

FOUR DECADES ANALYSIS OF INTERSTATE FEMALE MIGRATION IN PUNJAB: A GENDERED PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: Punjab has been a dynamic participant of both internal and international migration for many decades. The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of female internal migration in Punjab, with a focus on inter-state movement. Migration and development are interconnected, but a gender-specific understanding of the migration cycle still remains unexplored. The expansion of women's capabilities and empowerment not only enhances their own freedom and well-being but also contributes substantially to the lives of other people in the society. This paper sketches the profile of female in-migrants with special focus on Punjab, over the past 40 years. The primary objective is to examine the pattern of inter-state female migration in Punjab using data from the 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011 migration Census tables. Additionally, it discusses distance categories, migration streams, and the factors that contribute to female migration in Punjab. Furthermore, the paper has attempted to address the changing structure of in-migration in Punjab and possible solutions to the challenges.

Keywords - Inter-state migration, Punjab, Census, Female migration.

I. INTRODUCTION

Internal migration and development are becoming more popular as indicators of the overall state of the economy. Rapid advancements in education, a shift in labour force from agriculture to industries, increased urbanisation, the development of the tertiary sector, and the availability of transportation and communication facilities, among other factors, all have an impact on people's mobility patterns within India. Migration is an inextricable part of development, as are the changes in the role and status of women that occur as a result of development. Earlier migration studies focused solely on male migration, assuming that female migration would have little socioeconomic impact (Neetha, 2004). Existing theories based on social, cultural, and economic factors are also male-centric, with female migration based on two factors: marriage and reliance on the family's primary breadwinner (Srivastava & Sasikumar, 2003). However, as time has passed, the emphasis has shifted more to females, a phenomenon known as feminization of migration (UN, 1993). The country is in a transitional stage of development, particularly since economic liberalisation began in 1991. The rapid pace of development in social, economic, and other spheres is bound to influence population mobility and migration in general, and female migration in particular. The census migration data provides an opportunity to shed more light on India's internal migration. The number of internal migrants in 2011 was 450 million, up from 309 million in 2001, 220 million in 1991, 200 million in 1981, and 159 million in 1971 (Bhagat, 2009). Internal migrants made up 37% of the population in 2011, up from 30% in 2001, with significant gender differences. Females constitute around 70% of overall internal migration in India, which grew from 110 million to 312.7 million between 1971 and 2011. Additionally, the share of female migrants in population grew from approximately 42% in 1971 to 53.2 percent in 2011, and from 17.5 percent to 22.6 percent for male migrants.

Net in-migration was most noticeable in developed states such as Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi (Bhagat, 2009). As a result of several stronger pull factors that initiated migration, these states attracted the majority of the population from almost all of the states in the country. When it comes to female migrants from other states (interstate), Haryana (16.3%), Punjab (15.8%), and Maharashtra (15.2%) lead the pack with more than 15% of female migrants (Visalakshi, 2016). Keeping the foregoing in mind, this paper examines the trends and patterns of internal female interstate migration in Punjab over the last four decades in terms of types, streams, gender, and determinants of migration in Punjab.

II. DATA & METHODOLOGY

On the recommendation of State reorganisation commission, Punjab was established as a state on the basis of language in 1966, whereas Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were capped out of Punjab. Hence, census for Punjab came since 1971. The Census of Punjab for the year 1971-2011 is the main data source in this paper. Construction of migration matrix of the state of Punjab will be used for calculating the share of female in-migrants from other states of India in Punjab. The purpose of this paper is to shed light on the trend, pattern and volume of female in-migration from other states in Punjab from last four decades. The spatial distribution of migrants has been investigated in order to better understand the degree of concentration of migrants in Punjab. In addition, the male/female and rural/urban concentration differences will be investigated. In addition, paper examines the factors responsible for female migration in the state. Share of female in-migrants from other states in Punjab will also be examined.

