Migration as one of the three components of population change, works through a complex mechanism by involving multiple sets of social, political, economic, cultural, demographic and physiological factors. Migration has a number of socio-economic, cultural, political and demographic implications both at the place of origin and place of destinations. In the dynamic process of development, rural to urban migration has been recognized to contribute significantly in bringing down the economic disparities across regions, especially through the transfer of technology, skilled manpower and remittances.

Using the cross-sectional primary data collected from the remote and semi-urban villages of Varanasi district, this study makes an attempt to explore the change in the pattern of male out-migration and variation in places of destinations, utilization of remittances and poverty inequality among migrant and non-migrant households. To meet the objectives and to test the hypotheses, appropriate Probability Models have been used. Apart from this, bi-variate and multivariate techniques have also been applied. $\chi^2$-test, t-test, contingency coefficients are done for checking the association while the Principal Component Analysis is used for generating different indices.

The most significant findings of this study are relative situation of the migration process examined through behavioral parameter of the process from semi-urban and remote villages, which definitely have implications for the mobility process in one hand and employment opportunities on the other. Major findings of this chapter portray that migration is two times more in remote villages compared to semi-urban villages. It is worth noting that the out-migration rate among male below age 15 years is five times higher in remote villages compared to those living in semi-urban villages. This may be a sign of distressed migration, which occurs mainly due to socio-economic backwardness and mostly as a survival strategy.

Migration expectancy is found to be increasing as the age increases in the study. The same pattern of migration expectancy has been observed from remote as well as from semi-urban villages. However, the migration expectancy for male living in remote villages is higher in each age-group compared to semi-urban villages. The lack of adequate jobs opportunities and others facilities in remote villages may be one of the responsible factors for the higher average number of moves for the male from these villages. It is also observed that migration expectancy is higher as age increases up to the age group 45-49 and then follows a declining pattern. However, computing the same based on data collected through RDPG, 1978 resulted the peak in the age group 30-35 years. This shift may be resulted due to increasing instability in employment opportunities in the region despite of various welfare schemes and flagship programmes.

Examining the nature, pattern, utilization and contribution of remittances in development of the households, findings reveal that households with single male migration are higher compared to households having migrants with wife and children or with parents/relatives/friends/others. Proportion of remittances receiving households is also higher among households with single male migration. Average annual remittances receiving
households are higher in remote villages compared to semi-urban villages, which may be due to more need and less opportunities at remote villages. Another dimension of contribution of remittances in development of rural households is evident from the utilization of remittances on different items. It has clearly emerged from the analysis that remittances are generally increasing the consumption levels, improving the housing condition, promoting the business investment and increasing the availability of health and education of the family members of the households. Food ratio among remittances receiving households and remittances not receiving households is found to be almost equal in the study population. It is clear from the food ratio that remittances receiving households in remote villages are spend more remittances on improving housing condition, education, health etc., i.e., living and housing conditions of remittances receiving households are better than remittances not receiving households. However, the situation is not uniform across types of villages. It has clearly emerged from the analysis that the adjusted effect of consumption on food items is two times higher in semi-urban villages than their counterparts. This may be primarily due to increased use of remittances on consumption of vegetables, fruits and milk arising out of perceived importance of nutrition and health.

The contribution of remittances in reducing poverty inequalities has been addressed through consumption expenditure poverty and capability poverty among migrant and non-migrant households. Consumption expenditure poverty is higher in remote villages, among non-migrant households and Muslim households. Capability poverty is higher among households with scheduled caste, and not having possession of any land. At the individual level, the factors having striking differences revealing capability poverty were having no education, and currently not working or involved in agriculture activity. Thus, striking differences in the consumption expenditure poverty among migrant and non-migrant households can be attributed to the contribution of remittances received by migrant households in the region.

Based on the major findings of the study and conclusions on pattern of migration and it’s linkages with various dimension of development of rural households, there is an urgent need to address the problems of employment opportunities in the region. These problems are more acute especially among remote villages, where flagship programme like MNREGA is not able to improve the quality of life of rural people due to reasons more than one. Some of the possible interventions to assure overall structural development of the areas, where out-migration is the only source of earning the livelihood, can be targeted towards improving the earning potential of the rural households, through creating job opportunities in the form of agro-processing industries, developing village based small enterprises, ensuring educational rights of all children and to minimize the school drop-outs. Further, there is need to enhance awareness to the importance of nutrition and health and motivating remittances receiving households in remote villages to enhance their consumption expenditure on nutrition, health and education. In addition, there is need to organize skill development programme, leading to income generating activities like stitching, embroidery, promotion of handicrafts, pickle making, papad making, masala making of herbal product and cosmetic items etc.