ABSTRACT

Migration is defined as the change of the usual place of residence through time and space. Excluding natural increase it is the only phenomenon which can bring a change in the population of a region. An area can gain population only through fertility of its people or by in-migration and it can lose population through mortality among its inhabitants or by out-migration. Thus the effects of migration on population growth are bi-directional while that of fertility and mortality are unidirectional. Migration is a major factor in changing size and structure of the population in regional perspective as well as of the nationwide areas. Internal migration is one of the important paradigms of the changing socio-economic conditions at the national level and also a sign of disparities in overall conditions between the origin and destination of migration, especially in developing countries. Internal migration redistributes people in terms of resources, work force participation, industrial attachment, job opportunities, housing facilities etc and minimizes disequilibrium in population distribution among different areas as well as for maintaining demographic, socio-economic, cultural and political equilibrium among diverse communities in a country. The study of internal migration is important in the context of planning for progress of the country and to access the dynamics of population.

Intra-state as well as inter-state migration flow to West Bengal (an eastern state of India) is an old and important phenomenon. West Bengal has been selected as an area for detailed study because it is the second most densely populated (1029 person/km²) state (census, 2011) and third most mobile population state (census, 2001) in India based on place of last residence. West Bengal contributes to 7.8% of India's population. It embraces an area of about 88,968 km², extends from 21°25’N to 26°50’N latitudes and 86°30'E to 89°58'E longitudes and it is delimited by the countries of Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh and the Indian states of Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim and Assam. The state West Bengal is located in the north eastern part of India and can be divided into seven main physiographic regions i.e. the northern mountain region, the western plateau fringe, the plains, tarai region, rarth region, the sunderban delta and the coastal fringe. It is one of the most prosperous agricultural states of India. The decennial growth rate is 13.93% (2001-2011), the gender ratio is 947 (females per 1000 males). About 68.11% of population lives in rural areas and the remaining in urban areas. 2001 census the last one available to the
researcher, records 21 million internal migrants in total amounting to 26.91% of the total population of the state. Internal migration involves 14 million intra-district migrations, accounted for 18.12 percent where inter-district and inter-state migration account 5.68% and 3.11% respectively of the total population of the state.

The concept of migration is defined as a move from one migration defining area to another (or movement of some specified minimum distance or one administrative boundary which may be block, district or state boundary) that was made during a given migration interval and that involves a change of residence. Similarly, a migrant is a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one migration defining area to another (or who has moved some specified minimum distance) at least once during the migration interval. In this regard, it is remarked that there is a difference between commuters and migrants. Commuters are those who move from one place to another temporarily but return back to the place of residence without changing the place of residence. Commuters and migrants together form what is known as ‘movers’ or mobile population.

The area or place from where migrants move to some new place is known as ‘area of origin’. The area of origin may be either the area of residence at the beginning of the migration interval or the area of residence from which the last move was performed. The area in which a move terminates is called as ‘area of destination’ which is the area of residence at the end of the migration interval. A significant importance is attached to the study and evaluation of migration streams which have geographical relevance. A migration stream is thus the total number of moves made during a given migration interval that have a common area of origin and a common area of destination in broader perspective. A person whose area of residence at the census date differs from his area of birth is called ‘life time migrant’. The number of such persons in a population is commonly referred to as ‘life time migration’.

Migration is an ‘out-migration’ with respect to the area of origin and ‘in-migration’ with respect to the area of destination. Every migrant is an ‘out-migrant’ with respect to the area of departure and an ‘in-migrant’ with respect to the area of arrival. An in-migrant is thus a person who enters a migration defining area by crossing its boundary from some point outside the area but within the same country. An ‘out-migrant’ is a person who departs from a migration defining area by crossing its boundary to a point outside, but within the same country. The term 'net migration'
refers to the balance of movements in opposing directions, with reference to a specific area. If in-migration exceeds out-migration, the net gain to the area is classified as ‘net in-migration and takes a gaining area or positive sign. In the opposite case, there has been ‘net out-migration’ which takes a losing area or negative sign in presentation of data.

In the context of census of India, a person is considered as a migrant by ‘place of birth’ (POB), if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than his place of birth. Similarly, a person is considered migrant by ‘place of last residence’ (POLR) if the place in which he is enumerated during the census is other than his place of last residence. This doctoral thesis uses the place of last residence data from the census 1971 to 2001. Census of India collected migration data first time on the basis of place of last residence from the census year 1971. Data has been collected on the place of last residence to understand the pattern of migration.

