

**Immigration in West Bengal between  
1951 and 2011 with Special  
Emphasis to Bengal Partition and  
Bangladesh Liberation War**

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**By**

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*Dedicated to*  
*My Parents and Professors*

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## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I, Sayantika Baral, registered on 08 November 2019, do hereby declare that this thesis entitled "*Immigration in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011 with Special Emphasis to Bengal Partition and Bangladesh Liberation War*" contains reviews of literature and original research work carried out by the undersigned candidate for the partial fulfillment of the doctoral research. All information in this thesis has been obtained and presented in accordance with existing academic rules and ethical conduct. I declare that as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and provided reference to all materials and results that are not original to this work.

I also declare that I have checked this thesis as per the "Policy on Anti-Plagiarism, Jadavpur University, 2019", and the level of similarity as checked by the iThenticate software is within **10%**.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

Migration is the third distinct component of the population dynamic after fertility and mortality. It represents the movement of people from one region, place, or country to another. Migration and its associated terms such as immigration and emigration also signify major residential changes in population. The former represents the arrival of the population into a new region that does not belong to them and later is a process of leaving a place of their origin and ending up in new places or locations. Migration is the socio-economic, demographic, and cultural circumstance that determined a person or society to make their choices. Apart from the environmental and political factors, several push factors like education, employment opportunity, poverty, etc. forced the people of developing countries to move. In developed country economic prosperity pull the migrants to enter these regions.

The first modern human migration to India occurred around 65,000 years ago from Africa. After that agriculturists from the Zagros region, farmers from China, and finally Aryans from central Asia arrived in India. These immigrants also carried their cultures and changed the socio-cultural status of India. West Bengal, the eastern state of the Indian sub-continent witnessed the migratory flow since the medieval period when sultanates invaded Bengal. It was followed by the Portuguese, Mughals, British, and Dutch East India Company. Finally, the British arrived in West Bengal as traders and expanded their territories, and established Fort William in Calcutta. During British Raj, the people of West Bengal witnessed two famines in 1776 and 1942 and two partitions in 1905 and 1947. Independence of India and partition of Bengal in 1947 created a major flow of migration in West Bengal and it continued till 1971 when East Pakistan curved out from the administration of Pakistan and appeared as a distinct country of Bangladesh. After 1971, the rapid flow of immigration gradually declined in West Bengal but it was never stopped; the socio-economic, environmental, and personal factors initiated the post-1971 immigration in West Bengal.

**Chapter 1** represents the introductory part of the immigration pattern in West Bengal from ancient times with a short description of the movement of a human being all

over the world. It also highlights the location, demography, and early history of intruders in West Bengal.

**Chapter 2** deals with various pieces of literature and publications regarding human migration and its several causes and consequences on society. It also highlights several migration theories propounded by various scholars and various sources which enumerated the migration data in India. Apart from that, this chapter also deals with the refugee issues, their classifications, worldwide conventions, and their status in India which was gradually changed during and after the partition in 1947.

**Chapter 3** explains the main objectives of the study and its associated methodology which incorporates migration data sources and its analysis.

**Chapter 4** highlights the world migration pattern which is also categorised into three segments; recent trends of international migration, global internal displacement of population, and worldwide refugee status. In most cases emphasis is given to the recent trends of international migration based on the available sources of data.

**Chapter 5** deals with the immigration pattern in India and like the world migration pattern it is also categorised into three segments; international migration stock in India, internal displacement, and refugee status in India. This chapter also reflects how ancient India witnessed the immigration flow from different countries of the world. The Partition of India was one of the tragic incidents which displaced many people within and outside India. This chapter also highlights the pre-independence movements of foreign migrants in India when there was an absence of major incidents in undivided India.

**Chapter 6** explains the immigration pattern in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011. This sixty years database mainly highlights the movement of population from different parts of the world as well as from different states of India into West Bengal. It also reflects the spatial variation of immigration patterns in West Bengal, and the reasons for the migration. During these tenures, the partition of Bengal in 1947 and the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 also exaggerated the rapid flow of migration in West Bengal.

**Chapter 7** emphasizes the refugee pattern in West Bengal between 1947 and 1971. West Bengal witnessed waves of migratory flow during partition which continued till

Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. The rapid flow of refugees from East Pakistan to West Bengal and their settlement in different districts of West Bengal are also explained in this chapter.

**Chapter 8** concludes with the highlights of the entire study with proper explanations, considering the immigration in West Bengal in the context of global and national scale.



## ABSTRACT

Movement is inherent to human existence and it started around 2 million years ago in Africa and expanded through Eurasia and Australia. This movement was associated with several environmental and climatic factors. India witnessed the first migratory movement from Africa around 65 thousand years ago and they were known as the 'first Indian'. It was followed by a group of agriculturists from the Zagros region and collectively with the 'First Indians' Harappan civilization was formed in India. Later on Aryans, Portuguese, English and Dutch East India Companies, Mughals, British, etc. extended their territories in India. The Bengal Gangetic Delta also witnessed a similar migratory flow since the medieval period when Sultanates invaded Bengal. After the prolonged invasion by the Portuguese, Mughals, Dutch, and English East India Company, Bengal came under the territorial administration of the British. During the British administration, Bengal witnessed two partitions in 1905 and 1947 and three major flows of migration which changed the economic and social scenario of Bengal. The Partition of India in 1947 and the associated splitting of Bengal into two different regions witnessed a massive flow of religious-based migration between West Bengal and newly formed East Pakistan. Millions of people displaced their place of residence forcefully to maintain religious homogeneity. Conflicts, Violence, and physical and psychological assaults forced the Hindu minority of East Pakistan to leave their place of birth and immigrated to the neighboring state of West Bengal which was under the territory of Indian administration. The arrival of these immigrants (who were referred to as 'refugees' in all official documents) in West Bengal created a major change in the socio-economic structure of India, especially in West Bengal. Additional lands were reclaimed, new camps; colonies, and buildings were constructed; the government opened new schools, and colleges and also provided economic opportunities in agriculture as well as industrial sectors for these immigrants. The flow of immigration continued till 1971 when East Pakistan curved out from its main territory of Pakistan and appeared as a separate country known as Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Liberation War, of 1971 was instigated around 10 million refugees to forcefully leave Bangladesh and settled in West Bengal. Migratory flows in West Bengal continued after 1971 though their pace and intensity were lower than the previous years. Despite of absence of major incidents, several economic, social, and other reasons pushed the migrants to enter West Bengal. The latest census

of 2011 also reflects the same in which more than 50 lakhs people were registered in West Bengal from different parts of India as well as outside India. They were born outside West Bengal. Similarly, around 40 lakhs immigrants in 2011 registered in West Bengal, and they previously resided outside the state as well as outside India. The present study highlights the immigration pattern in West Bengal after the declaration of Independence and its continuation till 2011. It also reflects how the partition of India in 1947 and the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 impacted the migration flow in West Bengal. The construction of government camps and colonies for the refugees in different parts of West Bengal and self-initiatives of the refugees to settle in West Bengal are also emphasized in this study. Using secondary data, cartographic and statistical techniques the study focuses on the district-wise population influx in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011. Till the 1971 census, the migration data was fully based on ‘immigration by birth’ and from 1981 another category was incorporated in the census i.e. immigration by place of last residence (POLR). Both the category reflected the fluctuating trends of immigration patterns in West Bengal from 1951 to 2011. Until the Bangladesh Liberation War millions of Bangladeshi and Pakistani-born people entered West Bengal and it gradually dropped from 26 lakhs to 22 lakhs between 1951 and 2011. Similarly, the immigrants who previously resided in Bangladesh and Pakistan and arrived in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011 also gradually declined from 29 lakhs to 19 lakhs respectively. On the other hand, in-migrants from different states in India were also enumerated in West Bengal and by birth, their numbers were rising over the year from 18 lakhs to 24 lakhs between 1951 and 2011. In-migrants by POLR also reflected similar trends with 21 lakhs to 27 lakhs between 1951 and 2011. After analyzing the 60 years of trends it was observed that initially, the impact of partition and its consequences were the driving factors of population influx in West Bengal between 1951 and 1971/1981; after that employment, work, education, personal and some ‘unspecified’ reasons determined the migrants to enter West Bengal. After arriving in West Bengal they mainly settled in Kolkata, Nadia, and 24 Parganas, and for some specific reasons, they choose Darjiling and Jalpaiguri as their destination. It was also observed that their immigration to West Bengal was not always for temporary reasons; a group of migrants had the determination to settle in West Bengal permanently and in such cases, they were living in West Bengal for more than 20 years.

**Keywords:** Immigration, West Bengal, Partition, Bangladesh Liberation War

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific
COR	Committee of Review of Rehabilitation Report
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GOWB	Government of West Bengal
GRID	Global Report on the Internal Displacement
ICEM	Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IDMC	Internal Displaced Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IGCR	Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IRM	International Retirement Migration
IRO	International Refugee Organisation
MECLEP	Migration Environment and Climate Change-Evidence for Policy
MOR	Ministry of Rehabilitation
NEFA	North-East Frontier Agency
NEFT	North-East Frontier Tract
NPC	Naga People Convention
NSAG	Non-State Armed Groups
NSS	The National Sample Survey
NVBKP	Nikhil Vanga Bastuhara Karma Parishad
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PEPSU	Patiala and East Punjab States Union
PICMME	Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe
POLR	Place of Last Residence
RRC	Refugee Rehabilitation Committee

UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNKRA	United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency
UNRRA	United Nation Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
WHO	World Health Organisation
WHR	World Happiness Report
WMR	World Migration Report
WRY	World Refugee Year

# **Chapter 1- Introduction**

# Introduction

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Migration is defined as a process to move from one place, country, or region to another (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). The term migrates, immigrates, or emigrates are used to explain the changes in one's domicile from one region to another. The term human migration represents the movement of people either one or more and immigration signifies their entrance into a new region that does not belong to them. Emigration is the process of leaving a place of his origin and usually ending up residing in a different country or location (Dictionary.com).

The earliest human migration was started approximately 2 million years ago from Africa; later it was expanded through Eurasia during the period of the lower and middle Palaeolithic. These extensions were jointly known as 'early expansion out of Africa I' which occurred between 2.1 million and 0.2 million years ago (Ma). Anatomically modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) expanded into Eurasia approximately 0.2 million years ago (Fleagle, 2010). It was also evidenced that the earliest fossils of modern humans or *Homo sapiens* were found in Ethiopia and had 200,000 years old (Blakemore, 2019; National Geographic). Several archaeological and genetic shreds of evidence indicated that the dispersal of humans towards the Levant (Eastern Mediterranean) and Arabian peninsula occurred 120,000 to 90,000 years ago (Figure 1.1) (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Groucutt et. al. 2015). It was also stated that further migration from Africa was started around over 60,000 years ago (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Groucutt et. al. 2015; National Geographic). There was a thought that the early migrants moved to Asia by crossing the strait between the Horn of Africa and Yemen (Blakemore, 2019; National Geographic). Around 50,000 years ago the wave of dispersal moved eastward to South Asia, Indonesia, and Australia. Migrants further moved westward to Europe around 45,000 years ago (Figure 1.1) (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Groucutt et. al. 2015) and to North Asia approximately 20,000 years ago (Figure 1.1). They entered America 15,000 years ago (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Goebel et.al. 2008).

The earliest human migrations were driven by environmental factors, climatic conditions, or the availability of foods. Later on, with the development of human civilization, war and colonialism controlled the migration in which ancient Greeks

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and ancient Rome started to expand their dynasty (Blakemore, 2019; National Geographic).



**Figure 1.1 Human Migration Out of Africa (Demenocal & Stringer, 2016)**

The earliest human migration which was started in Africa occurred due to climatic factors. It was provided by Timmermann and Friedrich (2016) in their article published by Nature that the potential role of climate was the prime driver of the earliest human migration from Africa (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Timmermann & Friedrich, 2016). They stated that orbital monsoonal rainfall changed the climatic conditions of then Africa which led to the dispersal of many people. Every 21,000 years some changes have been observed in the earth's rotational axis which affects the amount of insolation and monsoonal pattern (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Castaneda et.al, 2009; Eriksson et. al 2012; Osborne et. al, 2008). They also stated that due to the changes in the rotational axis of the earth, the climate of the Arabian Peninsula was different from the present. Monsoonal wet climate enabled the migrants to move out of the country which was full of vegetation and resources. This monsoon-based climate led the human migrants out of Africa into several phases (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016; Castaneda et.al, 2009; Eriksson et. al 2012; Osborne et. al, 2008; Jennings et. al, 2015; Groucutt & Petraglia, 2012). Around 71,000 to 60,000 years ago



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the Arab peninsula experienced a dry and poor resource base which also led to the termination of outward migration. Again monsoonal rainfall from 59,000 to 47,000 years ago boosted the rapid flow of migration out of Africa. This exile encouraged the population flow in Europe and other parts of Eurasia between 60,000 to 40,000 years ago. Australia and the Americas were populated around 60,000 to 50,000 years and 20,000 ago respectively (Stringer & Demenocal, 2016).

The Indian subcontinent also experienced four major migratory flows including Aryans. Tony Joseph in his book 'Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From' (2018) stated that modern humans first entered the Indian Subcontinent around 65,000 years ago from Africa (4 Pre-historic migration, The Economic Times, 29 December 2018; Byravan, The Hindu, Early Indians' Review, 19 January 2019; Joesph, Hindustan Times, 7 September 2019) and they termed as 'First Indians'. At present 50 percent to 60 percent of the Indian population belongs to this group of migrants' ancestry (Pattanaik, The Economic Times, 2 May 2020). Agriculturists from the Zagros regions entered India and were confined to the north-western part of the region around 9000 to 5000 years ago. After entering India they started to contribute more to the existing farming sector and easily cooperated with the 'First Indians'. Joseph (2018) stated that this coordination created major changes in the farming activity, especially Barley and Wheat, and instigated the foundation of the Harappan civilization. It was also stated that the Harappan Civilization was a mixture of the Zagros population and the First Indians (4 Pre-historic migrations, The Economic Times, 29 December 2018). Around 2000 BC, a group of farmers migrated from Southeast Asia and entered India after starting their journey from the Chinese heartland. Their displacement from China to Southeast Asia and finally to India carried two languages such as Mundari and Khasi in India. The last and major historical migration occurred between 2000 and 1000 BC in which migrants were coming from Central Asia to India. They used to speak in Indo-European languages and were popularly known as Aryans (4 Pre-historic migration, The Economic Times, 29 December 2018).

Apart from the Aryans, there were many migratory flows in the Indian subcontinent in the following years. From 500 CE to 1000 CE Brahmin migration took place in different parts of the country. They came with special skills and started to establish

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into the villages which also expanded the cultivated land and made the king more resourceful. The second group of migrants belongs to the weaver community and they came between 1500 and 1800 AD. They were mainly confined to the coastal area and made India more advanced in the textile industry around the world. The third phase of migration belongs to the ascetic mercenaries. Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Naga babas of Kumbhamela were demilitarised by the British which led them to become warriors. They were trained in Akhadas and collected tax for local kings (Pattanaik, The Economic Times, 2 May 2020).

After entering the Indian subcontinent, these migrants started to live in different states and provinces either based on their preferences or social and cultural background forcing them to choose a place for their sustenance.

### 1.2 Problem Definition and Research Question

Migration is the regional movement of population across a definite boundary for permanent or semi-permanent settlement (Das & Saha, 2013). After fertility and mortality, it is the third major component of population dynamics (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978; Das & Saha, 2013). Unlike fertility and mortality, migration is a product of social, economic, political, demographic, or cultural circumstances which determined any person or society to make their choices. In most cases, it is assumed that the decision of migration is based on the person's wishes (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978) but some involuntary displacements are also observed around the globe. Bogue (1969) stated that migration is the reaction of human organisms to social, economic, and demographic sectors in the environment (Bogue, 1969).

Migration is a complex phenomenon that involved multiple factors and processes around the world (Jones 2020). There are some baselines regulatory such as age-structure, gender, etc. in the world (Jones, 2020; De Jong, 2000; Rogers and Castro, 1981). The Decision-making process is one of the important aspects of migration which also involved some factors such as social and political conditions, presence of physical amenities, cultural and historical influences, environmental issues, health, family structures, etc. (Jones, 2020; Hatton and Williamson 2005). In some cases, migrants have to take their decisions involuntarily. Disasters and conflicts displaced around 22.5 million refugees around the world by the end of 2016. Endemic violence

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instigated major displacement of refugees and asylum seekers, among them 79% originated from Africa and Southeast Asia. Environmental factors displaced many people worldwide in which the numbers of migrants were more than the violence and persecution migrants. It is documented that more than 25 million people are migrated due to natural calamities since 2008 which is five times more than the war and conflict migrants. Apart from natural disasters and violence, people also have a choice to move outside their place of birth for the betterment of life. World Happiness Report (WHR) calculated that the United States secures 18<sup>th</sup> rank and it is the biggest destination country of world migrants. India, the biggest origin country of displaced people secured 133<sup>rd</sup> rank in the WHR. People also have some other reasons which also lead them to move outside of their present location such as employment opportunities, higher studies, economic facilities, etc. It is documented that there were 150 million migrant labours worldwide in 2013 and most of them were involved in service sectors (Kylinprime.com). In the case of internationally mobile students, most of them had choices of The United States of America, The United Kingdom, Australia, France, Germany, etc. for their destination (Kylinprime.com; Migration Data Portal).

There are many processes or indicators of migration worldwide but they also differ from one region to another. The reasons for migration from developing countries are not the same as developed countries. Many push factors such as poverty, natural calamities, or political conflicts influence the people of developing countries to leave their land. A developing country like India also experiences the same in which the significance of push factors (unemployment, poverty, natural disaster, etc.) is more important than the pull factors. Migration became a survival strategy for them. In developed countries, people are attracted by the prosperity of other regions which pulls them to move into those countries (Das & Saha, 2013).

In India, the flow of migration started around 65,000 years ago from Africa and it continued now a day. The numbers of 'immigration' (inflow from outside of the country) and 'in-migration' (movement within the country from one region to another region) in India are recorded in the national census, national sample surveys, and population registers (Bhende & kanitkar, 1978); among them, the national census is more popular than other ones. The Census of India started to enumerate migration

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data since the beginning of the first census in 1881. At the time the data was enumerated based on place of birth which was further modified in 1961 census. 1961 census incorporated two additional information regarding ‘the place of birth’ (Urban or Rural) and ‘duration of residence outside enumeration’. From the 1971 census, another two components viz. ‘place of last residence (POLR)’ and ‘duration of stay at the place of enumeration’ were included. Reasons for migration were another new component that was incorporated in the 1981 census and it modified in the following census (NCERT.NIC).

### 1.3 Study Area

Undivided Bengal was located in the eastern part of India before independence. In 1947, British India was partitioned into two independent domains- India and Pakistan (Roy, 2014). The partition also comprised the division of two major provinces of India such as Bengal and Punjab based on the Hindu and Muslim majority. The dissolution of the British Empire and self-governing independent nations of India and Pakistan legally appeared on 14 August and 15 August 1947 respectively. Bengal was divided into two fragments, known as West Bengal and East Bengal in which the Hindu dominance West Bengal was incorporated within India and Muslim dominance East Bengal merged with Pakistan (Alaxander et al., 2015). East Bengal was renamed East Pakistan on 14 October 1955 which further changed its name to Bangladesh on 16 December 1971 after the ‘Bangladesh Liberation War’ (University of Central Arkansas, uca.edu). The Partition of British India catalyzed large-scale migration from both the territory of India and Pakistan. Hundreds of thousands of people started to cross the new border with belief that they might be faced difficulties in their country of origin due to their minority status (Britannica.com). The movement was not limited between the regions of West Bengal and East Pakistan but also from other countries of the world to West Bengal on a small scale. People originated from different countries or different states chose West Bengal as their destination which continued till today even after two major events of partition and the Bangladesh Liberation War.