III. BACKGROUND

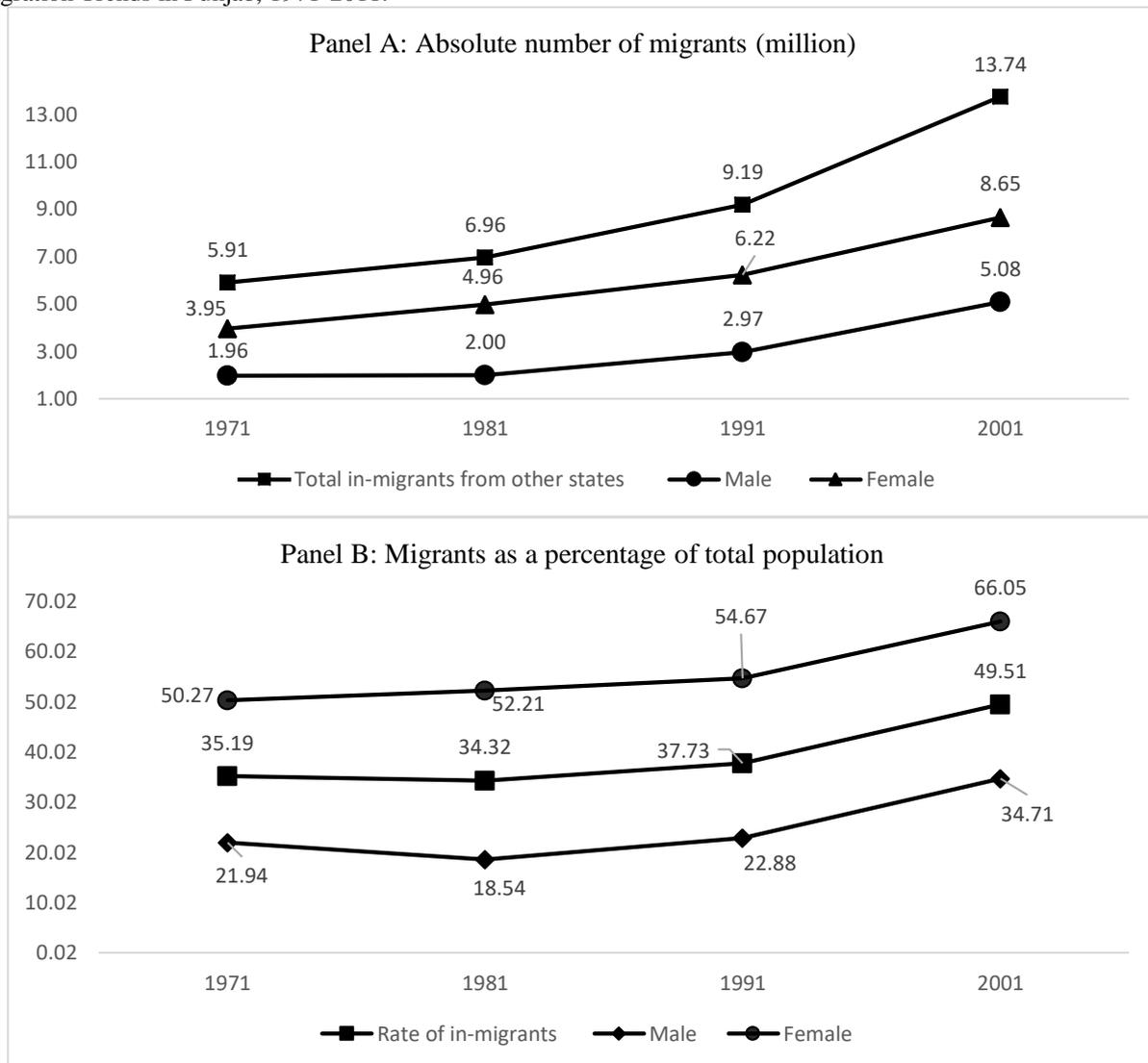
Since many decades, Punjab has had an interesting migration profile. The inflow of migrants in Punjab can be divided into two stages. With the advent of the green revolution in the mid-1960s, agriculture experienced tremendous growth during the first phase, which lasted until the 1990s. Successful and sustained agricultural transformation and development not only resulted in a significant increase in people's income in Punjab, but also drew many migrants from other states for employment purposes (Gill, 2001).