Thesis is mainly concerned with the trend and pattern of internal migration and socio-economic transformation in West Bengal. The researcher has attempted to make a comprehensive assessment of trend and pattern of internal migration in West Bengal and also tried to associate with socio-economic variables. The present research has been carried out within the fourfold of population geography, which mainly deals with the systematic study of the spatial variation in the demographic and non-demographic qualities of human being. There is substantive internal movement of population of individuals within India. One important facet of study on population is the study of migration arising out of various social, cultural, economic or political reasons. For a large 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 in economic development in our country, the study on migration assumes special importance.

With the development on social and economic fronts during the post independence period, however, internal migration has got significant impetus. In the light of present and past migration scenario, internal migration of West Bengal is paramount importance. The gradual development of economy at certain places and the requirement of specific skills in different kinds of industries and services along with changing policies of selective welcoming of a particular genre of human have resulted
in emergence of new patterns of migration. As a facet of population growth and development, assessing the patterns helps to understand the dynamics of the socio-economic condition of the origin and destinations. This study is of greater importance not only to geographers but also of great importance and interest to demographers, population geographers, anthropologists, economists, sociologists, political scientists, legal departments, policy makers, planners, public administrators and social psychologists.

There are various types of migration based on administrative boundaries crossed, period of stay and motivation behind migration. Internal migration on the basis of administrative boundaries classified into intra-district, inter-district, inter-state or inter-regional. On the basis of stay, from one state to another state is known as ‘inter-state’ migration. Similarly, from one district to another district of the state is known as ‘inter-district’ migration, while the movement of population within a district is called as ‘intra-district’ migration. On the basis of nature of origin and destination, migration is classified as rural-rural (R-R), rural-urban (R-U), urban-urban (U-U) and urban-rural (U-R). The term ‘Migration rates’ is defined as the relative frequency with which migration take place during a specific migration interval. The difference in the rates of migration between various demographic, economic and social group is termed as ‘differential migration’.

The main objective of the present doctoral research is to analyse the trend and pattern of internal migration and its role on socio-economic transformation in West Bengal. Gender differences and migratory distance have been considered under this discussion. To accomplish above goals an emphasis has been made to analyze the composition of the migrant workers. Apart from this, the study also shades light on reasons of migration which play the crucial role in the selectivity of migration in various types and stream of migration. The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To find out the trends of internal migration and migration stream i.e., rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban in West Bengal by three distance categories i.e. intra-district, inter-district and inter-state level from 1971-2001.
- To understand the pattern of internal migration and migration streams in West Bengal in respect of intra-district, inter-district and inter-state for two different
time periods i.e., 1991 and 2001.

- To examine the migrants by age, sex, education, marital status and occupation.
- To find out the reasons of internal migration in West Bengal.
- To explain the internal migration and socio-economic transformation in West Bengal.

This study is based on secondary source of data, conducted by Census of India Publication for the year 1991 and 2001. The population census has remained the most important source of information on internal migration in India. The reason of considering census data is that only this data provides district level migration data in detail which can be used to generate the data for state level study. And other socio-economic data of West Bengal has been collected from the government official reports like statistical hand book of West Bengal, statistical abstract of West Bengal etc. In this analysis, intra-district, inter-district, inter-state migration rates have been computed separately. On the basis of computed data, different choropleth and dot maps have been prepared with application of Arc view programme (v.3.1) to examine patterns of internal migration. Statistical method of Karl Pearson’s co-efficient of correlation has been used to find out the linkages between internal migration as independent variables (X) and socio-economic transformation as dependent variables (Y) with help of application of SPSS programme (v. 16.0).

The publication of latest migration data based on 2011 enumeration is not published till now. Therefore, 1991 and 2001 census data are taken to examine the trend and pattern of internal migration and socio-economic transformation. At a glance attempt is also made to capture some of the available NSSO data of 2001 (55th round) and 2007-08 (64th round). The magnitude of change is observed to be different but the direction and pattern is almost similar and the percentage is increased to 64th NSS rounds. Likewise, it can also expect an increase in migration after 2001 on the basis of migration figures from 64th NSS rounds.

The present doctoral thesis entitled “Trend and Pattern of internal Migration and Socio-Economic Transformation” is divided into nine chapters with the exclusion of introduction and conclusion.
First chapter elaborates the basic concept of internal migration, different types, stream of internal migration and migration differential by age, sex, educational status, and occupational composition. Socio, economic, demographic, political, geographic are outlined in this chapter. Socio-economic implications of internal migration are shown with effect on rural and urban area separately and also discuss cultural, demographic implication of internal migration.