## 1.3.1 Location and extent of the Study Area

Bengal was one of the geopolitical and historical regions of South Asia, mostly located in the eastern portion of the Indian subcontinent. During the colonial and Bengal Sultanate period the whole Bengal region covered the present state of Bihar, Orrisa, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, and Nagaland (Mazumdar, 2014; Lewis, 2011). The undivided Bengal was located at the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta which was formed at the confluence of the River Ganges and their tributaries. After independence, the United Bengal was divided into two separate regions of West Bengal and East Bengal (occupied by Pakistan) and occupied 88752 sq. km (India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), 2010) and 147570 sq. km area (Bangladesh Statistics Annual Books, 2020) respectively.

The present state of West Bengal is situated in the eastern portion of India and is bounded by Bangladesh in the East; Assam and Sikkim in the Northwest; Orrisa in the Southwest, Bihar, and Jharkhand in the West, and Nepal to the Northwest. According to geographical coordinates the extension of West Bengal lies between 85° 50' E to 89° 50' E longitude and 21° 25' N to 27° 13' N latitude.

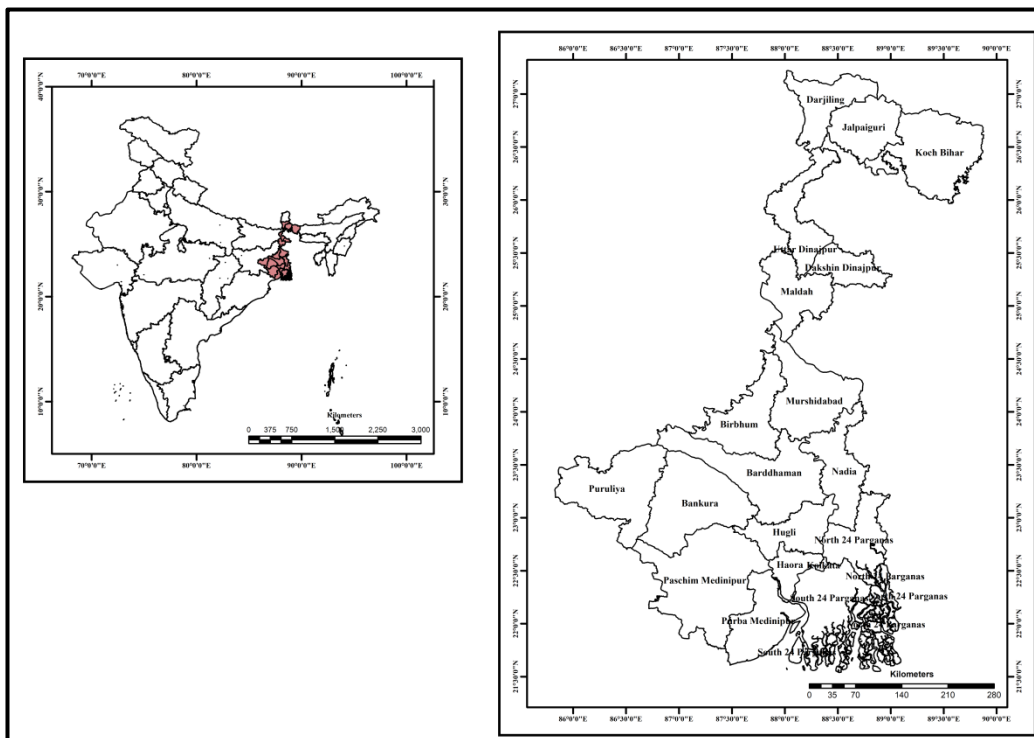


Figure 1.2 Location Map of the Study Area

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### 1.3.2 Demography of the Study Area

West Bengal is one of the most populated states of India since independence. The state had a population of over 2.6 crores in 1951 with which around 54 percent was male populations and 46 percent was female populations (Table 1). The population of West Bengal has increased over the year and it reached 8 crores in 2001 and 9.12 crores in 2011 as per the census (Table 1) (censusindia.gov). The density of the population also has increased from 299 per sq. km in 1951 to 1028 per sq. km in 2011 (Table 1) (wbhealth.gov.in) which is also higher than India's population density such as 117 per sq. km and 382 per sq. km in 1951 and 2011 respectively (medindia.net).

**Table 1.1 Demographic Status of West Bengal**

Year	Total Population	Male	Female	The density of population per sq. km.	Decennial population growth (%)
1951	26299980	14105519	12194461	299	-
1961	34926279	18599144	16327135	394	32.8
1971	44312011	23435987	20876024	504	26.87
1981	54580647	28560901	26019746	615	23.17
1991	68077965	35510633	32567332	767	24.73
2001	80176197	41465985	38710212	903	17.77
2011	91276115	46809027	44467088	1028	13.84

Source: wbhealth.gov.in

### 1.3.3: Historical Context of the Study Area/Early history of intruders in Bengal Delta

Bengal, a 4000-year-old civilization was established at the banks of the Ganges and Brahmaputra River and thrived in Gangetic Delta. The location and richness of Bengal attracted many outsiders from the beginning. Around 300 BC, Greek traveller Megasthenes in his monumental work of '*Indica*' referred to Bengal as 'Gangaridai' which was also mentioned by Roman writers Ptolemy and Diodorus in their works (India Today, 24-05-2016). Alexander the Great, invaded India and tried to conquer Bengal after defeating Porus but it was assumed that due to the presence of Gangaridai warriors he changed the idea of moving further eastward and decided to retreat (The Daily Star, 12 August 2015; India Today, 24 May 2016 ).

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During the medieval period, Bengal was invaded by the Sultanates. At the same time, the Portuguese invasion on the western coast of India changed the scenario of the Indian economy. They aimed to acquire spices from India and imported it to Europe. The arrival of Vasco Da Gama near Calicut port on the western coast of India on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1498 was the beginning of the Portugal dynasty in Bengal which was continued till the era of the Mughal Empire. They established their control over Chittagong (presently in Bangladesh) and Satgaon or Saptagram (Known as Hugli at present) port for their trading (sahapedia.org, 9-08-2019) and were subsequently granted permission from the Sultan of Bengal (Roy, 2012; Islam, 2003). After opening the maritime trade between Europe and Asia and the high demand for spices in Europe, the British and Dutch navigators also followed the Portuguese track to conquer Bengal. The English and Dutch East India Companies entered India in the early seventeenth century (the English East India Company has founded in 1600 and the Dutch Company in 1602) and expanded their territories in Bengal in the middle of the seventeenth century. They also established their factories in Hugli. Ample resources such as cheap and better quality calicoes, lucrative Bengal silk, and an abundant amount of saltpetre which had a high demand in the European market attracted many foreign navigators (banglapedia.org). Mughals gave them trading rights with the condition of paying 3 percent custom duties on exports in returns (banglapedia.org). Mughal emperors were also aware of the richness of Bengal and they appointed Murshid Quli Khan as Mughal Subhadar who became the Nawab of Bengal later. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century after the death of Murshid Quli Khan, Bengal was occupied by Maratha and they were referred to as 'Bargi' in Bengal (used as a lullaby). After Marathas, it was the British who entered Bengal as traders and got permission of trading from Bengal Nabab to purchase Jute and Silk from Bengal. British finally occupied Bengal after winning the Battle of Plassey in which Mirza Muhammad Siraj- ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal lost due to a conspiracy by his trusted ministers. The British started to extend their rules and territories in Bengal and established Fort William in Calcutta which was mainly a military base (India Today, 24-05-2016).

The capital of India was shifted from Delhi to Calcutta after the falling of the Mughal Dynasty in India and it continued till 1911. Under the British Raj, Bengal witnessed two major famines in 1776 and 1942 and two partitions in 1905 and 1947. The region

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also observed three migrations in 1905, 1947, and 1971(India Today, 24-05-2016). The magnitude of partition in 1947 and Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 endured a massive flow of human mobility in West Bengal (Bengal was divided into two regions based on religion in 1947) which is continued till today.



# **Chapter 2- Review of Literature**

## 2.1 Definition and Classification of Migration

The term 'migration' and its' meaning are different from one person to another. Many Biologists use the word migration for 'heroic' movements of the population (Dingle & Drake, 2007). As per the biological view, migration represents some behavioral pattern of animals in which movement between two habitats is common. It occurs in search of better opportunities, foods, or reproductive needs. Animal migration mainly occurs seasonally and in some cases, it also includes return journeys (Nationalgeographic.org). Human migration involves the movement of people geographically from one region to another. It usually occurs from the place of a permanent resident to another location which might be temporary or permanent (egyankosh.ac.in). After fertility and mortality, migration is the third component of population dynamics which is dependent on several sociological, economic, and cultural factors. The size and structure of the population in any nation are dependent on migration which may be increased or decreased when a large number of people move into an area or move outside of a region respectively (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978). It is one of the prime components of population change (Colin, 1988). It is also stated that migration is a complex phenomenon that includes the diffusion of information and ideas. It is an indicator of economic and social change in which people adjust to environmental, economic, and social problems. It is difficult to project the changes related to migration because of the uncertainty to decide the changes in one place (Demko et al., 1970). The term relocation diffusion is related to migration as nobody can be present in two places at the same time (Chapman, 1979). It is also stated that this relocation diffusion does not explain the reasons behind the decisions to migrate (Sinha, 2005). Zelinsky stated that as a cultural and dynamic phenomenon, migration is more important than fertility and mortality (Zelisky, 1966). It is also a mixing of the population of different languages, races, and nationalities (Trewartha 1969). 'Cultural diffusion', 'social integration', and 'spatial interaction' are common in migration in which 'communities within the community are observed (Shrivastava, 1983). Ogden stated that migration is a part of population geography and it helps to understand the human society related to the geographical organization (Ogden, 1984).

Different scholar has different approaches regarding the definition and concept of migration. Sinha (2005) in his work highlighted the meaning and definition of

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migration provided by different authors. As per Clarke (1965), 'there is no unanimity over the meaning of migration' but many scholars also assume that it is a movement for a considerable period that may involve changes of residence. Based on this view some exclusion regarding the temporal movement should be justified; they are pastoral nomads, tourists, or daily commuters and there is no satisfactory term that reflects the different spatial movements of people. Clarke opined that due to the presence of a variety of elements, migration cannot be defined properly (Sinha, 2005). Trewartha also stated a similar view and emphasis on distance, human willpower, and change in residence to determine the nature of migration. He opined that migration incorporates a movement of some distance which led the migrants to change their permanent residence. This definition also excludes the daily commuters, seasonal migrants' labourers, pastoral nomads, and temporal tourists of their nature of the movement. A usual definition of migration may be extended to incorporate the different kinds of human mobility (Trewartha, 1969). Apart from the change in residence, migration is also defined by the journey to the workplace or types of boundaries crossed by the migrants, etc. (Demko, et al., 1970). According to Elsenstadt (1953) migration is a process of physical transition in which an individual or a group of individuals shifts from one region to another. He also added that this transition incorporates the migrants' decision to leave their previous residential region and adopt a new environment in a new region where he displaced later and determined to settle (Elsenstadt, 1953). Mishra (1981) stated that migration is an inflow or outflow of inhabitants from a specific area and settled into a new place in a permanent and semi-permanent way (Mishra, 1981). It is 'geographic mobility, incorporated between specific political or statistical areas. In some cases 'change in residence' also occurs between different types of residential areas (Ross, 1982). According to Sinha (2005), Ross used the term 'change in residence' for permanent settlement and 'political' 'statistical' or 'geographic' areas for a space surrounded by a distinct political or statistical, or geographic boundary or line (Sinha, 2005; Ross, 1982).

Migration not only entails the physical movement between the spaces but also the duration of stay in a migrated place and the purpose of displacement. Sinha (2005) stated that as per United Nations (1970), the concept of migration is dependent on the duration of stay in a new place which might be temporary or permanent. Migrants

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staying in a place for more than one year with a proper job are known as permanent migration while residing in a place for one year or less than one year is treated as temporary migration. In the case of temporary migration, migrants have to produce that he/she receives remuneration from the migrated country. At the same, if the migrants are residing in a place for one year or less than one year and are also unable to produce legal identity, they are treated as displaced persons or transferred persons, or refugees. Sinha (2005) explained that this type of classification does not include which types of job or payment modes are applicable for the migrants. He also stated that this type of approach applies to international migration and internal migration; most countries choose 'place of birth' as an indicator to measure migration (United Nations, 1970; Sinha, 2005). As per the words of Shrivastava (1983), migration is defined as a permanent or semi-permanent movement of people to a new destination that is located far away from their present place. He also added that if the person was not born in that place of his/her current residence he/she is considered a migrant (Shrivastava, 1983). Newman et al. (1984) define migration based on population mobility which also distinguishes migration from circulation. The latter involves the temporary change of location which includes daily commuting from the workplace, vacations, or shopping trips. Commuting and migration both are included under the concept of mobility. Sinha (2005) explained that Newman et al. (1984) use many indicators to define migration more accurately such as the period for permanent or temporary displacement, length of the distance, reasons for the movement, etc. In the case of period most applicable duration is one year for permanent or semi-permanent residence but some highly migratory groups (Gypsies in Eastern Europe) have been excluded from this definition as they frequently move from one place to another. About the distance issue, they consider the existing political boundary between two spatial units of origin and destination place. After constructing a model regarding migration they stated that if the movement occurs within the same administrative unit it would not be considered a migration. On the other hand, migrants should cross the political boundary irrespective of the distance of origin and destination place. Those who are not moving anywhere are considered non-movers or stayers (Newman et al. 1984; Sinha, 2005). The U.S Census Bureau also accepted the above concept and stated that change in residence within the country is considered as movers, not migrants. So it is stated that 'all migrants are movers but not all movers are migrants' (Sinha, 2005). Johnston et al. define migration as a temporal change of residence that

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might be permanent or semi-permanent. Individuals or groups of people crossed the boundary and spend a certain time over the boundary of a new place (Johnston et al. 1994).

The above definitions regarding migration reflect the different methodological approaches and define migration from different perspectives. Sinha (2005) tried to explain migration in a commonly accepted manner and stated that migration is a universal process in which a person or a group of people move from one space (place of origin) to another (place of destination). It involves the crossing of geographical or administrative boundaries over time and space. It is known as the territorial or spatial movement in which movers change their residence permanently or semi-permanently. At the time of enumeration it is observed that the migrants resided in a house that might be owned or rented; engaged in different economic activities and consumed the resources of the place they entered. He also stated that a mover can be a migrant or non-migrant based on some criteria such as the reasons for their move (education, marriage, occupation, tourism, etc.), crossing the borders, duration of time they spent in the migrated area, length of the distance they travelled between origin and destination region, etc. As per the U.S Census and United Nations, the permanent migrants should cross any boundaries (such as geographical, political, or administrative) irrespective of the distance between origin and destination place and also spent more than a year in the destination place. If the migrants spend one year or less their journey is treated as temporary migration (Sinha, 2005)

Categorization of migration is one of the important aspects of the migration study. Various multi-dimensional factors are involved to classify the migration. It is assumed that due to the presence of many criteria and factors, the classification of migration is difficult to formulate (Trewartha, 1969; Uyanga, 1981; Sinha, 2005). Sinha (2005) in his work mention many scholarly works regarding the classification of migration. Migration may be categorized into-

**1. Based on types of Political boundaries:** State lines, country lines, or international borders are considered political and administrative boundaries (Sinha, 2005). Apart from that village boundary, the community development block boundary is also treated as a political boundary in which movement within the country is known as internal or national migration and the associated people are known as in-migrants and

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out-migrants. When people are moved beyond the county of their origin it is known as international migration (Newman, 1984; Ghosh, 1987; Chandna, 1998; Raj, 1981; Sinha, 2005). Such migration is linked with the political unit which can be occurred between villages, from block to block, district to district, or state to state. Such category is confined within the nation and known as national migration. In the case of international migration, displacement occurs between the countries and also from continent to continent (Sinha, 2005).

**2. Based on the length of time:** Sinha (2005) mentions the works of Chandna (1998) and Clarke (1965) in which Chandna (1998) classified migration into short term migration, long term migration, permanent, semi-permanent, and temporary migration. Clarke (1965) considers a time frame of more than one year for permanent migration and temporary migration migrants may stay one year and less in a place. This period is applicable for immigration and emigration and also for international migration (Clarke, 1965; Chandna, 1998; Sinha, 2005).

**3. Based on the length of distance:** Migration is categorized into short-distance and long-distance migration based on the length of the distance they travelled (Sinha, 2005). But it overlooks the calculated distance (Johnston, 1994; Sinha, 2005) and as well as social and cultural distance (Chandna, 1998; Sinha, 2005). In this perspective, Newman (1984) stated that distance is not a criterion for the classification of migration unless the migrants cross the administrative border (Newman, 1984; Sinha, 2005).

Sinha (2005) also mentions the views of Kosinsky (1975) in which he classifies migration based on distance (long and short migration), time (temporary and permanent migration), boundary crossed (internal, external, and international migration), social organization (family, individual migration), political organization (sponsored and free movement), decision making (voluntary and forced migration), members involved (individual or mass migration), causes (economic and non-economic migration) and aims (conservative and innovative migration) (Kosinsky, 1975; Sinha, 2005).

**4. Based on spatial approach:** Migration is also classified on the basis of spatial approach in which space may be considered at the local level, regional level, national and international level. In the case of local level migration, movement occurs within

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the villages or blocks. It also includes rural to rural and rural to urban migration. Regional level migration considers movement between any kinds of geographical region such as plain region, plateau, mountain region, coastal region, and Ganga plain region. Movement within the state and nation is considered national and international migration (Sinha, 2005). According to the rural-urban nature, migration may occur between rural and rural, rural and urban, urban and urban, and urban to rural areas. Coffey (1981) stated that trends of migration is mainly confined to the city and the volume of migration decreases with increasing distance between origin and destination place (Coffey, 1981; Sinha, 2005).

**5. Based on the decision-making approach:** Migration may be classified into voluntary migration, involuntary or forced migration, and impelled migration based on the decision-making approach. In the case of voluntary migration, self-decision is the major factor of the movement which also occurs due to high ambition. Involuntary or forced migration occurs due to political (war) and physical (Earthquake, flood, cyclone, etc.) reasons (Sinha, 2005). Fernie & Pitkethly (1985) stated that wars, droughts, or any unacceptable regime have stimulated a large scale of refugees and most of them are suffering from poverty and malnutrition (Fernie & Pitkethly, 1985; Sinha, 2005). When migrants are reluctant to leave the country of origin due to an unfavourable situation, is called impelled migration. Migrants are not forced to move but the situation is responsible for this kind of displacement (Sinha, 2005).

**6. Based on numbers of migrants:** Based on the numbers, migration may be classified into individual and mass migration. Depending upon the volume of flow the migration is divided into large scale, medium scale, and small scale migration (Sinha, 2005).

**7. Based on the qualitative approach:** Migration is classified as skilled migration, semi-skilled and unskilled migration depending on the quality (Sinha, 2005)

**8. Based on occupational approach:** Here migrants move from one occupation to another and based on this approach migration may shift from the agricultural sector to the non-agricultural sector (Sinha, 2005).

**9. Other approaches:** Apart from the above mention classification, migration can also be classified into conservative and innovative approaches. In the case of the



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conservative approach, any individuals have to shift their current location to maintain the existing lifestyle. The movement is required due to some changes that have occurred in the current place. For example construction of a dam leads to the displacement of individuals and they evacuate their existing place to settle in a new place with their existing occupation. Innovative migration deals with the displacement in which migrants obtain a new life. Here migrants have to evacuate their existing place and end up their journey with a new occupation. They think that the new profession is better than their previous one (Kammeyer et al. 1988; Trewartha, 1969; Sinha, 2005).

Several kinds of migration are considered in the migration study since the end half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It includes labour and temporary migration, forced migration, international retirement migration (IRM), and internal migration (Bell et al. 2010).