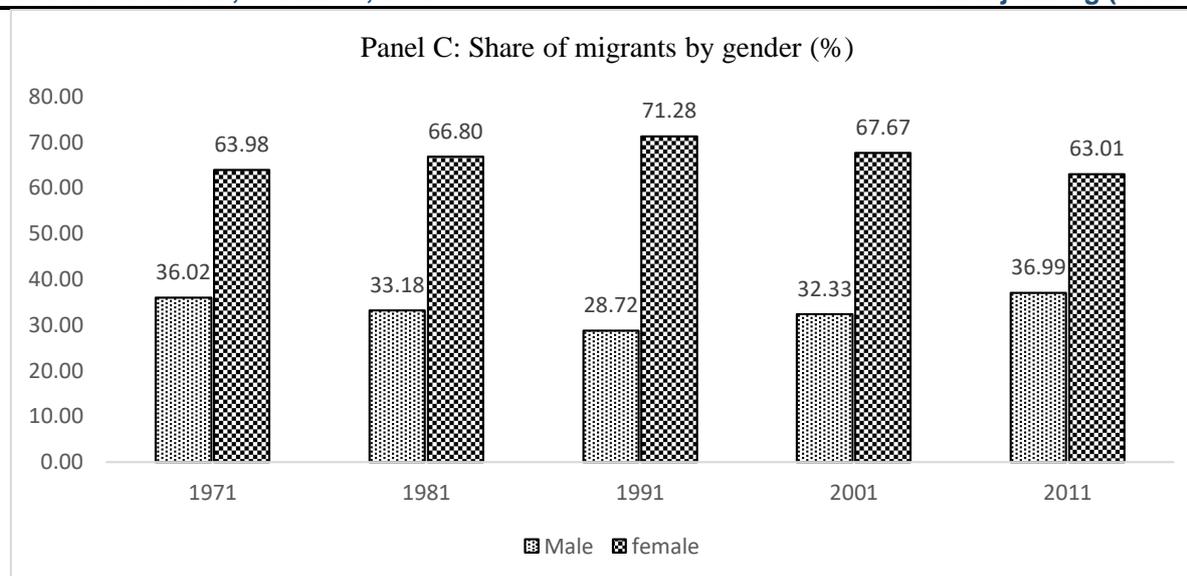
During the 1970s and 1980s, Punjab's diversified rural economy experienced a "reversal" of crop diversification as production shifted primarily to wheat-paddy rotation (Ghuman et al., 2007). The number of crops sown in Punjab fell dramatically from 21% in 1960-61 to 9% in the 1990s. As a result, the second phase began in the 1990s. Man-days spent working in agricultural fields in Punjab have been replaced by mechanised tools and equipment (Gill, 2006). These advancements, in turn, reduced the demand for manual labour in the agriculture sector to a nadir. In urban Punjab, however, there was a significant increase in in-migrants as small and medium-sized industries attracted migratory labour on a large scale to do manual and semi-skilled work at low wages (Oberoi and Singh, 1983). The internal migration in Punjab took place during both these phases. In the earlier period, migrant labours heavily populated rural Punjab while in the latter period, the majority of migration occurred in urban Punjab.

3.1 Trend of in-migration in Punjab

The overall migration trend in Punjab is increasing, with female migration driving the majority of it. While total internal migration in Punjab increased from approximately 5.9 million in 1971 to approximately 13.74 million in 2011, female migration alone increased from approximately 3.95 million to 8.6 million during the same period (Figure 1, Panel A). While the overall migration trend has been increasing, there is a significant gender difference in migration rates, with a steady increase in women relative to men. Females account for approximately 63% of total internal migration in Punjab (Figure 1, Panel C). Furthermore, the proportion of migrants in the total population has steadily increased from 35% to 49% between 1971 and 2011. (see Figure 1, Panel B). In the case of female migration, it increased from about 50% to 66%, while in the case of male migration, it increased from 21% to 34%. (Figure 2, Panel B).

Fig. 1: Migration Trends in Punjab, 1971-2011.





Source: Authors' estimation based on population census and migration data, 1971–2011.

3.2 Pattern of in-migrants

The analysis of migration's spatial pattern enables us to ascertain the relative importance of various social and economic elements influencing migration. Internal migration is classified as intra-district, inter-district, or inter-state based on the administrative boundaries crossed or not traversed. Male and female migrants' spatial distributions by distance (table 1) revealed several intriguing findings.