Chapter second highlights comprehensive review of theoretical literature and methodology. The relevant literature related to internal migration and its determinants and implication have been thoroughly discussed which is divided into two parts i.e. work done in India and work done out-side India. This chapter also outlines the methodology that has been applied to meet the research objectives. A brief description of the research design, the measures of internal migration, intra-district migration, inter-district migration, inter-state migration, the indicators of internal migration and socio-economic structure have been discussed.

A detailed geographical account of the study area has been discussed in chapter third presenting its brief account of historical, physical and economic demographic profile. Physiographic divisions, climate, natural vegetation, soils, drainage system are discussed under physical profile. Economic profile highlights agriculture, irrigation, land use, land utilization, cropping pattern and yields, power and mineral resources, transport and communication, industrial development, foreign trade and demographic profile introduced population size, growth rate, density and sex ratio, population distribution pattern, rural and urban population, literacy and urbanization.

Fourth chapter illustrates the trend of internal migration by distance from the year 1971 to 2001. Life time and inter-censal migration trend of intra-district, inter-district and inter-state are considered. Trend of migration stream i.e. rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-rural and urban-urban on the basis of distance are addressed. Migration selectivity by age, sex, educational status, occupational composition are estimated in this chapter. Life time internal migration has shown upward trend except 1991. Intra-district and inter-district migration have generally upward trend whereas slight downward trend is found in inter-state in-migration. Percentage of short distance (intra-district) migration is more registered than the medium (inter-district) and long
It observes that volume of migration is inversely related to distance in West Bengal. Most of the internal migrants took place in age group of 15-29. It shows that young adult population migrates more than other age group of population. Mostly people are metric but below graduate only few proportions of migrants are in technical degree. Male migrants are mostly engaged in workforce than female migrants.

Fifth chapter describes in detail the regional pattern of internal migration, intra-district migration, inter-district migration, inter-state migration and also growth rate for the year 1991 and 2001 have been presented. High grade inter-district and inter-state in-migration is found in southern part of the state and also registered higher growth rate. Kolkata and surrounding districts attract more migrants from other districts as well as other states resulting higher growth rate of internal migration. The overall sex ratios of internal migration are dominated by heavy preponderance of females because of marriage migration. When distance increases (inter-state) sex ratio became male dominance because of economic motives.

Pattern of migration stream on the basis of distance has been highlighted for both year 1991 and 2001 in chapter sixth. High grade value of rural-rural, urban-rural stream is found in northern (mainly dominated by rural area) and south-western part whereas rural-urban migration is found in south and south-eastern part (most urbanized districts) of the state.

Seventh chapter examines regional pattern of out and net migration and also inter-state migration to and from West Bengal for both decades i.e. 1991 and 2001. Inter-state migration shows the neighbouring states register dominant share. Males are largely moves into and from West Bengal due to employment, business reason whereas females are largely moves into and from West Bengal due to marriage reason. Net gaining districts are found in south-eastern and northern part and remaining central and western part is found under losing net migrants district.

Eighth chapter highlights the reasons of internal migration on the basis of distance and reason of internal migration by stream for both decade 1991 and 2001. Employment is observed to be more significant factor at the inter-district and inter-state male migration. Among females, marriage appears to be the most dominant factor inducing migration for all the three flows, which is followed by the reason
stated as ‘family moved’. There is a relationship between reason of migration and migratory distance. The reasons of migration changes as the migratory distance vary. When distance increases the percentage of employment reason also increases and the reason marriage losses its significance.

Chapter ninth corroborates linkage between internal migration and socio-economic transformation. Correlation between independent migration variables and dependent socio-economic i.e. demographic, educational, employment, agricultural, health variables is observed to denote significant degree of relationship. Analysis shows that inter-district and inter-state migration have positive influence on most of the socio-economic variables whereas intra-district migration have positive influence on rural literacy rate, rural employment and agricultural productivity.

And finally it has been concluded that the long distance (inter-state and inter-district) migrants are contributing more to the development of socio-economic condition as compared to short distance migrants (intra-district). It can be said that the development of West Bengal is very much mainly in Kolkata centric southern part of the state. Kolkata has been the most important center in terms of socio-economic, industrial development since the British period. As no other significant node has emerged in this state till now, the city of Kolkata has reached a saturation level in terms of congestion and associated phenomena. At the same time other parts of the state remained unattractive for business investment. No doubt West Bengal is still in-migrating states, but to preserve its status West Bengal requires new boost in development.