**1. Labour migration in the EU:** It represents the movement of people from one country to another for work. Labour migration is also classified into highly skilled labour migration and unskilled low-wage labour migration.

- a. Highly skilled labour migration – This kind of migration is mainly demanded by the host countries having strong economic backgrounds. They provide special incentives to high-skilled labour especially doctors and nurses (Castles, 2005; Bell et al. 2010). In this way, human capital is accumulated in the host countries without investing any capital in education and training (Figueiredo, 2005; Bell et al. 2010). Though the percentage of high skilled migrants is less (Peixoto, 2001; Bell et al. 2010), it also creates a negative consequence for the sending countries as it wastes all the money spent on the education and training of the migrants who leave. This process is popularly known as brain drain. It solves the problem of labour shortage for the host countries and is also a way to gain economic production (Kubursi, 2006; Bell et al. 2010). The USA, Australia, Canada, etc. attracts many high skilled labours, especially from the background of medicine and computer programming since the 1980s which is also followed by some countries in Europe and Asia recently (Castles, 2005; Bell et al. 2010).

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b. **Unskilled low-wage labour migration:** This kind of migration played an important role in the reconstruction of the economy of industrialized countries after 1945. Most of the unskilled immigrants were illegal, especially in Mexico and Latin American countries, and most of them were incorporated into industries, construction, and household services (Castles, 2005; Bell et al. 2010).

**2. Forced migration:** It represents the fleeing of people due to political repression or war. It also occurred as a result of the construction of dams or any natural disasters. Displaced people are often referred to as refugees and asylum seekers (Castles, 2003, 2005; Bell et al. 2010). Trafficking of people is another mode of forced migration in which women and children are most vulnerable and involved in the sex industry (Castles, 2003; Bell et al. 2010). While Scandinavian countries welcome asylum seekers heartily, Britain has several issues with receiving migrants. In some cases, asylum seekers either return to their native place after the improvement of the situation or assimilate into the local communities and become part of the new community (Bell et al. 2010).

**3. International retirement migration (IRM):** International retirement migration refers to the mobility of retired people having a strong economic background to purchase lands or properties outside their country of origin (Rodriguez et al., 1998). Retirement is the ‘push factor’ which initiates the migration process (King et al., 1998). This kind of displacement popularly occurs from the northern countries such as Germany, the UK, and the Nordic countries to southern Europe due to its favorable climatic conditions, healthier lifestyle, previous holiday experience, and available information of the destination countries. These ‘pull factors’ attract retired people to shift their residential place from one country to another (Rodrigue et al., 1998; King et al., 1998; Lardies Bosque and Castro Romero, 2002; Petrov and Lavalle, 2006).

**4. Internal migration:** This is another type of migration that occurs within a specific country in which displacement is mainly confined from the economically distressed region and rural area to the main cities. Bell et al. (2010) explained that during the 1990s’ economic and social disadvantages lead to a scale of migration in western European countries which also has been observed in the Eastern bloc. Later on, the collapse of the economy and social system results in a large scale of displacement in which many European countries incorporated into the European Union and

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transformed internal migration into international labour migration (Bell et al. 2010). In the case of France, the migratory movement mainly occurred from north to south due to quality of life and healthy economic conditions. Scandinavian countries also experienced population movement between peripheral regions and industrial areas to the metropolitan cities. In the 1990s rural areas of Sweden and Finland became depopulated which resulted in the expansion of the main cities (Krohnert et al., 2008; Bell et al., 2010). The emptied villages and abundant lands were transformed into industrial forestry after the losses of its rural services (Bell et al. 2010).

Counter urbanization is one of the distinct categorizations of internal migration which represents the population movement between urban and rural areas. Since the 1980s this phenomenon is observing in England at a large pace (Hardill et al., 2004; Bell et al. 2010). It mainly occurs among the older couples and well-off in-migrants families which are balanced by the out-migration of young groups into the cities. Lowe and Stephenson (2003) mention four drivers related to this kind of migration i.e “commuting patterns, work-driven migration, pre-retirement and retirement moves”. Here, the pre-retirement movement reflects the drive to a rural area with a job but also has an intention to settle there after retirement. It is also stated that nearly 28% of older people are living in a rural areas and their number is also increasing (Lowe and Stephenson, 2003; Bell et al. 2010).

Several terminologies regarding migration are used by different organizations; among them, the debate may arise between migrants and refugees. The term ‘migrants’ can be encompassing all the displaced people including refugees or they may be treated as exclusive categories. There is a concern that treating the refugees as a sub-category of migrants may diminish their protection space. This is a general perception of the migrants. On the other hand, it is argued that from the perspective of human rights and basic humanitarian needs, incorporating all the migrants including refugees is better than categorizing them into different groups (Migration Data Portal, 2022).

As per Migration Data Portal, there are several kinds of movement that occurs all over the world, and such movements are represented by different terminologies-

- 1. Mixed migration:** The term ‘mixed migration’ is relatively new and widely uses in the last decade. It considers all kinds of population movements despite their status. A mixed migration helps to provide all kinds of protection space to all the

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migrants including those who may not meet the requirements of refugees status as per the 1951 Refugee Convention but might have faced issues related to social, economic, political, and religious factors and leave their place of origin (Migration Data Portal, 2022). This movement refers to the displacement of people for better lives and opportunities as they face multiple vulnerable situations along their journey. Though mixed-flow migrants have different legal statuses they follow similar routes and similar modes of travel, assisted by migrants smugglers (Mixed Migration Centre, 2019; Migration Data Portal, 2022). Mixed migration is also considered as mixed movement or mixed flow by IOM which describes different reasons are considered for different statuses of migration. It includes the traveling flow of all kinds of migrants using the same routes and the same forms of transportation (International Organisation of Migration, Glossary on Migration 2019).

2. **Urbanization and migration:** Urbanization or urban transition refers to a transfer of population from dispersed rural settlements which are dominated by the agricultural economy towards denser urban settlements, characterized by industrial and service sectors (United Nations, 2018). Urbanization is the result of natural population growth, extensions of urban areas, large-scale population movement from rural areas to urban areas, and the construction of new urban centers (Migration Data Portal, 2022). It also states that urbanization is the result of migration (International Organisation of Migration, 2015).
3. **Environmental migration:** There are several key terms are used to define migration from environmental and climatic perspectives such as
  - i. Environmental migrants: It refers to a person or a group of person who chooses to leave their homes or are obliged to do the same either permanently or temporarily due to progressive or sudden changes in the environment which adversely affect their livelihood. In this case, they either move within the country or chose abroad for their destination (MECLEP, 2014, IOM).
  - ii. Environmentally displaced persons: This kind of displacement occurs due to environmental degradation, destruction, or deterioration in which persons are displaced within their country of origin or cross the international border (MECLEP, 2014, IOM).

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iii. Disaster displacement: Disaster displacement refers to adverse climatic situations which are forced or obligate people to leave their habitual residences. Triggered by natural hazards this kind of displacement is controlled by the higher authorities. National or cross-border disaster displacement may occur through spontaneous flights or evacuation orders enforced by authorities (The Nansen Protection Agenda, 2015).

**4. Family migration:** Family plays a major role in migration. Family migration refers to a person who migrates to start a new family or reunify with his/her established family ties. This type of migration covers several sub-categories (Migration Data Portal), such as-

- i. Family reunification/ reunion: It refers to such non-nationals who enter and reside in a country where their family members are live lawfully or they have the nationality to take care of their families (International Organisation of Migration, Glossary on Migration,2019).
- ii. Family formation: It is a situation in which a resident either national or foreigner, marries a foreigner and starts to provide financial support to that individual for admission or status change (OECD, 2017).
- iii. Accompanying family: Here principal migrants are displaced with their family members (OECD, 2017).
- iv. International adoption: In the case of international adoption, a foreign nationality child is adopted by a residence having national or international residential status (OECD, 2017).

Apart from that, some keywords are also used under the category of family migration i.e.

- v. Principal/primary/main applicant: They refer to the person, who applies for refugee or immigrant status and, applications are made with their name (IOM, Glossary on Migration,2019)
- vi. Dependent: It refers to a person who gets permission to enter into a state for family reunification and is also supported by a sponsor. The dependent have a strong family relationship with the sponsor (IOM, 2019)
- vii. Transnational families: These groups of people are living apart but create a strong unity and ‘familyhood’ even across the national border (ACP Observatory on Migration, 2012)

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**5. Forced migration:** According to IOM Forced migration refers to a migratory movement that involves compulsion, force, or, coercion. The force or involuntary migration incorporate conflicts and disaster-induced displacement in which conflict may occur over the natural resources or human activity accelerates the natural disaster such as landslides. This kind of migration includes refugees, displaced persons, victims of trafficking, etc. (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019). Several key terms are used in forced migration or involuntary displacement such as-

- i. Refugees: As per the United Nations Convention of 1951, refugees refer to persons who left their country due to a ‘well-founded’ fear of persecution because of religion, race, nationality, or political opinion. This fear also prevents them to return or in some cases, they are unwilling to back to their country (United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees, 2016).
- ii. Refugee-like situation: It refers to groups of persons who are living outside of their country of origin and face similar protection risks to those of refugees but are unable to ascertain refugees status due to some practical and other reasons (United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees Statistical Online Population Database, 2013).
- iii. Asylum seekers: Asylum seekers are those individuals, seeking international protection and their rights for refugee status have not been confirmed yet (United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees, 2016).
- iv. Internally displaced persons (IDPs): It defines as persons or groups of persons who leave their country forcefully or obliges to flee from their country of residence in order to save themselves from general violations, armed conflicts, human rights violations, and environmental or man-made disaster. They do not cross the international state boundary (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 1998).
- v. Mixed movement: It is also called mixed migration or mixed flow in which people are travelling together irregularly. They are using the same routes and transport but for various reasons. It includes the movement of asylum seekers, refugees, separated children, migrants, etc. (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019).
- vi. Disaster-induced migration: It refers to the movement of a community who are facing disruption of its social function. It involves economic, environmental,

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or material losses which exceed the ability of the community to cope by using its resources (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2009).

- vii. 4. **Resettlement:** It refers to the transfer of refugees from one country to another in which the host country agrees to shelter them with permanent residency (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019). Resettlement programs are initiated both by IOM and UNHCR (Migration Data Portal, 2022).

**6. International students:** International students or internationally mobile students are those who cross the international boundary between two countries with the purpose to attain educational activities outside of their country of origin (UNESCO, 2015). This definition also incorporates those students who enroll for tertiary degrees and for this purpose their length of stay exceeds more than one year to seven-year (UNESCO, 2015). Apart from the Internally mobile students, there are two other types of internal students-

- i. **Foreign students:** These non-resident students are enrolled in higher education courses and stay independently unlike permanent resident students who migrate with their parents (Migration Data Portal, 2022).
- ii. **Credit mobile students:** It refers to a student exchange program in which students are enrolled in their home country but also receive a small number of credits from the foreign university. Such kinds of enrolment status exclude them to be a part of international students (Van Mol & Ekamper, 2016).

**7. Irregular migration:** When movement occurs outside the regulatory norms of receiving, transit and sending country is known as irregular migration (IOM, 2011). As there is no worldwide definition of irregular migration, several circumstances create an irregular movement of people. Such as-

- i. If a migrant enters a country irregularly with false documents or crosses the border from unofficial crossing points.
- ii. If he/ she is residing in a country irregularly; such as violating the rules and regulations of entry visa or residence permit.
- iii. Migrants may be employed in an irregular manner such as he/ she has a legal right to reside in the country but does not take up paid employment status (Migration Data Portal, 2022).



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**8. Labour migration:** There is no universal definition of labour migration but as per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) migrant workers are played a major role in labour migration. It refers to those international migrants who are currently employed or unemployed and trying to enroll in any employment activity in their present country of residence (ILO, 2015).

**9. Child and young migrants:** It is essential to collect migration data by age to analyze the age dynamics of the displaced population. Children and the young population are more vulnerable as they easily fall under the risk of trafficking, abuse, and exploitation if they move alone in an irregular manner (Migration Data Portal, 2022). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as a “human being under the age of eighteen” (CRC, 1989). United Nations defines youth as “persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years without prejudice to other definitions by the Member States” (United Nations, 1985).

**10. Older persons and migration:** It is essential to document the information of all migrants irrespective of their ages. Collecting the data of older persons in the context of migration is important and it is defined by United Nations in which 60 years and above the ages has adopted as a cut-off for older or elderly persons. It extends the eligibility criteria to avail the age-related developments (World Health Organisation, 2002; Migration Data Portal, 2022). The definition of an older person differs from one country to another. Most developed countries choose 65+ years to define older persons but this limit is arbitrary as in most cases pension schemes are started from 60-65 years (Roebuck, 1979). Older migrants refer to any foreign-born person who moved from one country to another at the age of 65 years or more due to a family reunification program or moved in the past and then attained retirement age in the destination country or those migrants of more than 65 years age displaced due to conflicts (Migration Data Portal, 2022).

**11. Return migration:** There is no universal definition of return migration. In general, the term ‘return’ refers to the process of going back to the departure point. This journey could be associated with the territorial boundary of a country in case of an internally displaced person (IDP) or between a country of origin and destination country in case of migrant workers, asylum seekers, and, refugees (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019). There are two types of return migrations-

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i. Voluntary return: It is an independent return to the country of origin or any transit point or another country that is voluntarily decided by the returnees. The voluntary return may be spontaneous or assisted.

a. Spontaneous return migration is one of the independent migrations in which migrants or groups of migrants return to their country of origin without the help of states or national or international assistance (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019).

b. Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) refers to the financial or administrative or logistical support to the migrants, unwilling to stay in the host country and decide to return to their country of origin. It also includes reintegration assistance to the returnees (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019).

ii. Force return: It includes migratory movements in which displacement drivers may be varied including force, coercion, or compulsion (IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019).

## 2.2 Causes of Migration

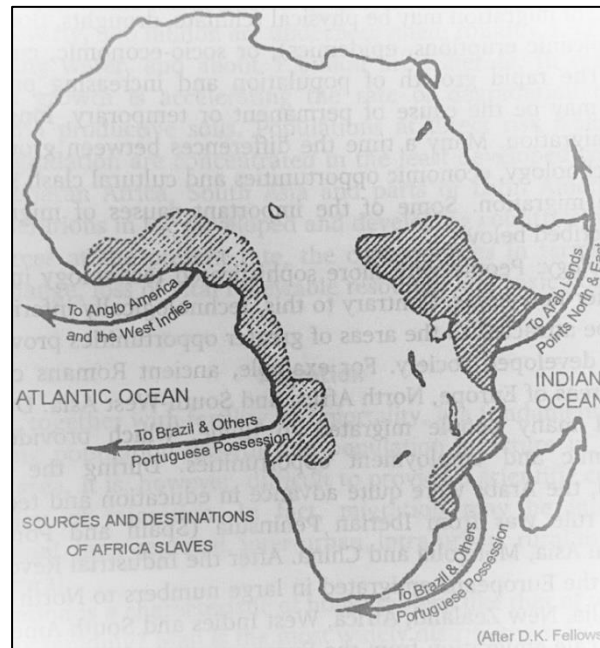
The movement of people from one region to another is occurred due to physical (climate, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, etc.), cultural, socio-economic, and political factors. The rapid population growth and increasing pressure on physical resources may be the cause of permanent or temporary displacement. Some of the major causes of migration, explained by Hussain (2007) are stated follows:

**2.2.1 Advanced Technology**: Modern and sophisticated technology attracts more people from technologically inferior regions. People having more advanced knowledge of technology are invaded and conquered new areas. For example, ancient Romans conquered large areas of North America, South West Asia, and Europe. People started to move toward Rome to acquire better employment and economic opportunities. After the industrial revolution, the Europeans started to emigrate to Australia, New Zealand, North America, and West Indies; colonized there to utilize their resources (Husain, 2007).

**2.2.2 Economic Reasons**: Economic opportunity is one of the major causes of migration. People from less developed countries moved to the developed regions in search of employment opportunities. The supply of human resources to the leading countries is common nowadays. Workers from India and Sri Lanka were shifted to the

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South-East Asian countries and they settled there. Labours from the east and west coast of Africa were settled in different European countries (Figure 2.1).



**Figure 2.1 Sources of African Slaves** Source: Husain, 2007

African Negroes were transported to North America, Latin America, and West Indies as slaves (Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.3). The demand for vacant lands also encourages the European migrants to shift to the prairie region of Canada and the USA. Apart from that, non-availability of jobs, unemployment, etc. is also responsible for migration (Husain, 2007).

