M migration denotes permanent or semi-permanent change of residence by an individual or group of people. The phenomenon is as old as the history of mankind. Moreover, the process of migration is basic to the existence of diasporas.

The present study is devoted in analyzing the causes and consequences of tribal migration in Malda district, West Bengal, India. In a country like India where three-fourths of the entire population live in rural areas rural to rural, and rural to urban migration dominate the entire scenario of peoples’ movement from one place of abode to another. Every year where there is a massive exodus of people from the villages of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa to neighbourhood metropolises, the district of Malda in West Bengal exhibits a significant departure from this trend.

The people of Malda is less migratory and migration in this district of West Bengal is essentially a short-distance phenomenon acted upon mostly by marriage. About 90 per cent of migration here is inter and intra-rural with a preponderance of female population.

The district by its abundance of fertile agricultural land and affluence of waterbodies attracts mostly the farmer class of people from adjacent Bangladesh, who in most cases live a marginal life in their own country and migrate to India in the lure of a sustainable livelihood. Thus, Malda finds a place in the world of migration from a neighbouring country. The present study reveals that 99.08 per cent of the total immigrants to Malda have come from Bangladesh.

In so far as the tribal people of Malda are concerned, the Santal, Oraon, Kharwar, Kora, Munda, Mal Pahariya, Mahali and others are susceptible to migration mostly due to prolonged hunger, abject poverty, desperate search for at least menial employment, and other socio-economic stress.