Table 1: Distribution of Internal migrants in Punjab by migration type, 1971-2011

Migration type	Share of migrants (%)									
	1971		1981		1991		2001		2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Intra-district (within district)	35.57	53.94	35.73	52.78	38.85	53.03	46.31	52.94	53.04	49.58
Inter-district (Between districts)	21.81	24.33	23.07	27.99	24.34	29.39	19.66	30.08	22.08	33.05
Inter-state (Between states)	16.46	10.63	20.81	12.15	23.05	13.29	27.88	14.81	21.94	15.87
Outside India	25.67	10.77	20.34	7.04	13.56	4.10	6.16	2.18	2.92	1.49
Total migrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The distribution of female in-migrants in Punjab has shifted slightly over time, according to the 2011 Census. From 53.94 percent in 1971 to 49.54 percent in 2011, the proportion of female in-migrants classified as intra-district has decreased slightly. While the proportion of inter-district female migrants steadily increased from 24.33 percent in 1991 to 33.05 percent in 2011, with a 4.34 percent CAGR between 2001 and 2011. This reflects an increase in the movement of women across district lines, who traditionally change households after marriage and join their husband's household. Long-distance female migration from other Indian states and union territories to Punjab increased gradually over time, from 10.63 percent in 1971 to 15.87 percent in 2011, with a 4.04 percent CAGR. Previous research on migration suggested patrilocal marriage practises and village exogamy may have accounted for the migration pattern but there has been consistent documentation of female migration for work (Lingam, 1998). This suggests that female migration is becoming increasingly important for economic reasons. Increased female mobility implies greater movement across geographical distances for jobs, as well as the possibility of more long-distance marriages as a result of increased contacts and improvements in transportation and communication facilities (Skeldon, 1986). A careful examination of female migration by distance will provide a clear picture of the position of women across various distance categories. In contrast, the proportion of male migrants from other states to Punjab increased from 16.46 percent in 1971 to 27.88 percent in 2001, with a CAGR of 6.04 percent between 1991 and 2001. There is no doubt that inter-state mobility increased significantly in India between 1991 and 2001, coinciding with the country's economic liberalisation programme, which began in 1991. (Bhagat, 2009). Whereas in 2011, the share of inter-state male migration in Punjab fell dramatically to 21.94 percent. Positive net migration has decreased in high-income states such as Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, and Gujarat since 2001, according to the 2011 Census. 'Good governance' and the implementation of various schemes by several out-migrating states resulted in the creation and improvement of job opportunities, resulting in the retention of people in residence as well as the attraction of migrants to return home, particularly in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh (Mistri, 2015). In Punjab, the share of other types of long-distance migration, namely international migration, has steadily declined between 1971 and 2011. This decrease in their proportion is quite obvious, as the majority of those in this category migrated from Pakistan as a result of the country's partition in 1947. Natural mortality gradually reduced the number of migrants who fled to Punjab during partition (Bhagat, 2009).

The data show that the process of internal migration among male and female from other states has been unique and complex in recent years. As a result, the following paper will focus on various aspects of inter-state migration in Punjab, with a particular emphasis on female migration.

3.3 Volume of female in-migrants

To begin, according to the 2011 census, the total number of female in-migrants in Punjab from other states has more than quadrupled, from 0.3 million in 1971 to 13.7 million in 2011.

In 1971, there were 0.6 million in-migrants from other states in Punjab. Male migrants accounted for 46.48 percent of those counted, while female migrants accounted for 53.42 percent. Later in the 1970s, the number of in-migrants reached 0.8 million, with a growing proportion of male and female migrants. Punjab recorded a historical increase in per capita income due to unprecedented agricultural growth in the late 1970s and early 1980s, as well as a better economic and dynamic position in overall growth rate among Indian states for a number of years. This drew a large number of migrant labourers from other Indian states, who were looking for work in rural areas (Singh & Singh, 2017). Table 2 displays summary statistics by gender.