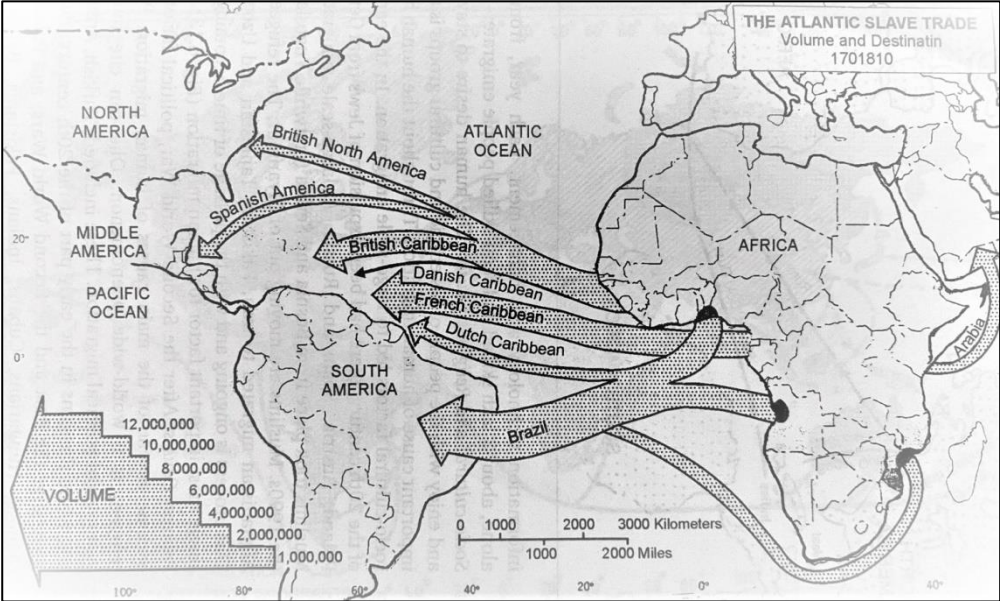


Figure 2.2 Slave Trade

Source: Husain, 2007

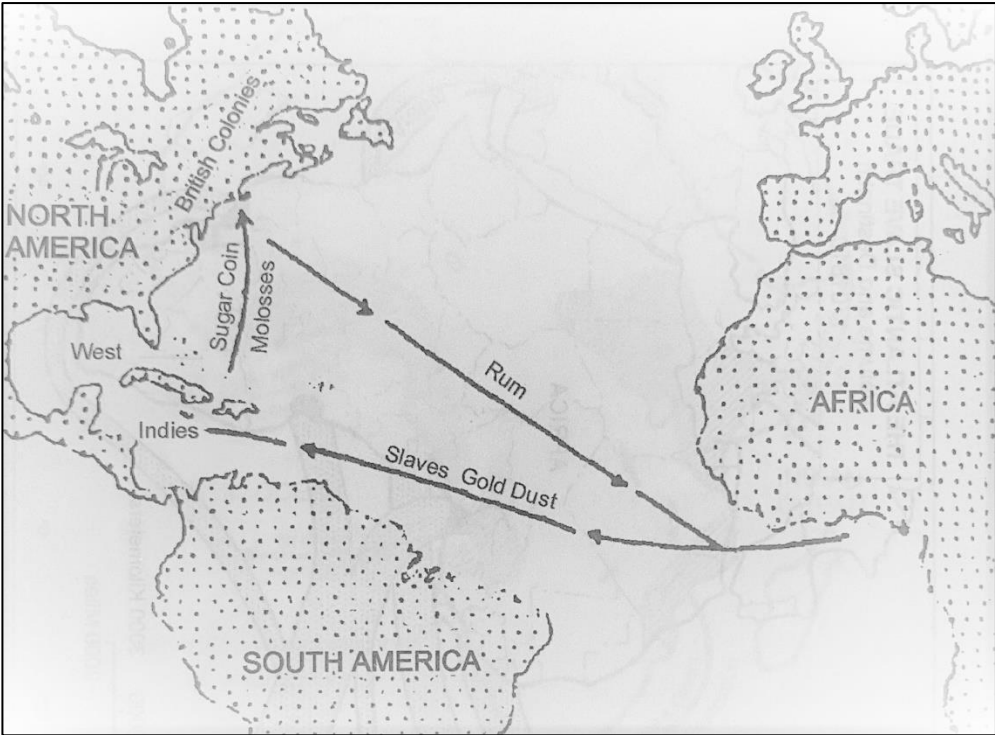


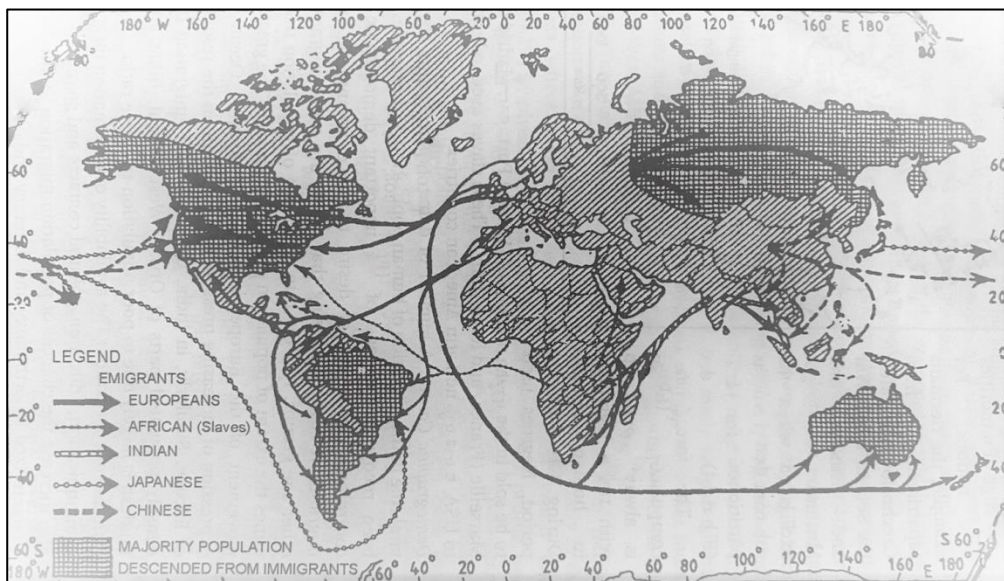
Figure 2.3 Triangular Slave Trade

Source: Husain, 2007

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**2.2.3 Population Explosion:** Rapid population growth in developing regions may create a situation of population explosion which results in a shortage of food and employment opportunities. As a result, people from overpopulated regions migrate to more developed countries. Migrants mainly from Third World Countries with different occupational backgrounds (unskilled and semi-skilled workers, doctors, academicians, scientists, etc.) choose developed regions for their movements (Husain, 2007).

**2.2.4 Socio-Cultural and Religious Factors:** People from similar ethnic and cultural backgrounds want to stay together which is also responsible for the rapid growth of migration. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there was an expulsion of Jews from Poland, Germany, Spain, and Russia. Refugees from Afghanistan shifted to Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, etc. (Figure 2.4) (Husain, 2007). The partition of India also resulted in a rapid growth of migration in which the majority of the Hindu people shifted their habitats from East Pakistan to West Bengal.



**Figure 2.4 Principal Migrants of Recent Centuries**

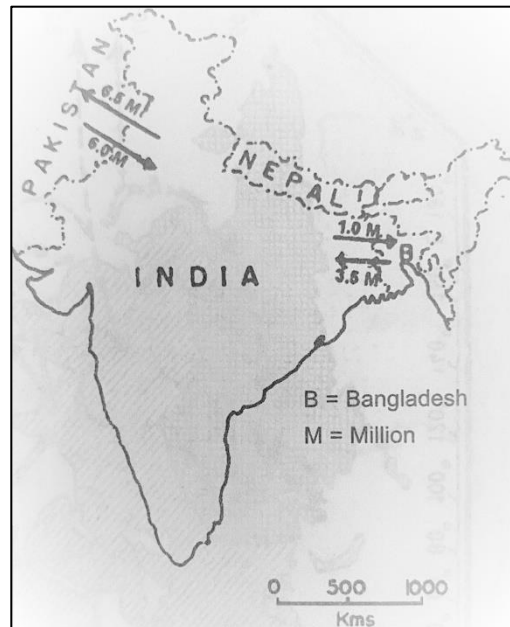
**Source: Husain, 2007**

**2.2.5 Political Reasons:** Political factor is one of the major causes of human migration, started after the Second World War. The early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century experienced various political refugees such as Turkish, White Russians, and Armenians. This kind of involuntary migration also deals with the minority exchange program in which after World War II, Germans returned from Czechoslovakia, and



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Hindus and Muslims also switched in 1947 (Figure 2.5) when the Indian subcontinent was divided into Hindu dominated India and Muslim dominated Pakistan (Husain, 2007).



**Figure 2.5 Forced Migration in South Asia, 1947**

Source: Husain, 2007

**2.2.6 Demographic Factors:** Demographic factors play a major role in population migration. Age has been considered a major factor of migration in which it is noticed that people in lower age groups are more migratory than others. Population growth also determines the population pressure in an area which also leads to a rapid population movement from that area. For example, Europeans cross the Atlantic Ocean due to population pressure on its resources. Emigrations also occur from densely populated states of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, etc. due to its poor resource base which results in a low population resource ratio (Husain, 2007).

**2.2.7 Diffusion of Information:** The scale of migration is dependent on the availability of information through interactions, mass communications, cultural contacts, etc. The orthodox and illiterate communities having strong communal ties are less mobile than those who are more educated and technologically advanced. Cultural contacts increase job opportunities which also encourage migration. In India, people belonging to the Sikhs and Gujrati communities are more educated and

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adventurous. They spread all over the world despite having language and cultural barriers (Husain, 2007).

**2.2.8 The Increasing Level of Aspirations:** With the advancement of technology, new items arrive in the market which influences both educated and uneducated people to achieve the same. So the level of aspiration increases. Most people from developing countries are interested to enjoy a higher standard of living so they are emigrating to the USA, Canada, and South-West Asian countries (Husain, 2007).

**2.2.9 Wars:** Political conflicts or wars play a major role in human migration. The First and the Second World Wars displaced around 6 million and 60 million people respectively. Political and religious persecution forced many people to move out of their country of origin. In 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistan wars also displaced millions of refugees from one place to another (Husain, 2007).

**2.2.10 Government Policy:** Sometimes government policy adversely affects the migration pattern. Despite having enough scope, some countries do not permit migrants to enter their region for employment purposes. The government having flexible foreign policy encourages the people to migrate to their countries (Husain, 2007).

### **2.3 Consequences of Migration**

Migration plays an important role in the society, economy, demography, and ecology of the origin and destination places. Each migrant seeks to carry something new to the destination place which enriches their civilization and culture (Hussain, 2007). Some of the main effects of migration are stated by Husain (2007) as follows:

**2.3.1 Reallocation of Resources:** Individual migrants or their families bring some qualitative and quantitative changes to their demography in the origin and destination places. Generally, people from more crowded regions emigrate to scanty population regions having better resource bases. It leads to the transfer of human resources and maintains the balance between human and natural resources (Husain, 2007).

**2.3.2 Changes in Demographic Pattern:** Population movement from one region to another, results in a change in the demographic pattern. The total numbers of the population, sex ratio, population density, age composition, literacy rate, etc. are



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changed in both the places of origin and destination. Population density is increased at the immigration place which also creates pressure on the natural resources. It is also stated that young migrants are more mobile than any others which leads to a rapid goes up of fertility in the destination region. Outmigration of educated people brings a qualitative and quantitative change in the human resources of both places (Husain, 2007).

**2.3.3 Changes in Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio is an important indicator of demographic patterns which also change with population growth. Destination place is characterised by a declining sex ratio as more male members are added. On the contrary abundance numbers of females (as youth males are more migrated) increases the sex ratio of origin place. The higher sex ratio in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal reflects the same scenario as more male members emigrate from these states (Husain, 2007).

**2.3.4 Economic Prosperity:** Judicious utilization of natural resources is common in the destination place as more migrants are actively involved in the agricultural and industrial sectors. Due to their efforts, the economy of the destination place goes up. Similarly, migrants send remittances to their families and indirectly bring prosperity to the original place (Husain, 2007).

**2.3.5 Transformation of Ethnic and Cultural Characteristics:** Acculturation is very common in the migratory movement. People belong to different cultures and different ethnic groups meet each other and it changes the social and biological characteristics of both the migrants and the host population. New ethnic groups like Mulatto and Mestizo are formed by the interactions between the Negroes and the whites and the European with the Red Indian. Population interaction and amalgamation create a problem when people from different cultural backgrounds started to live together. Different languages, different dietary habits, and religious faiths initially generate a problem among the migrants. In some cases, marital contact between different ethnic groups leads to some fatal diseases such as AIDS and Plague. Apart from that acculturation enriches civilization and became the greatest benefit for human beings (Husain, 2007).

**2.3.6 Psychological Consequences:** Movement from one place to another, results in major psychological changes in human beings. When people migrate from rural to urban areas, especially in commercial or industrial cities, they suffer lots of problems

regarding their accommodation and unhealthy environment. The increasing rate of pollution, toxic fumes, and pollutants adversely affect their health until they could find themselves familiar with the new environment (Husain, 2007).

### **2.4 Theories of Migration**

The migration of human beings was started at the beginning of their appearance on the earth's surface. Pre-historic migration has occurred for survival in search of land. In the medieval period, people migrated in search of new resources to construct their colonies and save themselves from kinds of conflict and persecution.

A lot of empirical research has been done by many scholars regarding the causes and types of migration and also established certain laws of migration. Several theories are also established by different scholars which have been discussed in the following section.

#### **2.4.1 E.G. Ravenstein's Theory of Migration:**

The laws of migration was first initiated by E.G. Ravenstein based on his empirical studies in Britain, the United States, and some of the countries of North-West Europe. He collected his migration data between 1885 and 1889 and constructed his theory of migration. His theory is based on several laws such as-

**i. The majority of migrants prefer short distances:** This principle of migration has been operational since medieval times and is also observed today. The average distances travelled by the migrants are increased today due to the advanced transportation facilities but still, short moves are very common by the migrants. As there is a tendency to move shorter paths the migrants whereas few of them choose to move long distances. This tendency is known as distance decay (Figure 2.6). Human being generally concentrates near accessible places and their frequency and volume are declined with distance from the point of attraction. This kind of concentration is mainly observed around the central market or near an urban center. For example, migrants from the districts of A to G are concentrated in city X. The vertical and horizontal axis represents the number of migrants and distances respectively. When the number of migrants is plotted against the corresponding distance, it observes that the value is declined with the distance (Husain, 1994).

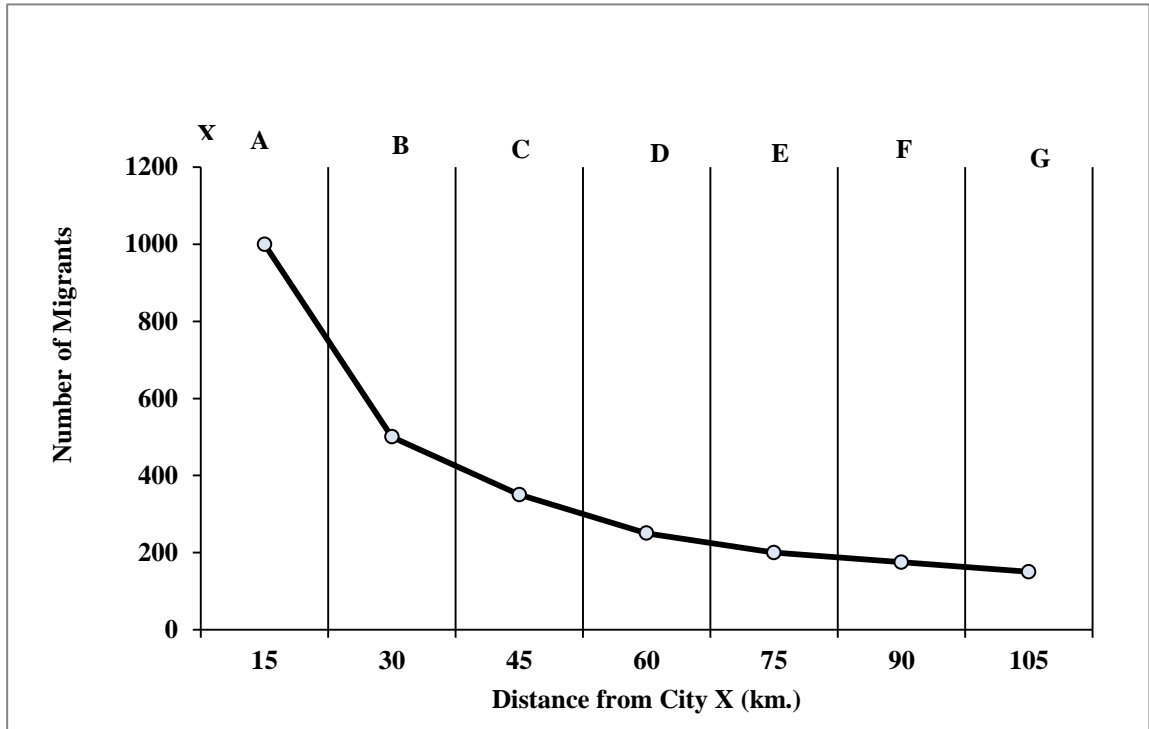
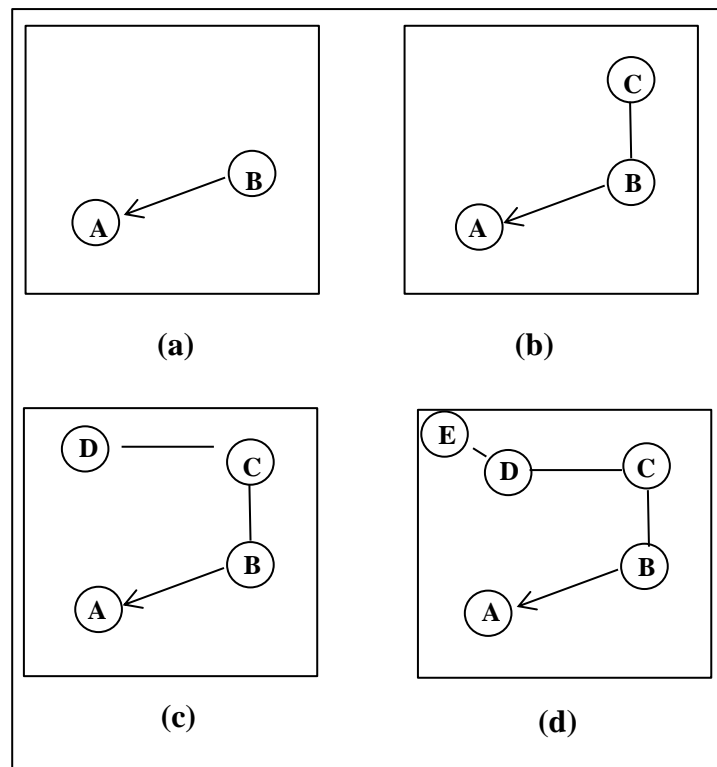


Figure 2.6 Migrations: Distance Decay

Source: Husain, 2007

**ii. Migration Proceeds Step by Step:** The second law of migration states that the inhabitants of the rural area mainly surround the urban area and the vacant place is filled up by the migrants of more rural areas. In this way, the gaps are filled by the migrants until the attractive force of one of the cities makes its influence the most remote part of the region. This kind of sequential migration (Figure 2.7) was observed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the American frontier in which willing farmers were moved to a new land after selling their previous land to the later migrants (Husain, 1994).



**Figure 2.7 Migration: Step by Step** Source: Husain, 2007

**iii. Migrants moving long-distance with preference to choose centres of commerce or industry:** Since the medieval time, London attracted people from all over England. The tendency to move towards an industrial town or centres of commerce is also common in developing countries where migrants choose Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Tokyo, Kanpur, etc. for their movement. This kind of movement is expressed by the Gravity Model which explains that there is a positive correlation between the numbers of migrants to a place and the population size of that place and an inverse relationship between the migrants and their distance to move (Husain, 1994).

**iv. Each migration produces a counter-current of migration:** The process of migration is similar in all developed and developing countries. Migrants who move long distances often try to return to their original place. For example, around 13 million migrants chose the United States for their movement between 1900 and 1914, and among them, 4 million returned to Europe at the same time (Husain, 1994).

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**v. People in towns are less migratory than in rural areas:** At present most of the migrants from developed and developing countries want to move from rural areas to urban areas. As the majority of the people from developed countries are living in urban areas, they choose inter-urban and intra-urban movement rather than to shift rural areas. But in some cases, inverse migration is also observed from urban centers to rural areas. It decentralizes the industrial sectors and commuters chose to commute daily to their urban workplace (Husain, 1994).

**vi. Female migrants move more frequently than male migrants within the country of their origin but men migrants move beyond the national border:** Gender plays a major role in migration decisions which depends on economic and employment opportunities. Many male migrants move from rural areas to urban areas than female migrants. Calcutta and Bombay was the major trade and commerce centre during the British Period which influenced the male migrants from different parts of the country. Female migrants move between the rural Indian villages as per the law of marriage in which brides have to move to their groom's village after the marriage. Male migrants are more frequent in international movements than females (Husain, 1994).

**vii. Most of the migrants are adults; families rarely move out of the country of birth:** This law has two observations. The majority of the voluntary migrants are adults and migration with families is more difficult than for unmarried adults. But due to cultural, political, or religious factors, families migrated from one region to another region. In 1947, the partition of India resulted in large-scale migrations of refugees from India to Pakistan and vice versa. Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 also displaced many refugees between India and Bangladesh (Husain, 1994).

**viii. Large cities grow faster by migration than the natural procedure:** Ravenstein stated that large towns grow rapidly because of the influx of population. He mentioned that more than 60 percent population in Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai belongs to migrants from different parts of the country. Apart from the job opportunities, medical and educational facilities also influenced the rural migrants to shift to urban areas.

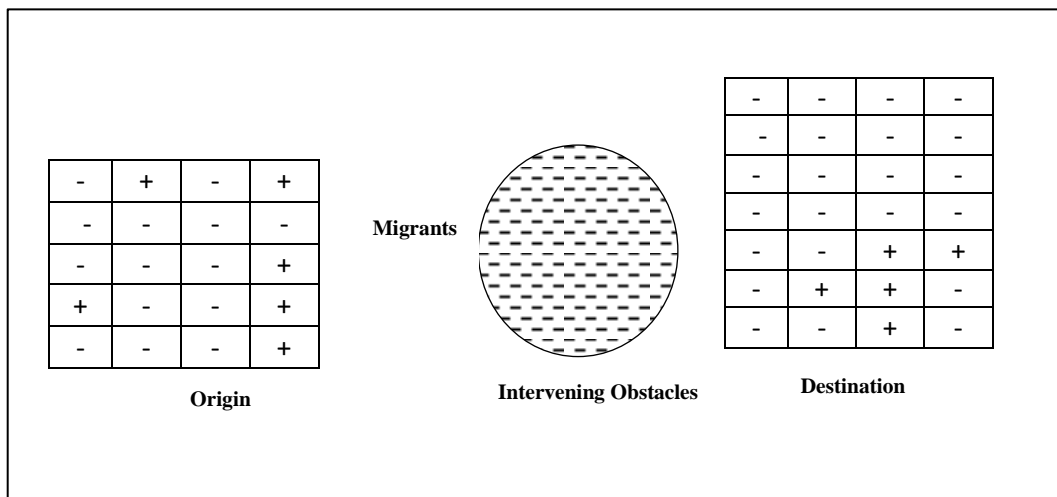
**ix. The economy is the main cause of migration:** It is a universal law that argues, migrants are crossing the international border in search of better employment

opportunities in the destination area. There is a trend of Indian labourers to move to Saudi Arab and Gulf countries because of insignificant employment opportunities in the rural area and better prospects in the South-West Asian countries (Husain, 1994).

