Karnataka, as reported by the 2011 Census, show major demographic transitions and socioeconomic factors that influence population movements within the state. The overall number of migrants in Karnataka was roughly 26.46 million in 2011, a significant rise from 16.56 million in 2001. This expansion parallels larger trends in urbanization and economic opportunities, particularly in urban regions.

1. The urban population in Karnataka grew from 34% in 2001 to 39% in 2011, indicating a shift towards urbanization driven by economic factors.
2. The migration trend was characterized by a predominance of young adults aged 15-64 years, who were primarily motivated by the search for better employment opportunities.
3. The youth demographic aligns with the high demand for labor in rapidly growing sectors like construction.
4. A significant portion of migrants came from socially marginalized backgrounds, with over 68% belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC).
5. There was persistent gender-based wage discrimination in the labor market between male and female migrants.
6. Many migrants experienced improved income levels compared to their rural counterparts. The influx of labor into urban areas contributed to higher wages in sectors like construction, services and manufacturing.
7. After migration, most male and female migrants were engaged in daily wage labor, but the kinds of occupations varied. Women were more likely to work in domestic labor and factory jobs, while men were more prevalent in construction and other sectors.
8. Female migrant laborers often faced exploitation and were more likely to be employed in the informal sector.
9. This lack of higher education among male and female migrants restricted their employment opportunities to low-skilled and semi-skilled jobs.
10. There is a growing trend of migration from rural to urban areas, driven by the search for better employment, education, and healthcare facilities.
11. Migration patterns show a distinct outflow from agrarian districts in North Karnataka, such as Raichur and Kalaburagi, towards more urbanized regions in the south, including Bengaluru and coastal districts like Udupi and Dakshina Kannada.



12. Migration is also observed among younger age groups (1-4 years and 5-14 years), often indicating family relocations for better educational opportunities.

13. This contrast in development between the north and south Karnataka likely drove migration, as the north struggled with livelihood challenges while the south offered better infrastructure and job prospects.

### Suggestions

1. Improve basic infrastructure in rural regions, such as healthcare, education, and transportation, to diminish the driving forces for migration.

2. Encourage the formation of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in rural regions to create work possibilities.

3. Give local governments the authority to address migration concerns based on their individual geographical needs.

4. Engage community members in decision-making processes for migration and development policies to ensure that solutions are relevant and effective.

5. Implement programs to strengthen rural communities' resilience to climate change, such as sustainable farming practices and disaster management strategies.

6. Set up vocational training centers in rural locations to provide the local workforce with skills relevant to rising job markets.

7. To retain young, raise educational standards and promote higher education options in rural areas.

8. Invest in research to evaluate spatial inequities in migratory flows, which can assist tailor policies to unique area concerns.

9. Conduct regular and extensive surveys to better understand migration patterns, socioeconomic implications, and migration drivers.

10. Create initiatives to support marginalized groups such as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

### Conclusion

Karnataka witnessed an enormous rise in migration, with around 1.7 crore (17 million) migrants registered in 2011. This includes both intra-state and inter-state movements, demonstrating a growing trend of individuals moving for better opportunities. Karnataka drew a large number of interstate migrants, primarily from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal. This migration is primarily owing to the state's economic growth and job possibilities, particularly in urban areas such as Bengaluru, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada. There was a noticeable transition from rural to urban areas, motivated by the need for better living circumstances and employment opportunities. The urban population increased from

34% in 2001 to 39% in 2011, reflecting the state's urbanization trend. Migration in Karnataka highlights the complex interplay between economic, social and environmental factors.

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