Table 2: Percentage of inter-state in-migrants by gender and sector (All duration), 1971-2011

	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Rural males (1)	16.2	25.9	22.5	13.4	12.3
Rural females (2)	28.5	31.7	34.4	24.4	22.7
Urban males (3)	30.3	19.1	18.0	33.9	32.6
Urban females (4)	24.1	21.7	25.1	28.2	32.4
Total males (1+3)	46.58	45.97	41.13	47.35	44.80
Total females (2+4)	53.42	54.03	58.87	52.65	55.20
Total in-migrants	636230 (100)	887492 (100)	1120282 (100)	1749122 (100)	2488299 (100)
F-M ratio of migrants	1147	1175	1432	1112	1232

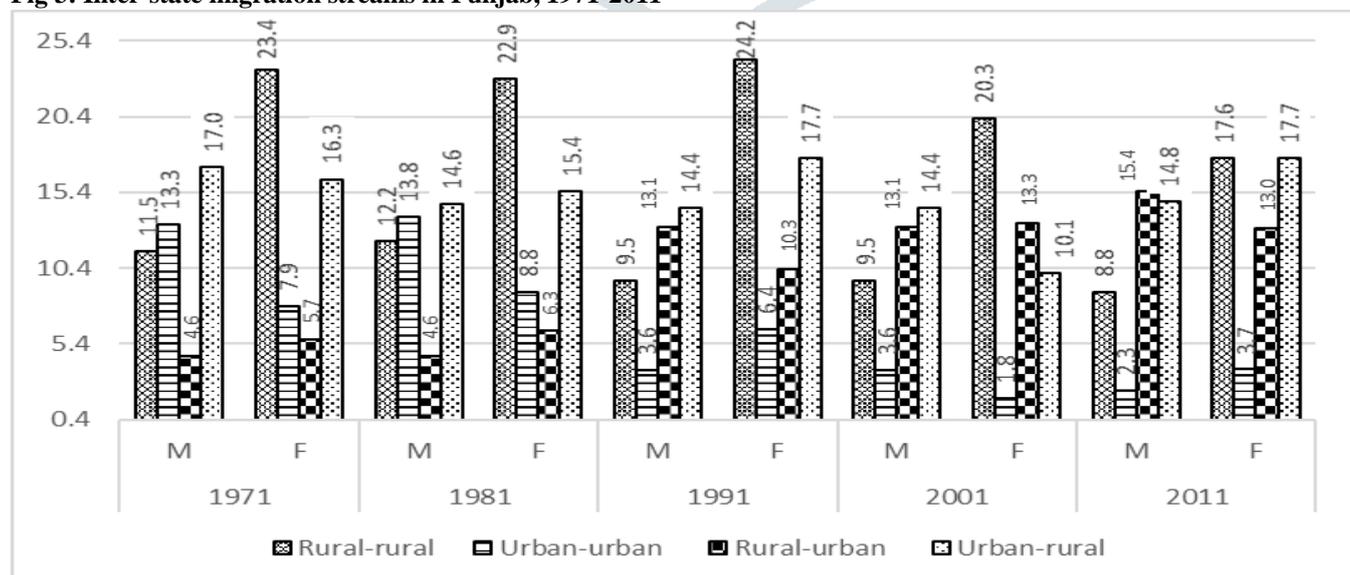
Interestingly, male in-migration has increased continuously except 1981-1991 as the share declined to 41.13%. During the period 1981-1991, it is widely assumed that socio-political unrest and rampant terrorism led to decline in migration (Singh & Singh, 2014). In contrast female migration continued to increase during this period. Whereas during post-reform period, the widespread use of mechanisation and technology in agriculture reduced demand for labour in the state, particularly in rural areas (Singh & Singh, 2017). Therefore, migrant inflows of men and women to rural areas in Punjab fell dramatically between 1991 and 2001. Trends in the Punjab economy reversed during the post-reform period in comparison to other Indian states, particularly Maharashtra, which surpassed Punjab in terms of per capita income. As Punjab's development plateaued, the majority of manual and semi-skilled male and female workers began migrating to urban Punjab in search of work.

It is also vital to identify the gender gap in internal migration occurring in Punjab. Women outnumbered men in their migration to Punjab. The sex ratio (females per thousand males) of inter-state migrants in Punjab is dominated by females over the years. The sex ratio increased from 1147 in 1961-1971 to 1232 in 2001-2011. In simple terms, if 1000 males migrated in 2001-2011, 1232 females migrated in Punjab. However, the proportion of female in-migrants is increasing and significant—55.2 percent in 2001-2011, compared to 53.4 percent in 1991-2001. In contrast, the share of male in-migrants in Punjab has continued to fall, from 46.5 percent in 1961-1971 to 44.7 percent in 2001-2011, with the exception of 1991-2001, when it rose to 47.3 percent.