## 2.4.2 Lee's Model of Migration

Everett Lee, a renowned sociologist propounded a theory of migration in 1965. He conceptualized four factors of migration that influence the decision of migration (Husain, 1994) such as-

- i. Factors related to the area of origin
- ii. Factors related to the area of destination
- iii. Intervening obstacles
- iv. Personal factors (Figure 2.8)



**Figure 2.8 Lee's Model of Migration**

Source: Lee, 1965

Lee discussed all these four categories and pointed out that each area has numerous other factors which act as drivers to move out the people from this area or attract many people to move into that area. There are significant differences in the factors associated with the origin and destination area (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978). Several positive and negative factors influence the migrants to take the migration decision. Usually, a person has better knowledge about their place of origin than the destination area which leads them to weigh both the advantage and disadvantages of destination and origin area. If the destination place is more attractive and economically fruitful than the origin place, the people then decide to move to the destination place after

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overcoming the intervening obstacles (Husain, 1994). Intervening obstacles are those which prevent the migrants to move such as distance, transportation facilities, cost of relocation, etc. Finally, personal factors also influence the migration decision. Individual differences also play an important role in migration in which some persons are resistant to shifting their residence while others have decided to move (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978). Lee also stated that not all kinds of migration decisions are taken voluntarily; in the case of children they have to move with their parents or in some cases wives follow or accompany their husbands. This movement is known as sequential migration (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978).

Lee further formulated several hypotheses related to the factors of migration. It includes some push and pull factors of migration in the origin and destination place. The hypothesis may be stated as follows-

**i. The volume of migration:** The volume of migration varies within a territory and the diversity of people of this territory. It also varies with fluctuating economy and progress of a country. The volume of migration is dependent on the presence of intervening obstacles (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978).

**ii. Streams and counter streams of migration:** Migration generally takes place within streams, and every stream also develops counter streams. The effect of migration streams and counter streams is low if the situation of origin and destination places are similar. The efficiency of the migration stream is high because of the presence of great intervening obstacles. The variation of migration streams is depended on the economic condition of a country; it will be high in prosperous times and low in the time of economic depression (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978).

**iii. Characteristics of Migrants:** Migrants primarily respond to the positive factors at the destination place and negatively selected the minus factors at the origin place. If the negative factors overwhelm the positive factors for the entire population, they may not be selected for migration. If the whole migrants are considered together, the process of migration may be bimodal. The characteristics of the migrants are considered to be intermediate when they take hold of the nature and characteristics of the population of origin and destination place (Bhende & Kanitkar, 1978).



### 2.4.3 Zelinsky's Model of Mobility Transition

Zelinsky, a famous population and migration expert initiated a theory of migration in 1971, and his theory is known as Mobility Transition Model. Zelinsky stated that a change in migration pattern is proportional to the stages of the Demographic Transition Model. Figure 2.9 (a to d) has been shown in the volume of migration is represented by the five stages of the demographic transition model. There are four different scales of migration: 1. International 2. Regional 3. Rural to urban 4. Urban to urban and intra urban (Husain, 1994).

Figure 2.4 also represented the association between migration and circulatory movements in five stages.

The first stage of the mobility transition model represented the high birth and high death rate which resulted in negligible population growth. This stage was characterized by a low migration rate as most of the people living in the place of their birth. In 1931, 10 percent of the Indian people stayed outside the district of their birth. Some movements were taken place as daily trips or visits to markets and festivals (Husain, 1994).

The second stage of the mobility transition model represented a high birth rate and a slowing decline death rate which led to an increase in the population. It was the time of population movement in which better transportation facilities, pressure on the lands, trade and commercial exploration, etc. resulted in a massive scale of migration. International migration (Figure 2.9a), frontier migration (Figure 2.9b), movements between rural and urban areas (Figure 2.9c), and movements within and between the towns (Figure 2.9d) were taken place (Husain, 1994).

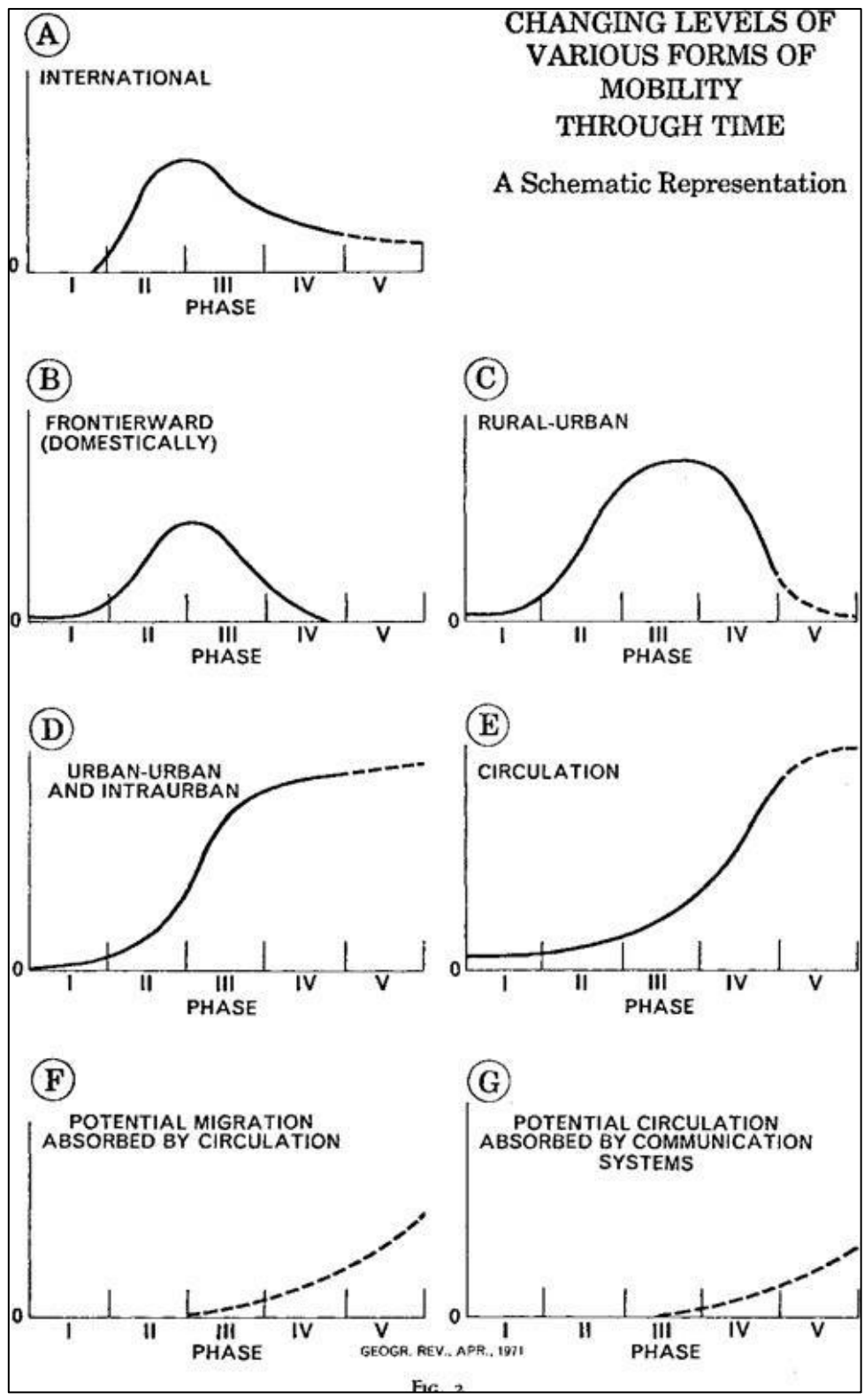


Figure 2.9 Migration Model

Source: Husain, 1994

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The third stage of the mobility transition model coincided with the stages of demographic transition theory in which the birth rate started to decline towards the death rate and resulted in low population growth creating massive flows of migration. This stage of migration was mainly confined between rural and urban areas and within and between the cities. International migration was less common and frontiers were closed. People started to circulate toward secondary and tertiary occupations and also moved to obtain medical and educational facilities (Husain, 1994).

The fourth and fifth stages of the demographic transition model represented the low birth and low death rate which resulted in slow population growth. This kind of demographic condition is mainly observed in developed countries in which migration was mainly confined to urban areas. International migration was also common as skilled and unskilled labours moved from less developed to more developed countries but due to strict immigration laws, their legal movements were limited (Husain, 1994).

This model expressed that circulation played a major role to modernize society. The development of the automobile industry extended the radius of daily movement which also reduced migration. For example, if a person is commuting an hour every day and exceeds 20000 sq. km area and finds a job, he/she will not willing to move far away from home (Husain, 1994).

This theory summarizes that economic interdependence and increased standard of living result in more out-migration from the place of birth (Husain, 1994).

### **2.4.4 Gravity Model:**

The gravity model is one of the important aspects of human geography and deals with the process of migration. This theory is based on Newton's Law of Gravity which states that "any two bodies attract each other with a force which is proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them" (Gravity Model of Migration, Wikipedia). The gravity model also predicts a similar interaction between two places which exaggerates the migratory movement. The terms 'bodies' and 'masses' are replaced by 'locations' and 'importance' respectively in this model. It states that the volume of migration between

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two locations is directly proportional to their population sizes and inversely proportional to the square of the distance splitting them (Yourarticlelibrary.com).

According to this model, the migration flows can be explained by-

$$MI_{ij} = P_i P_j / d_{ij}^2 * K$$

Where  $MI_{ij}$  is the volume of migration between two centers  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $P_i$  and  $P_j$  are the population size of two centres,  $d_{ij}$  is the distance between two centres and  $K$  is the constant (Yourarticlelibrary.com).

Apart from the migration analysis, this model is also used to study various kinds of flow patterns such as passenger movements, telephone traffic, commodity flows, etc. (Yourarticlelibrary.com).

In 1929, W.J. Reilly first applied this law of gravitation to the retail trade of a city centre which is known as the Law of Retail Gravitation. This model states that a city attracts retail trade from customers, located within its surroundings. This attraction is proportional to its size and inversely proportional to the square of the distance separating the customers from the centre of the city.

In 1949, G.K. Zipf used this model to explain the movement of population between two centres (Yourarticlelibrary.com).

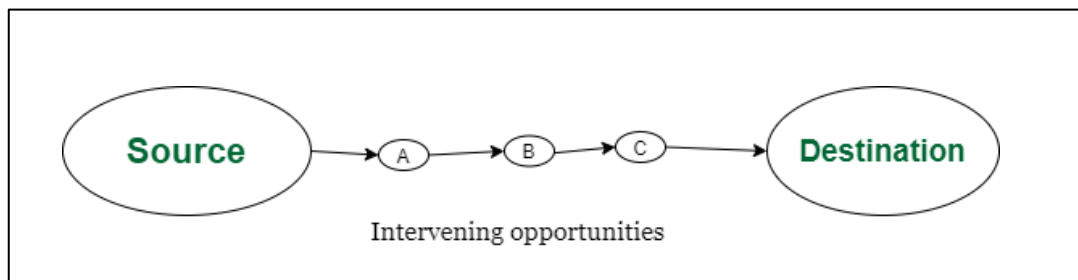
This model also faces some criticisms regarding its applications in real-time situations. Here the attractional force is dependent on the population size of the cities and distance is measured with transportation facilities, frequency of movements, and cost of transport. These are the weak point of this theory. Apart from that this model also reflects all migrants as a homogenous group and does not consider their age and gender-specific migration (Yourarticlelibrary.com).

### **2.4.5 Stouffer's theory of Mobility:**

S.A. Stouffer, an American Sociologist introduced his intervening opportunities model in 1940 and stated that there is no such kind of relationship between distance and migration, rather the volume of migration is declined with increasing intervening opportunities over the distance. As per this model, the numbers of migrants moving from origin to destination point are directly proportional to the opportunities available

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to the destination location and inversely proportional to the numbers of intervening opportunities between origin and destination points (Rashid Faridi.com, 2019). There are several opportunities and intervening opportunities such as economic, health and educational facilities, entertainment facilities, clean environment, political stability, cultural and social opportunities, etc. (onlyiasexam.com). Increasing intervening opportunities discourage people to move large distances.



**Figure 2.10 Intervening Opportunities by S.A. Stouffer**

Source: <https://www.onlyiasexam.com/2020/02/theoryofinterveningopportunities-by-stouffer.html>

### 2.5 Sources of Migration Information

There are three principle sources of data on internal migration; periodic national census, population registers and sample survey's (Census of India, 1981, Census Monograph No. 2; Bhende & Kanitkar 1978). The first two sources are government enterprises while sample survey can be conducted by any government agencies or by any research institutions or by any scholar (Census of India, 1981, Census Monograph No. 2).

**1. The National Census:** It is an important source of information on internal migration followed by most countries. The data on internal movement within the country are obtained by asking question on movement directly or it may be estimated indirectly. There are several questions which may be asked directly to gather the information; such as the place of birth, location of place of birth i.e. rural or urban, place of last residence, duration of residence at the place of enumeration, etc. Among these questions the most common and widely used question is the place of birth which is also recommended by the United Nations. In India the census data on migration were collected through particulars of the place of birth till 1961. In 1971, additional

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information regarding the migration was added in the census and it was concerned to the place of last residence of a migrant. In addition to the above information census 1981 introduced two supplementary columns on migration. It was reasons for movement from place of last residence and duration of residence at the place of enumeration (Bhende & Kanitkar 1978).

**2. Sample Surveys:** Information on internal migration is also directly obtained from sample survey (Bhende & Kanitkar 1978). Developed countries as well as some third world nations also used this method to gather data on internal migration. According to Goldstein (1981) it is a superior method for conducting migration investigation. He argued that this method enumerate the characteristics of migrants at the time of survey and also compare their situation between pre and post migration, reasons for their migration, longitudinal analysis, etc. (Census of India, 1981, Census Monograph No. 2). In India National Sample Survey have been collected the information on internal migration through several rounds; such as the Ninth round, the Eleventh round, the Twelfth round, the Thirteenth round, the Fourteenth and the Fifteenth round (The National Sample Survey No. 53, Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Rounds, May 1955-May 1958, *Tables with Notes on Internal Migration*, Government of India, Cabinet Secretariat, 1962, p. 86; Bhende & Kanitkar 1978). In 1965 a sample survey was conducted by the International Institute for Population Studies, Bombay on 'Rural Migration Pattern in Southern Maharashtra' (Narain, 1970; Bhende & Kanitkar 1978).

**3. Population Register:** Several countries are using population register system to collect information on internal migration based on migrants' continuous movements. This system continuously records the residential changes of migrants which is useful for an analysis of interval between two movements. This system is available in Taiwan, Korea, Sweden, etc. (Bhende & Kanitkar 1978).

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The movement of people from one region to another is called migration. Several types of migratory movements have occurred which may be permanent or temporal. Voluntary or involuntary migration is caused by various environmental, economic, and political factors in which different types of migrants are involved; such as Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), asylum Seekers, Refugees, etc.

A refugee defines as a person, who left his/her country or territory within which he/she lives, lost his/her citizenship, and moves into a country beyond his/her origin due to economic, political, or environmental conflicts.

### **2.6 Definition and Classification of Refugees**

As per the International Law, the definition of a refugee is determined by two factors; first, the people or community left the country or territory of origin and shift to another region. Secondly, there should have some reasons which lead them to leave the land either voluntarily or involuntarily (Chaudhuri, 1983). United Nations Convention, 1951 gave the right of the refugees at the international level. It stated a specific definition of refugee in which main protection was given to the persons having a strong fear of political and other forms of persecution. The definition stated that a person is applied for refugee status when an incident occurs before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1951 and he is outside of his country of nationality due to race, religion, national or political fear of persecution. He is also unwilling or unable to avail of protection in that country. Sometimes the person does not have the nationality and stays outside of his country as a result of such incidents and is unwilling or unable to return to his former residence (The Refugee Convention, 1951 Article 1A (2)).

The entire concept of the refugee is narrow and Eurocentric. The United Nations again adopted a protocol regarding the status of refugees in 1967. It removed the geographic and temporal limit of the 1951 convention and also extended its territorial limits into different parts of the world to address the refugee issues (Dasgupta, 2016). This protocol incorporated the refugees coming after 1951 and also stated that all refugees irrespective of the dateline of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1951 should be enjoyed the equal status covered in the definition of the convention (Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, The 1967 Protocol, 2018).



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This convention excluded some of the migrants who had not fulfilled the criteria of refugee status. Gibney (2004), referred to them as asylum seekers. After monitoring the situation he mentioned that the conditions of those migrants were similar to the refugees but they were excluded from the convention definition (Dasgupta, 2016). Ardent (1968), stated that refugees were those individuals facing a lack of protection, trust, loyalty, and assistance from their government. Dasgupta (2016) specified that this description treated the Bangladeshi migrants as refugees. They were displaced to avoid death or starvation or cyclone. It also included the women migrants, displaced to Afghanistan to escape the Taliban (Dasgupta, 2016). These groups of people were excluded from the status of refugees if considering the convention's definition (Gibney, 2004).

'Persecution' and 'Protection', two terms are used by some writers to describe the conditions of refugees. In normal circumstances, the relationship between the state and its territorial people is controlled by the ruling government which provides protection and as well as have some political trust and social contract. Shacknove (1985) highlights the absence of protection which is the primary determinant of the refugee-like situation and persecution occurs due to the lack of protection. It breaches the contract and trust between the government and the people (Shacknove. 1985; Dasgupta, 2016).

Complexities of South Asia's migration are responsible to exclude themselves from the Convention definition which also impelled India not to be a part of that Convention (Gibney, 2004; Dasgupta, 2016). Dasgupta (2016) used the term 'Partition refugees' to incorporate all the migrants who left their homes either for anxiety or for claiming citizenship rights in India. In official terms, these people are referred to as 'migrants', 'evacuees', 'refugees', and 'displaced'. He categorically used the term 'refugee' for the migrants from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and 'economic refugees' or 'infiltrators' for the people who crossed the border during the Bangladesh Liberation War' (Dasgupta, 2016).

The term 'refugee' is not suitable for the migrants in South Asia; several terminologies are used for different groups of people. Weiner (1993) categorized the displaced people into three groups; rejected people, political refugees, and unwanted migrants. The Hindus and Muslim migrants during the time of partition, Burmese

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Indians, etc. are termed as rejected people. Political refugees belonging to the Bangladeshis moved to India during the partition, Tibetans moved to India, etc. Nepalis in Bhutan or Bengalis in Assam are denoted as unwanted migrants in those regions (Dasgupta, 2016).

India is one of the countries in the world that do not register in the Convention 1951 and also ignored the 1967 protocol, rather enjoying autonomy in the refugee-related issue. The Indian government did not sign in the international treaty and considered the refugee issue on case to case basis. India's Foreigners Act, 1946 settled down the refugee issues by providing different strategies for different cases. As a result, some groups enjoyed basic rights while others were deprived (Dasgupta, 2016).

The movement of refugees from one region to another also involves cross-border migration. In such a situation migrants are classified based on several criteria viz. their time of arrival, causes of displacement, their gender, class or ethnic groups, etc. They are known as cross-border settlers (Rahman and Van Schendel, 2003). Rahman and Van Schendel, (2003) refer to married women, school-going children, and shifting cultivators as the cross-border settlers. Newly married women shift to their parental home and moves with their husband across the border and settle there. The parents send their children to a distant city for their higher education which might be incorporated later into a new nation due to political reasons. In this case, the students have to move to a new nation to complete their studies. Cultivators also move to a new land according to their nature of occupation which might be across the border. In each case, migrants started to live in their relocated location permanently. The second category of refugees is cross-border labours. They move to the nearest town outside the border area for job purposes or searching for a new occupation. During the Partition, many Hindu officials shifted their location from East Pakistan to India which created vacant positions for officials in East Pakistan. It encouraged Muslim educated people to shift their position to East Pakistan. The third group of migrants is known as border refugees; they usually lived near the border area of a region and prefer to move to a neighboring state belonging to a different nation. After moving to a new place they tried to maintain their previous connection with their relatives. Another group of refugees stays in the interior of the destination place. Together with the border refugees they form a typical group and are named shoronarths, muhajirs, bastuharas, evacuees, etc. in different pieces of literature. They live in an unfamiliar

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place without any previous connections and easily maintain their dialects, customs, and cultures. Another category of migrants is nationalists who shift their country of origin and settle in a new country due to idealism. The partition of India was one of the major incidents which result in a large-scale displacement of Muslim migrants from North India to East Pakistan. They met their co-religionist and form a new nation (Rahman and Van Schendel, 2003)

As per International Law first two categories of migrants are not considered refugees rather they are known as optees. India got independence in 1947 and the resulting division of Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-dominated Pakistan created a massive flow of migration. The cross-border movement occurred in several phases between India, Pakistan, and the newly created nation of East Pakistan. It was stated that before the fragmentation of the nation, the settlers were given an option to choose either India or Pakistan for their future settlement. They were known as optee government servants or optees and due to this reason; they shifted their country of origin. They stated that their displacement happened because of their occupation; there was nothing with the religious persecution or the partition. Some optees also tried to assume in which countries their home district would be incorporated and chose it accordingly. Their preference sometimes became wrong as their choice of location was fixed six months before the partition of India. In that case, they negotiated their jobs in a new country (Rahman and Van Schendel, 2003).

### **2.7 Refugee Convention**

League of Nations, an International organization was established after the Second World War. It worked as a medium to settle international issues. Its headquarter was located in Geneva, Switzerland. By the end of the 1920s government as well as various relief organizations found themselves incapable to control the refugee problems. Lack of funds and scarcity of relief created a major problem for the refugees. Various non-governmental organizations faced a similar issue as they were actively involved in the distribution of reliefs during and after the war for the destitute people in Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, the government of the receiving countries was also unable to look after the Russian refugees crossing into the border countries. Most of the destination countries were facing an economic crisis, chronic unemployment, and political unrest which led them ill-prepared to control the

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influx of refugees. Therefore on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1921, the President of the International Red Cross Committee approached the council on the ground that the League of Nations was the only 'super-national political authority' having the power to solve a problem that was beyond the power of humanitarian organizations. There was a proposal from the International Red Cross Committee which stated that the League should appoint a high commissioner for the Russian refugees and the appointed person should examine the three main aspects; first, the definition of the legal refugee status; second, their return journey to Russia, emigration to other countries or their employment status in the previous residing places; third, various efforts were coordinated for the relief of the refugees. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1921, Dr. Fridtjof Nansen was appointed as High Commissioner for Russian refugees (Holborn, 1939). In 1923, High Commissioner for Russian refugees extended their support to Armenian refugees and provided legal and political protection as well as material assistance. It was assumed that International Labor Organization (ILO) took responsibility only for material assistance in 1924 and transferred this duty to the High Commissioner after five years. After the death of Nansen in May 1930, the High Commission for Refugees was abolished and the League Secretariat transferred the responsibility for the protection of refugees to an autonomous body known as the Nansen International Office for Refugees. In 1933, the situation of German refugees became so acute that the League established a High Commission for German refugees (Nansen International Office for Refugees).

The Nansen International Office achieved little and its mandate expired in 1938. Several refugee-assistance organizations were established during this time such as the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Refugee Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), etc.

Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (IGCR/ICR) was established in 1938 and the initiative was taken by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The committee was created to settle the refugee issues in Germany. The intergovernmental initiative was taken to resettle refugees from Nazi Germany; a resettlement programme was also taken for future German emigrants. From 1939, League of Nations High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Emerson directed the IGCR which was funded by members' contributions. In 1943, IGCR expanded its work and included all European

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refugees. Finally, in 1947 the committee was terminated and all of its responsibilities were taken over by International Refugee Organization (IRO) (Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees).

United Nation Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was established on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1943 by the United Nations Organization. It aimed to provide relief among the war victims of any region under the control of the United Nations through the provision of food, clothing, fuel, shelter, other basic needs, medicine, and essential services (United Nations Archives and Records Management Section).

International Refugee Organization (IRO) was established on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1946 to deal with the refugee issue after the Second World War but it came into existence on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1948 (International Refugee Organisation, 15 December 1946). It became a specialized agency of the United Nations. Most of the work of UNRRA was functioned by IRO (as it was the predecessor organization). Italy joined in IRO on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1949 and became the first member outside of the United Nations (). This organization was succeeded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (Britannica. Com, International Refugee Organization).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established in 1950, after the Second World War to ensure the protection of millions of European refugees who had lost their homes (UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, History of UNHCR).

Arab-Israel conflicts of 1948 resulted in the formation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949. This organization aimed to provide relief and works programme for those Palestine refugees who were living during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> June 1946 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 1948 and also lost their homes and livelihood in the conflict of 1948. The Agency started its operation on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1950. As the Palestine refugee problem was not solved, the General Assembly renewed and extended the UNRWA mandate until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the near east).

The United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) was founded by the United Nations General Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1950 to ensure protection, and

## Review of Literature

peace and provide relief to all the people affected by the war between North and South Korea. North Korea attacked South Korea on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1950 and it took 180 days for the UNKRA to start its journey. The agency mainly emphasized industry, agriculture, education, mining, health, and housing to improve Korea's economy and long-term development. The UNKRA started operating in 1953 after signing the armistice between North and South Korea on 27 July 1953 which also ended the war (United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency).

The Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) was founded in 1951 to facilitate the movement of surplus European people to countries overseas. This committee changed its name over time and in 1952 Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) was established after modifying the PICMME. In 1980 ICEM changed its name to the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) and in 1989 further changed its name to International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Chaudhuri, 1983; Jerome Elie, 2010). The United Nations General Assembly asserted the National Government observe 1959 as World Refugee Year (WRY). It aimed to look after the refugee issue internationally and took some measures to control the situation permanently which adversely affected millions of uprooted people (Chaudhuri, 1983).

Since the early 1930s, population movement between two places occurred due to socio-economic and political reasons. These kinds of activities were observed all around the world.

### **2.8 Development and Changing Nature of Refugee Status in India**

Dasgupta (2016) in his work 'Displacement & Exile' explained the changing nature of refugee status in India. The Indian government was inconsistent and unclear about the refugee status, so in most of the official literature, 'evacuees' or 'displaced' terms are used rather than refugees. The term 'refugees' or 'evacuees' was more sensitive than the word 'displaced person'; so initially different bills or acts were passed using the term 'displaced' such as the Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons and Eviction of Persons in Unauthorized Occupation of Land Bill, 1951 (Act XVI, 1951), The displaced Persons Claims Act, 1950, The Displaced Persons Compensation and Rehabilitation Act, 1954, etc. Later the state used different terms such as 'displaced', 'migrants', and, 'refugee' for its convenience which made relief and rehabilitation

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work difficult (West Bengal Assembly Proceedings. Calcutta, 1981. Refugee Rehabilitation Committee Report. Calcutta: Writers' Building; Dasgupta, 2016). Indiscriminate use of these terms in the official literature created an unclear view. The official Census report defined a refugee as a person who was born in West Bengal. It also excluded their arrival year and other members of the family who were born in West Bengal. Despite having such kinds of ambiguities and inconsistent definitions, the government did it to establish an effective border over which the government has the power to control its boundary from unwanted intruders (Dasgupta, 2016).

Dasgupta (2016) mentioned the term 'partition refugee' for someone who fled from home for persecution or fear of attack; it also included those who migrated voluntarily and opted for Indian citizenship. This definition was not incorporated into the conventional one as it included voluntary influx. He also stated that several terminologies were used by the refugees to address themselves such as *bastuhara* and *saranarathi*. The former represented those who lost their homes and the latter were seeking help. By using these terminologies they tried to send out a signal that they are not outsiders seeking asylum rather they are the 'new citizens' of India who left their own country for the creation of the new region. They also wanted to withdraw the terms 'evacuees', 'migrants', 'refugees', and 'displaced' from the official literature as these could refrain to be part of Indian citizens. They mentioned in their union pamphlets that the partition was a political incident and they were the victims of that politics (Dasgupta, 2016).

When the mass exodus had taken place, the government set norms to define displaced persons. As per the norms, a person is considered as displaced who has taken shelter in India or who left or was forced to leave East Pakistan during and after 15<sup>th</sup> October 1947 due to civil disturbances and the formation of two nations (Department of Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation, GoWB, 1998:10). Later on, three criteria were incorporated to consider someone as a displaced person; these were (i) the displaced person should be a permanent resident of East Pakistan as per the competent authority and they crossed the border due to communal riots occurring on and after 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946 and arrived in West Bengal before 31<sup>st</sup> December 1950. (ii) The person owns no lands in West Bengal (iii) the person should be declared in an affidavit that he would not return to East Pakistan (Department of Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation, GoWB, 1998:1). It was stated that the year o 1950 was declared as a cut-off year for the



## Review of Literature

refugees but large-scale displacement occurred after 1950. Dr. B.C.Roy, then the Chief Minister of West Bengal added a new definition of refugee which was controversial. He mentioned that the term 'refugee' had a special meaning for the Central government and it considered them refugees if those people were displaced due to communal disturbances (The Statesman, 25 January 1950; Dasgupta, 2016). This definition included some of the displaced people as refugees due to their movement for communal disturbances. Apart from the communal disturbances, there were some other reasons which also forced those hapless people to leave their country but this might be overlooked by the government. The government again reformulated the definition of refugees due to relief and rehabilitation purposes. The official notification was issued in 1954 in which it was mentioned that any displaced person was considered a refugee for relief and rehabilitation who lived in East Pakistan before the partition and entered India between 1<sup>st</sup> June 1947 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 1954. This definition incorporated the migrants of the Noakhali and Tippera riots as their displacement occurred in 1946 (Department of Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation, Government Of West Bengal 1998:1-3).

Some state officials used the term migrants for displaced populations and categorized them into 'new migrants' and 'old migrants' as per their time of arrival. The migrants who came to West Bengal between 1946 and 1958 were known as old migrants and those who arrived between 1964 and 1971 were known as new migrants. Lack of clarity was observed in the government's definition as the people who entered Bengal between 1958 and 1864 were excluded from the definition (Dasgupta, 2016).

Apart from the above-mentioned classification, the government also introduced some time frames and documents to recognize the displaced people as refugees. Initially, the 1951 census was used to identify the refugee who crossed the border till March 1951, and in this method refugees voluntarily declared themselves as displaced person. The government provided 'border slips' at the border station for the migrants who arrived between March 1951 and October 1952. Migration certificates were issued by the government among the migrants who came to India at the end of 1954. The prime motive of the government to introduce the migration certificate was to primarily distinguish citizens from non-citizens or migrants. Later it would be decided whether the migrants will receive citizenship status or not (Dasgupta, 2016).

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Several government officials such as the refugee rehabilitation commissioner, the district officer, or the district collector also had the power to declare any displaced people as a refugee if they did not provide any supportive documents regarding their arrival or lost their identity proof. In such cases, the officials considered them refugees based on affidavits supported by circumstantial evidence. The officials also had the power to cancel someone's status as a refugee if the migrants were unable to provide sufficient proof of their displacement (Dasgupta, 2016).

# **Chapter 3 - Objectives and Methodology**

## 3.1 Objectives

Migration is a regional displacement of the population across a specific boundary for permanent and semi-permanent settlement (Das & Saha, 2013). In a general perspective, it is assumed that the movement between two regions is dependent on persons' wishes but in some cases, people have to shift their residential places involuntarily which involved socio-economic and demographic factors. Based on the purpose of the movement, the migrants are classified into displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers, evacuees, etc.

Movement is an inherent nature of human existence. The initial movement started approximately 2 million years ago from Africa and was later expanded to Eurasia. These phases of movement mainly occurred due to adverse climatic situations, environmental factors, and in search of food. Later on, the development of human civilization and war instigated humans to change their residence from one place to another (Blakemore, 2019; National Geographic).

The first major pre-historic migration of the Indian sub-continent was observed around 6500 years ago when the modern human entered India from Africa (The Economic Times, 29 December 2018). They were known as 'First Indian' (The Economic Times, 2 May 2020). The last major pre-historic migration occurred from Central Asia when Aryans entered and invaded India.

Bengal, the Eastern part of the Indian Sub-continent is situated at the bank of the Ganges River which also witnessed many migratory flows since the beginning of its formation. This deltaic region was the priority for many people. Greek travellers Megasthenes to Alexander the Great, this region was invaded by many outsiders (India Today, 24-05-2016). Portugal dynasty, Mughal Empire, and finally British invasion were observed in Bengal. After the Portuguese, Mughal, and British travellers, the undivided Bengal witnessed a major flow of migration since 1946 when it was decided to split the Bengal into two regions; viz. West Bengal and East Pakistan. Millions of people started to shift their position as per their requirements which continued till 1971 when East Pakistan (Initially incorporated with Pakistan) declared a separate nation and renamed Bangladesh. Bangladesh Liberation War also created a massive flow of migration. After 1971 the pace of the migratory flow in

## Objectives and Methodology

West Bengal remain slow but it never stopped. From this perspective the main objectives of this study are:

**1. To overview the global migration data and trends on international migration.**

It includes movements between different countries as well as internal displacement. International migration deals with the cross-border movements which occurred due to environmental as well as political reasons.

**2. To observe the displacement pattern in South Asia after the 1990s'.**

This region is mainly affected by natural disasters which results in a massive flow of migration. Apart from the natural calamities, political unrest and regional conflicts also generate the wave of migrations.

**3. To examines the immigration pattern of West Bengal after independence and their settlements in different districts.**

The Partition of Bengal was one of the tragic incidents in Indian History in which undivided Bengal was classified into two nations. It resulted in the massive flows of migration from neighbouring states as well as neighbouring countries. After entering West Bengal these displaced people scattered around West Bengal and started to live there. This immigration continued till today though their pace of movement became slow after the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

**4. This study also highlights the East Pakistan refugee issues in West Bengal and their displacement during Bengal Partition and Bangladesh Liberation War.**

The independence of India and its resultant partition generated a particular group of migrants known as refugees who crossed the border and started to settle in a new country. The undivided Bengal was fragmented into two nations based on the religion in which Hindu minorities from East Pakistan and Muslim minorities from West Bengal changed their residential location to West Bengal and East Pakistan respectively. After arriving in West Bengal these refugees spread all over the state either according to their choices or the government helped them to settle.

## **3.2 Methodology**

Methodology refers to a general research strategy in which a research project is to be incorporated and identifies the method to be applied to it (Igwenagu, 2016). Methodology pays more attention to the procedures which may be used to attain objectives (Howell, 2013). It includes the theoretical analysis of the methods and principles linked with branches of information. There are several concepts such as theoretical models, paradigms, phases and quantitative and qualitative techniques incorporated into the methodology (Igwenagu, 2016).

### **3.2.1 Data Sources**

This study is based on secondary sources. Many published and archival reports such as International migration reports, pre-partition and post-partition census reports, government officials' reports, newspaper articles, published books and papers are used to gather information regarding the immigration pattern.

### **3.2.2 Data Analysis**

Quantitative data are used in this study. After collecting the data from the published documents, representation is done with the help of GIS software and Microsoft Excel. Google Earth is also used to detect the location of any place. After digitization of any places in the Google Earth, GIS software is used for representation. Several graphs, tables and maps are also used to denote the outcome of the study.

# **Chapter 4 - World Migration Pattern**



# World Migration

Evidence on mobility and migration reflect that migration is related to global socio-economic, technological, and political transformation, affecting a broader range of political issue (Castles, 2016; Goldin et al. 2011; Koser, 2016; Triandafylidou, 2018). With the processes of globalization, these transforms influence the daily routine of people as well as their social and spiritual lives (World Migration Report (WMR) 2020). Migration leads to an increase in the number of people in a particular place which also increase to access the information, goods, and services in that place.

The movement of people between two regions is common in nature and it occurs due to social, economic, political, and technological factors. Some commentators arises questions related to the solidity of the political orders which includes alliances and common interests after the two World Wars (Ikenberry, 2018; Stone, 2016).

As per World Migration Report, global historic changes are observed in the last two years (IOM, 2017) when the members of the United States came together and finalise two global compacts of international migration. These are the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and Global Compact on Refugees. It takes long decades to finalize the compacts by States, International Organizations, Private organizations, etc. to improve the migration at the global level (United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), 2016; WMR, 2020). Several major migrations and displacements occur between 2018 and 2019 across the world due to conflicts, violence, economic and political instability, etc. Displacement within and from Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo are occurred due to conflicts; extreme violence forced Rohingya to shelter; millions of Venezuelans face severe political and economic instability. Human mobility is also impacted by environmental and climate change which generates planned migration and displacement. The year 2018 and 2019 witnessed large-scale displacements in China, India, the Philippines, the United States of America, etc. due to weather and climatic factors (WMR, 2020).

## 4.1 Recent Trends of International Migration

The global displacement pattern is changing over time. As per World Migration Report 2020, there were 272 million estimated international migrants in 2019 among them two-thirds were labour migrants (UN DESA, 2019a; ILO, 2018; WMR, 2020). The number of international migrants is increased in 2020 and the estimated number is recorded as 280 million which is 3.5 per cent of the world's population (UN DESA, 2020). Though the estimated numbers are very small compared to the total global population, it plays a major role in the global economy. It also reflects that around 96 per cent of people in the world reside in their country of origin. However, the proportion of international migrants and their estimation surpasses the projection for the year 2050 which reflects the estimated international migrants as 230 million or 2.6 per cent of the total global population (IOM, 2003).

Long-term data on international migration reflects that migration is not uniform across the world rather several factors are responsible for its varying nature, such as economic, social, demographic, geographic and other factors. These are also shaping a distinct migration pattern such as 'corridor' which tends to be from developing countries to larger economic areas such as the United States, France, The United Arab Emirates, The Russian Federation, etc. (UN DESA, 2019b).