3.3 Streams of inter-state migration

The distribution of migrants by migration streams (i.e., rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban areas) is generally associated with the degree of economic and social development of the place of destination. Population pressure on land, increased opportunities for work, education, marriage and a variety of other reasons contribute to migration in Punjab from other states of India. The four streams of inter-state migration are delineated in the figure below.

Fig 3: Inter-state migration streams in Punjab, 1971-2011



According to the above table, female in-migrants predominated in the rural-rural stream in 2011, followed by the urban-urban, rural-urban, and urban-rural streams. In the case of male migrants, the rural-urban stream held the dominant position in Punjab in 2011. With the emergence of the green revolution period, the agricultural economy experienced significant growth, which not only enhanced the

state's per income levels but also generated a large number of job prospects in Punjab, especially in rural areas (Ghuman et al., 2007). Rural-rural migration, particularly among women, peaked between 1991 and 2001, owing to marriage or family relocation. Although rural-rural migration was the dominant category for many decades, the emerging migration pattern indicates that rural-urban and urban-urban migration has increased since 1991, particularly among male migrants. According to the data in the table, rural-rural female migration fell by ten percentage points between 2001 and 2011. Regional development disparities, combined with socioeconomic transformations, have resulted in a shift in the distribution of rural-urban migration.

Interstate migration from town to town has grown in recent years. This channel is also referred to as 'Step Migration' (Singh & Shandilya, 2012). Economic factors drive urban-to-urban migration, as people relocate from one city to the other in order to improve their employment prospects and living standards. Data on urban-to-urban migration in Punjab has been uniformly divided among genders.

Similarly, the rural-to-urban migration stream is more economic in nature than social. Increased migrant inflows to urban areas complement Punjab's upward trend in urbanisation. Furthermore, male migrants outnumber female migrants in this stream. This migration is mainly motivated by economic factors, as more males migrate to urban areas in search of jobs and better living conditions, whether skilled, low skilled, or manual labourers. In developed regions such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Haryana, such a rise in rural-to-urban in-migrants has been observed (Zachariah, Prakash & Rajan, 2004). Furthermore, urban-to-rural in-migration in Punjab is insignificant, accounting only for 7.11 percent of total internal female migrants from other states between 2001 and 2011.

IV. Conclusion

The present study makes an attempt to analyse the trend and changing pattern of inter-state female migration in Punjab. Based on census data, during the period of 1971-2011, the study found that inter-state migration in Punjab gradually increased from 12.7 per cent in 1971 to 19.0 per cent in 2001, showing the highest CAGR of 4.56 percent during 1991-2001. Contrarily, in 2011, the share of inter-state migration in Punjab declined to 18.1 percent. It can be stated that improvement in the economic performance of states and better opportunities for migrants to stay in their domicile might have reduced migration to Punjab. The gender gap in inter-state migration taking place in Punjab explains why women in-migrants from other states outnumbered men in their moves to Punjab. The sex ratio (females per thousand males) of inter-state migrants in Punjab has been dominated by females over the years. The sex ratio rose from 1147 in 1961-1971 to 1232 in 2001-2011. However, the share of female in-migrants—55.2 percent in 2001-2011, 53.4 percent in 1991-2001—is substantial. Whereas, the share of male in-migrants in Punjab continued to decline from 46.5 percent in 1961-1971 to 44.7 percent in 2001-2011, except in 2001, when it rose to 47.3 percent.

The paper also focused on the two distinct phases of the migration stream which took place in Punjab. The share of rural-rural migration has been a dominant migration stream till 1991 due to rising production and productivity in the late 70s and 80s. On the other hand, emerging migration patterns indicate that rural to urban and urban to urban migration have become more pronounced since 1991. The study indicates that higher rural-to-rural migration is due to female migration marriages. Whereas rural-urban migration was more pronounced among males due to increase in urbanisation in Punjab.

The analysis of migration reasons reveals that migration among males has been primarily for employment/work purposes, whereas marriage is the primary reason for female migration in both rural and urban areas. The share of employment as the reason among males has declined from 55.59 percent in 1971-1981 to 46.36 in 2001-2011. Female migrants reported 'marriage'—59.41 percent in 1981, 65.4 percent in 1991, 54.37 percent in 2001 and 50.41 percent in 2011—as a reason for migration to Punjab.

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