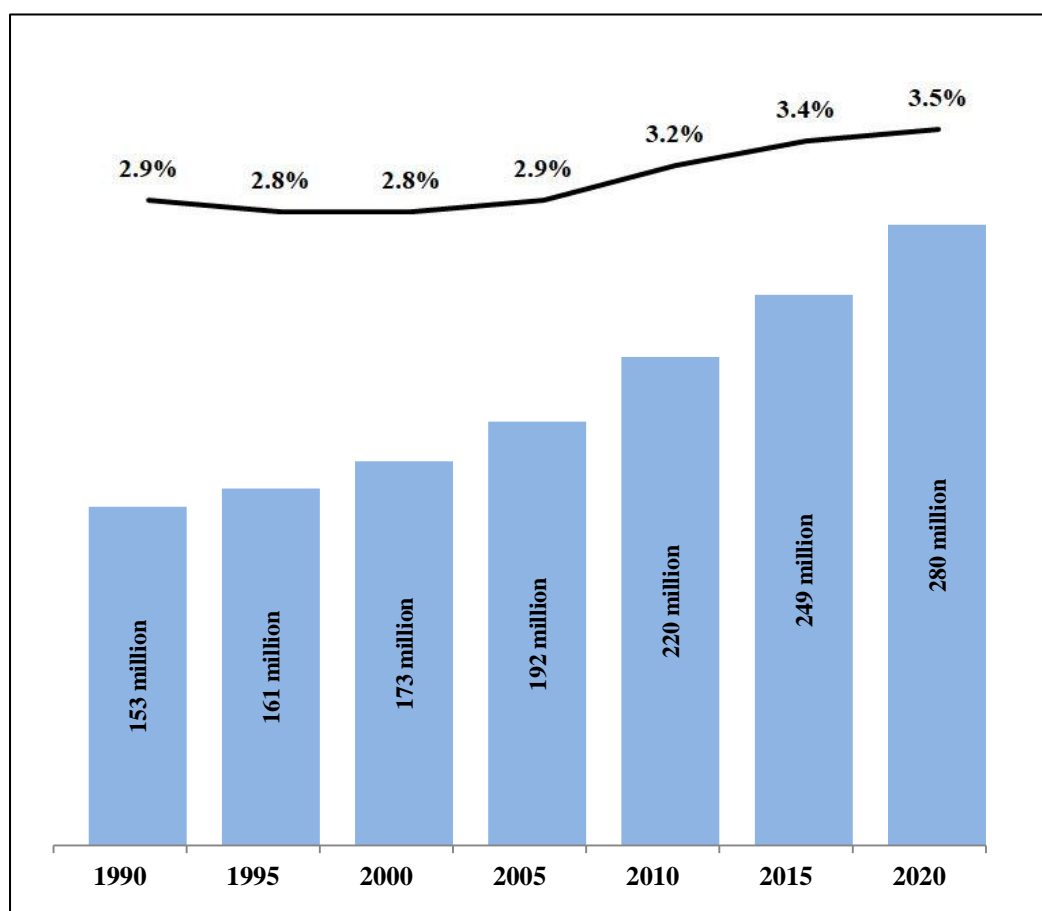
Several organisations compiled the statistical data and trends of global migration and make a bigger picture of migration. These are the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR), The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Internal Displaced Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank (UN DESA, 2020).

The number of international migrants is increased over the past seven decades. The following table shows the estimated numbers of international migrants and their proportions to the total population.

**Table 4.1 Estimated International Migrants and World's Population, 1970-2020**

Column 1 Year	Column 2 Number of Migrants	Column 3 Total Population	Percentage of Migrants to the world's Population
1970	84460125	3700437046	2.3
1975	90368010	4079480606	2.2
1980	101,983149	4458003514	2.3
1985	113206691	4870921740	2.3
1990	153011473	5327231061	2.9
1995	161316895	5744212979	2.8
2000	173588441	6143493823	2.8
2005	191615574	6541907027	2.9
2010	220781909	6956823603	3.2
2015	248861296	7379797139	3.4
2020	280598105	7794798739	3.5

Source: Column 2: UN DESA, 2008, 2019a, 2019b, WMR, 2020, Column 3: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>



**Figure 4.1 Changes of International Migrants from 1990-2020**

## World Migration

The above Line diagram represents the proportion of international migrants to the world population and the Bar diagram shows the estimated numbers of international migrants from 1990 to 2020. The above diagrams (Figure 4.1) conclude that though the numbers of international migrants have increased over time, as a proportion of the global population, they remain relatively stable.

**Table 4.2 Estimated Numbers of International Migrants by Major Regions of Residence, 1990 to 2020**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Asia</b>	48209949	49066986	66123640	85618502
<b>Africa</b>	15689666	15051677	17806677	25389464
<b>Europe</b>	49608225	56858793	70627160	86706068
<b>LatinAmerica &amp; the Carribbean</b>	7135971	6539738	8326588	14794623
<b>NorthernAmerica</b>	27610408	40351710	50970524	58708795
<b>Oceania</b>	4731938	5361681	7128598	9380653
<b>World</b>	152988147	173232585	220985197	280600125

Source: UN DESA, 2020

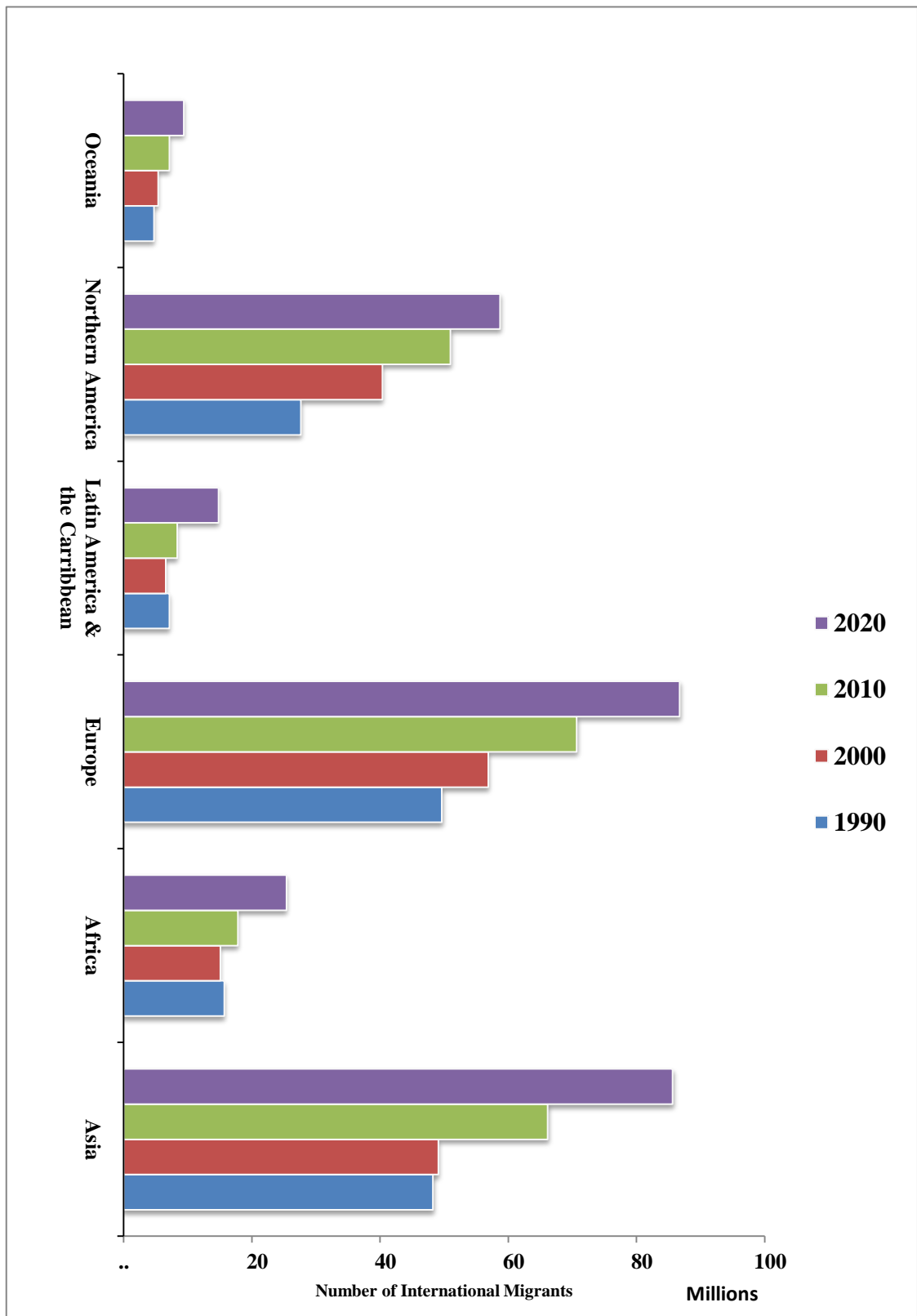


Figure 4.2 International Migrants by Major Regions of Residence, 1990 to 2020 (millions)

## World Migration

The number of international migrants has increased in the last three decades and maximum numbers of migrants choose Asia and Europe as their destinations. In 1990, around 48 million and 50 million migrants entered Asia and Europe respectively which comprised 64 per cent of combined global migration (Figure 4.2). A similar trend is also observed in 2020 in which Asia and Europe hosted around 86 million and 87 million international migrants respectively (Figure 4.2). It is also denoted 61 per cent of the combined global international migration. It is observed that from 1990 to 2020 the combined number of international migrants who entered Asia and Europe is reduced from 66 per cent to 61 per cent as the migrants shifted their choice of destination to another region. In 1990 around 27 million international migrants entered Northern America, comprising 18 per cent of the total world migration. It increased to 59 million international migrants or 20 per cent of the total world migration in 2020. These regions are also followed by Africa containing 9 per cent, Latin America and the Caribbean at 5 per cent and Oceania with 3 per cent of the global international migration in 2020.

**Table 4.3 International Migrants and Total Population by Major Regions of Residence, 2020**

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Total Populations (2020)</b>	<b>Total International Migrants (2020)</b>	<b>Percentage of Migrants to the Total Populations</b>
<b>Asia</b>	4623454000	85618502	1.85182
<b>Africa</b>	1352622000	25389464	1.87705
<b>Europe</b>	743390000	86706068	11.66360
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	664474000	14794623	2.22651
<b>Northern America</b>	369159000	58708795	15.90338
<b>Oceania</b>	42384000	9380653	22.13253

Source: UN DESA, 2020

Based on the population size in each region, the maximum number of international migrants arrived in Oceania in 2020. It comprised around 42 million populations in 2020 of which 9 million or 22 per cent were international migrants. It is also followed by North America and Europe which absorbed 16 per cent and 12 per cent of their total populations respectively. Though maximum numbers of international migrants

## World Migration

chose Asia as their destination but according to the population size of Asia, the contribution of international migrants is very low (Table 4.3).

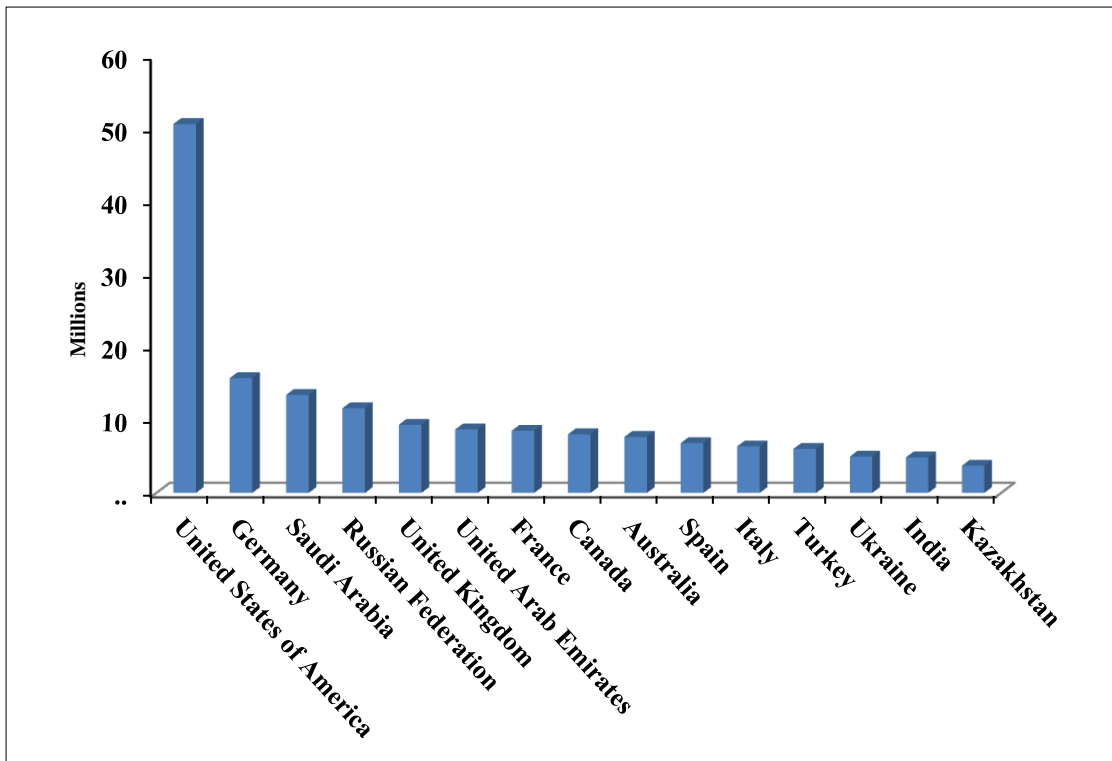
Since 1970, the United States of America has been the first choice of international migrants for their destination (UN DESA, 2008; 2019a, WMR, 2020). Since then, the number of international migrants residing in the country is increased and it reached from 12 million in 1970 to close to 51 million in 2020 which is four times larger. Germany is the second top destination for international migrants since 1970 and it also increased over time. In 2000 the number of international migrants, residing in Germany was 8.9 million (WMR, 2020) and it reached more than 15 million in 2020. Saudi Arabia secured the third position as the destination of international migrants which absorbs more than 13 million emigrants in 2020. The following table 4.4 represents the top fifteen destination countries of foreign-born people in 2020.

**Table 4.4 Top 15 Destination Countries of International Migrants, 2020**

<b>Serial No.</b>	<b>Destination Countries (2020)</b>	<b>Number of International Migrants (2020)</b>
<b>1</b>	United States of America	50632836
<b>2</b>	Germany	15762457
<b>3</b>	Saudi Arabia	13454842
<b>4</b>	Russian Federation	11636911
<b>5</b>	United Kingdom	9359587
<b>6</b>	United Arab Emirates	8716332
<b>7</b>	France	8524876
<b>8</b>	Canada	8049323
<b>9</b>	Australia	7685860
<b>10</b>	Spain	6842202
<b>11</b>	Italy	6386998
<b>12</b>	Turkey	6052652
<b>13</b>	Ukraine	4997387
<b>14</b>	India	4878704
<b>15</b>	Kazakhstan	3732073

Source: UN DESA, 2020





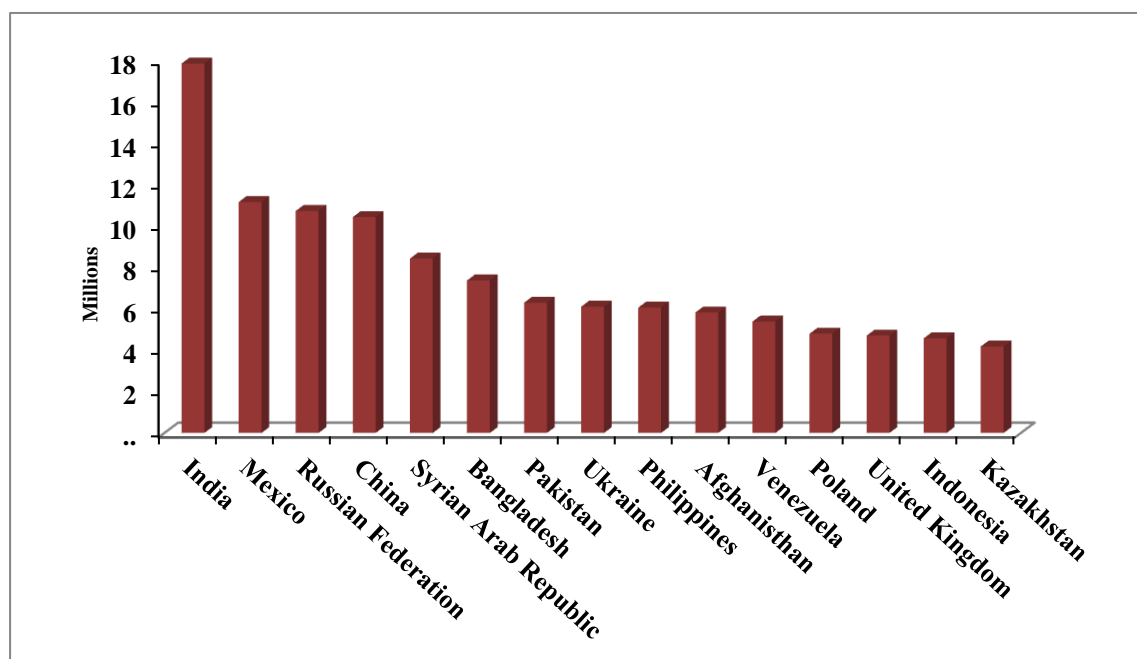
**Figure 4.3 Top 15 Destination Countries of International Migrants, 2020**

There are several factors which determine the migrants to leave their motherland and cross the international border and settle in a new country. Maximum numbers of international migrants originate from developing countries and choose to settle in any developed region like the United States of America or Germany. In 2020 more than 40 per cent or 114 million international migrants were originated from Asia and the majority of them born in India (more than 17 million). It is followed by Mexico (11 million), Russian Federation (10.75 million), China (10.4 million), etc. The following table 4.5 represents the top 15 origin countries of international migrants in 2020.

**Table 4.5 Top 15 Origin Countries of International Migrants, 2020**

Serial No.	Origin Countries (2020)	Number of International Migrants (2020)
1	India	17869492
2	Mexico	11185737
3	Russian Federation	10756697
4	China	10461170
5	Syrian Arab Republic	8457214
6	Bangladesh	7401763
7	Pakistan	6328400
8	Ukraine	6139144
9	Philippines	6094307
10	Afghanistan	5853838
11	Venezuela	5415337
12	Poland	4825096
13	United Kingdom	4732510
14	Indonesia	4601369
15	Kazakhstan	4203899

Source: UN DESA, 2020



**Figure 4.4 Top 15 Origin Countries of International Migrants, 2020**

# World Migration

There are two main global data sources on international migration, derived from national statistics. One of them is the International Migration Flow Dataset of UN DESA and another is OECD's Migration Database. Since 2000, OECD data on global migration has been collected (WMR, 2020).

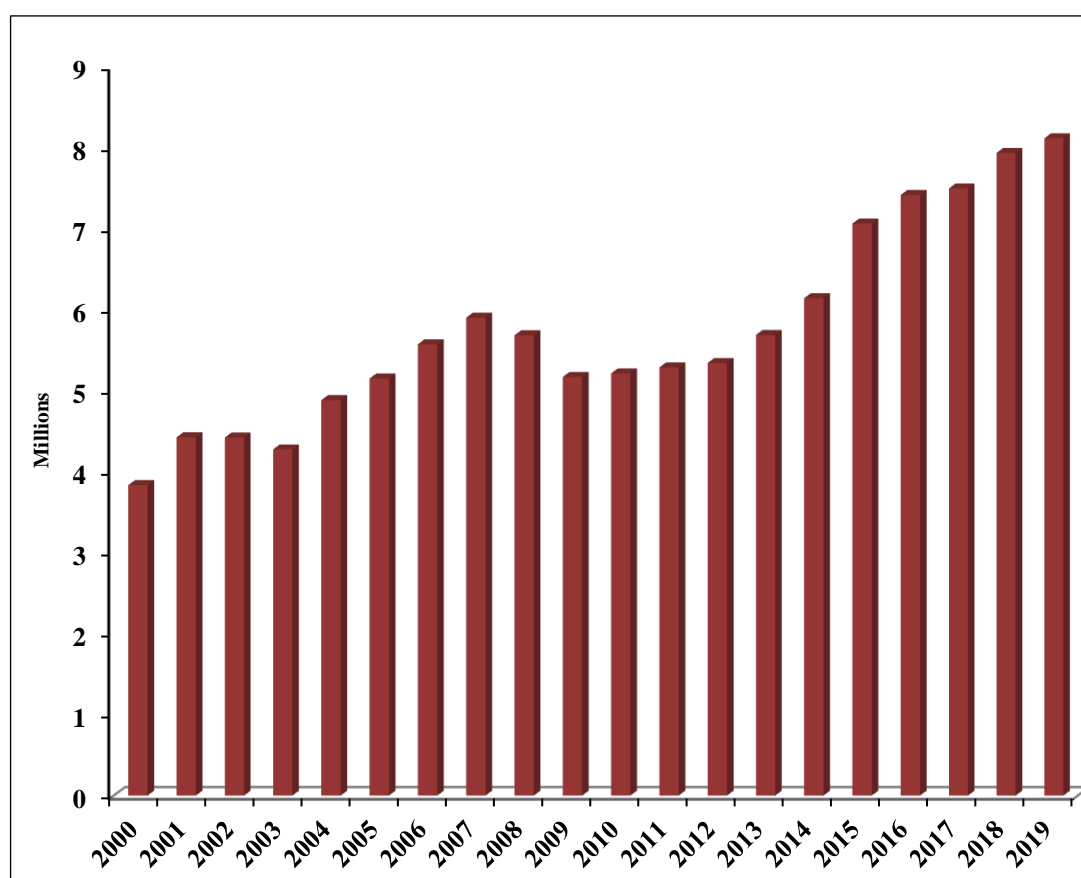
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a global organisation that constructs policies for better lives. It aims to shape the policies that encourage equality, opportunity, prosperity and well-being. This organisation is also working with the government, policymakers and citizens and tries to find out the solutions to different kinds of socio-economic and environmental challenges (oecd.org). There are 38 countries under the OECD such as- Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries are working together with other countries outside of OECD. Apart from that, various worldwide organisations and stakeholders are functioning with OECD (WMR, 2020).

OECD has been started to collect the data on migration flow since 2000 and allows represents trend analysis. There are 4 types of migration data under OECD; Stock of foreign-born population by birth, Stock of foreign nationals by birth, Inflows of foreign nationals, and Outflows of foreign nationals (OECD.STAT). The following table 4.6 and figure 4.5 show the inflows of foreign nationals into OECD countries between 2000 and 2019.

**Table 4.6 Inflows of Foreign Nationals into OECD Countries, 2000-2019 (millions)**

Year	Number of International Migrants	Year	Number of International Migrants
2000	3849351	2010	5223946
2001	4437245	2011	5297260
2002	4434207	2012	5352643
2003	4289172	2013	5698099
2004	4895369	2014	6150441
2005	5162377	2015	7068955
2006	5582512	2016	7420967
2007	5910616	2017	7499778
2008	5693061	2018	7938364
2009	5181240	2019	8117024

Source: OECD. STAD



**Figure 4.5 Inflows of Foreign Nationals into OECD Countries, 2000-2019 (millions)**

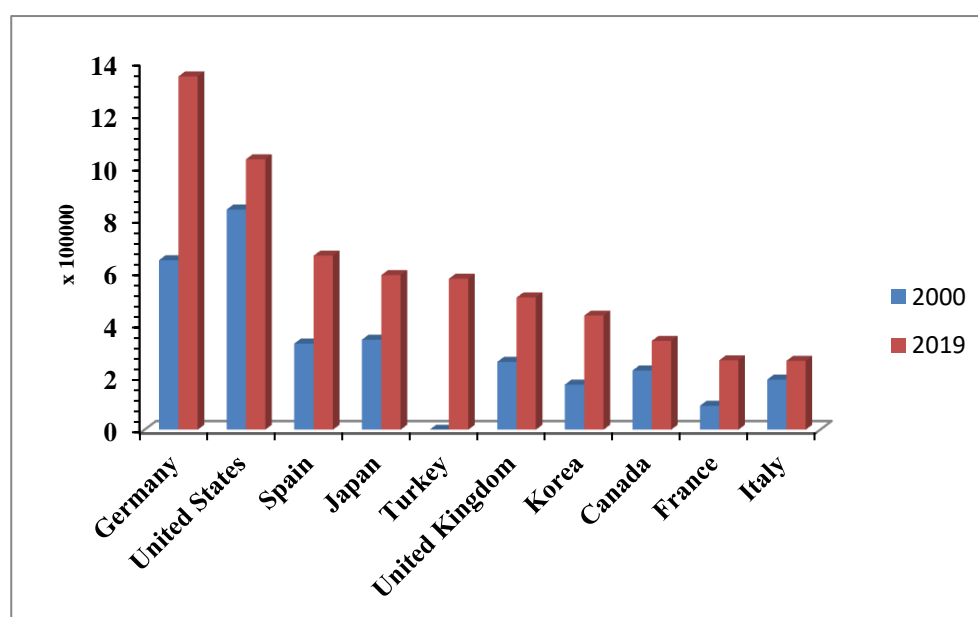
## World Migration

The estimates advise that migration inflows into OECD countries are fluctuating over the years. There are 3.84 million foreign nationals in 2000 which increased to 8.11 million in 2019 (Table 4.6, Figure 4.5). The trend of rising inflows occurs from 2001 to 2007 which indicates numbers of migrants are 4.43 million to 5.91 million respectively. In 2008 and 2009 the inflows of foreign nationals decrease to 5.69 and 5.18 million individually. After that, the inflows of migration into OECD countries increased and reached 8.1 million in 2019.

**Table 4.7 Top 10 OECD Destination Countries of Foreign National, 2000 and 2019**

	<b>In-Migrants (2000)</b>	<b>OECD Countries</b>	<b>In-Migrants (2019)</b>
<b>United States</b>	841002	<b>Germany</b>	1345943
<b>Germany</b>	648846	<b>United States</b>	1031765
<b>Japan</b>	345779	<b>Spain</b>	666022
<b>Spain</b>	330881	<b>Japan</b>	591961
<b>United Kingdom</b>	260424	<b>Turkey</b>	578488
<b>Canada</b>	227455	<b>United Kingdom</b>	507000
<b>Italy</b>	192557	<b>Korea</b>	438220
<b>Korea</b>	173071	<b>Canada</b>	341173
<b>Australia</b>	107148	<b>France</b>	266341
<b>France</b>	91875	<b>Italy</b>	264571

Source: OECD.STAD



**Figure 4.6 Top 10 OECD Destination Countries of Foreign National, 2000 and 2019**

Source: OECD.STAD

## World Migration

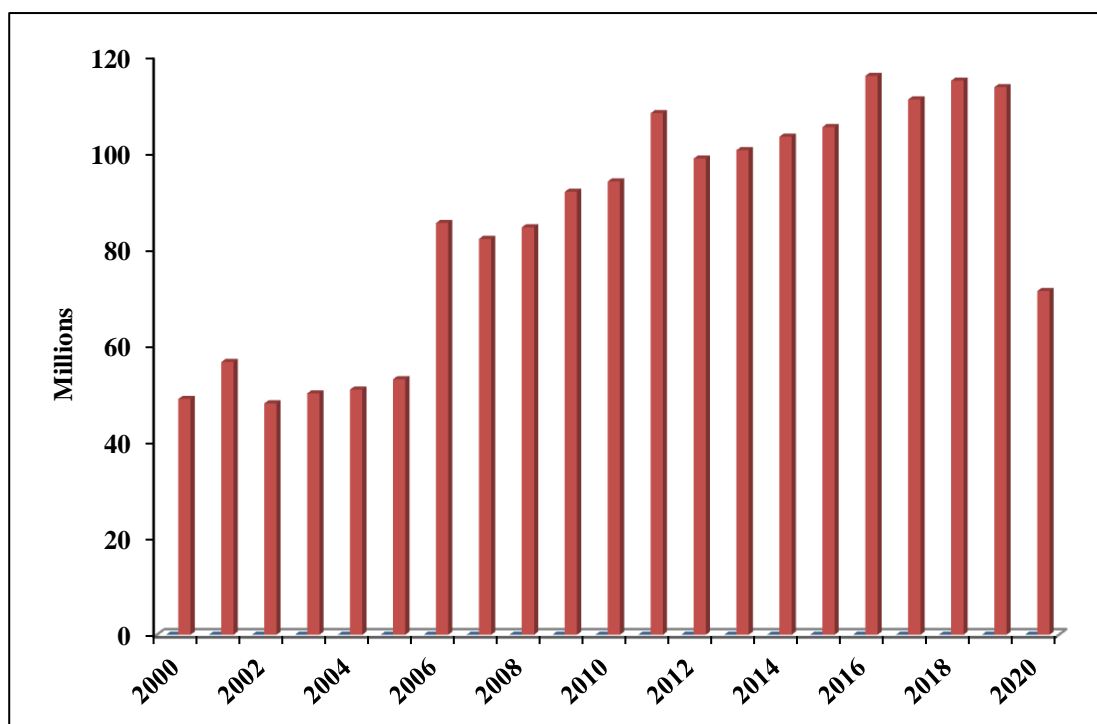
Germany is the main OECD destination country in 2019 which incorporates 13.4 lakh foreign nationals. It follows by the United States and Spain with 10 lakh and 6.7 lakh respectively (Table 4.7). In 2015 Germany absorbed around 20 lakh migrants which also decreased over the year (OECD STAT.). The United States was the major destination country for the migrants in 2000 (8.4 lakh) and maintained its position till 2012 after Germany secured the leading position and continued till 2019 (OECD.STAT).

The OECD also categorised international migration based on birth. This indicator is named 'Stock of Foreign-born Population by Country of Birth' which indicates the size of immigrant populations and is measured by the number of persons. Based on the country, the data are collected through statistical surveys, registers, censuses and residence permits (OECD.STATS). The following table 4.8 reflects the stock of the foreign-born population by birth from 2000 to 2020.

**Table 4.8 Stock of Foreign-Born Population by Country of Birth from 2000-2020**

Year	Number of International Migrants	Year	Number of International Migrants
2000	48871078	2011	108191671
2001	56542554	2012	98752266
2002	47950090	2013	100520970
2003	50030566	2014	103295940
2004	50839792	2015	105311028
2005	52973610	2016	115933615
2006	85380427	2017	111039786
2007	82083935	2018	114954771
2008	84513499	2019	113580580
2009	91876273	2020	71280571
2010	94012794		

Source: OECD.STAD



**Figure 4.7 Stock of Foreign-Born Population by Country of Birth**

## World Migration

The estimated values of the foreign-born population suggest that since 2000 migration of the international population is increased worldwide and it reached 113 million in 2019 from 48 million in 2000 (Table 4.8). But the trend of the foreign-born population is also inconsistent over the year. The stock of foreign-born population is increasing till 2011 and reached 108 million in 2011 except in 2002 when the number of immigrants dropped to 47 million from 56 million in 2001. The number of foreign-born migrants who entered OECD countries is reduced to 98 million in 2012 and it reached a peak in 2015 with 116 million international immigrants. The number of the foreign-born population is suddenly dropped by 71 million in 2020.

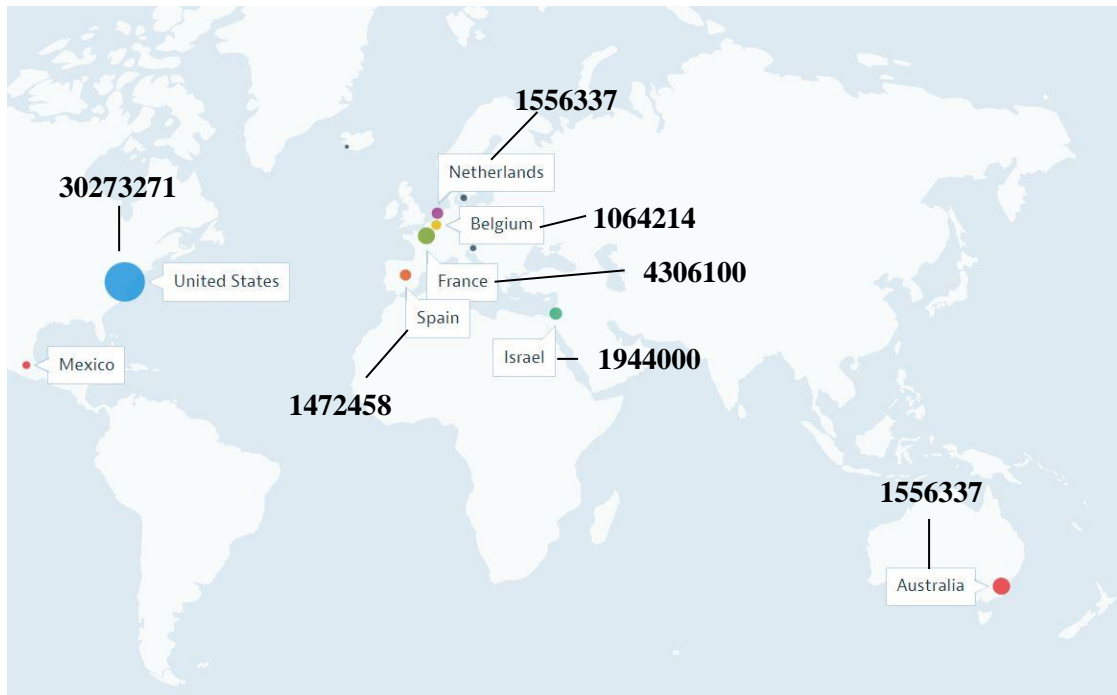
**Table 4.9 Top 10 Foreign-Born Populations by Country of Birth by 2000 and 2020**

<b>OECD Countries</b>	<b>Foreign Born Population (2000)</b>	<b>OECD Countries</b>	<b>Foreign Born Population (2020)</b>
<b>United States</b>	30273271	<b>Germany</b>	13682000
<b>Australia</b>	4412170	<b>United Kingdom</b>	9152000
<b>France</b>	4306100	<b>France</b>	8521829
<b>Israel</b>	1944000	<b>Australia</b>	7653180
<b>Netherlands</b>	1556337	<b>Spain</b>	6996825
<b>Spain</b>	1472458	<b>Italy</b>	6161391
<b>Belgium</b>	1064214	<b>Switzerland</b>	2590039
<b>Sweden</b>	981633	<b>Netherlands</b>	2399808
<b>Austria</b>	872000	<b>Belgium</b>	2056415
<b>Mexico</b>	492617	<b>Sweden</b>	2019733

Source: OECD.STAD

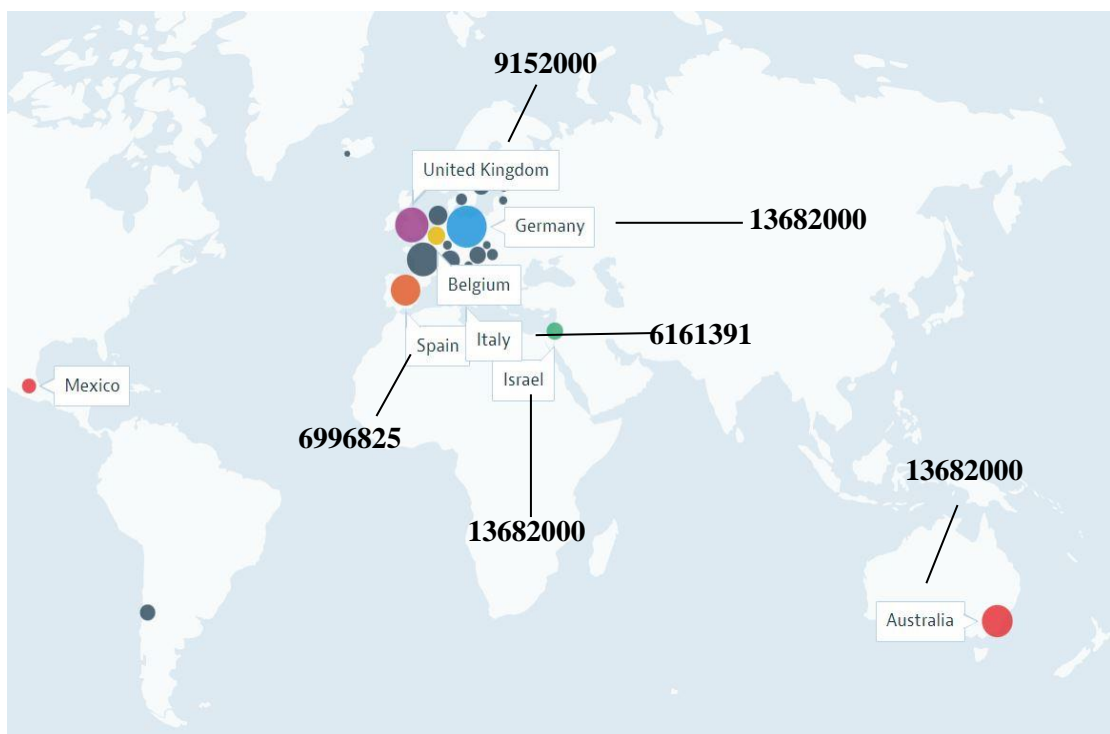
The above table 4.9 represents the number of foreign-born migrants by country of birth and their journey to OECD countries. The United States was the leading country in the world, absorbing the maximum number of foreign-born migrants in 2000. It retains its position till 2019 which reflects around 44 million immigrants which were the highest around the world. Germany secures the leading position as a destination country for immigrants in 2020 which denote more than 13 million migrants. It is followed by the United Kingdom and France with 9.1 million and 8.5 million foreign-born migrants respectively.





**Figure 4.8 Stock of Foreign-Born Populations by Country of Birth by 2000**

Source: OECD.STAD



**Figure 4.9 Stocks of Foreign-Born Populations by Country of Birth by 2020**

Source: OECD.STAD

## **4.2 Global Overview of Internal Displacement**

As per the Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement, IDPs or Internally Displaced Persons refers to persons or groups of persons who have been forced to move or obliged to flee from their country of origin. It occurs to avoid the effect of violence, conflicts, violation of human rights and natural and man-made disasters. This group of migrants confined their movement within an internationally recognised border (The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)). According to UNHCR, IDPs are not crossing a border to find their safety like refugees; they are simply on the run at home. IDPs stay within their country of residence under the protection of the government, even if they face any issues from that government which force them to displace (UNHCR).

### **4.2.1 Institutional History of Internal Displacement**

Since the early 1990s, Internal Displacement was positioned on the international agenda and recognised as a global concern. At that point, there was neither any clear definition nor any frameworks of internal displacement which helped the states and humanitarian actors. Later on, several Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement were generated which allowed some important developments in regional and international policy discussions. The following key documents are linked to internal displacement ([Internal-displacement.org](http://Internal-displacement.org)).

**4.2.1.1 Addressing Internal Displacement:** A framework for national responsibility: Brookings-Bern Project developed this document on internal displacement in 2005 to provide necessary steps to address the problem of internal displacement. It also set a benchmark for the government and specifies that there is a response from national authorities that should identify all reasons for internal displacement and incorporate all groups of IDPs. It also addresses all kinds of needs which is required during all phases of displacement and as well as in all affected areas. Central and State government should be involved to make any decisions ([Internal-displacement.org](http://Internal-displacement.org)).

**4.2.1.2 The Great Lakes IDP Protocol:** The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) adopted a protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Person in 2006. Several pacts and protocols were introduced to protect the IDPs; among them ‘Pact on Security, Stability and Development’ was the first instrument which united the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into

global laws. There are 11 member states of ICGLR, and as per their commitments, the protocols started to work in 2008 (Internal-displacement.org).

#### **4.2.1.3 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons:**

Based on feedback from the pilot version of 2007, IASC endorsed a new version of the framework in 2010. This framework introduced three solutions through which the solution to internal displacement may be attained; these are the sustainable return of IDPs to their place of residence, incorporation in their displaced location and stresses that the solutions should be voluntary and take place with safety and dignity (Internal-displacement.org).

**4.2.1.4 The Kampala Convention:** It was the world's first regional instrument which legally allowed the government to provide protection and well-being for those who were forced to escape within their home country due to violence, conflicts, human rights abuses and natural and man-made disaster. This convention came into force on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (Internal-displacement.org).

#### **4.2.2 Trends and Changes of Worldwide Internal Displacement between 2003 and 2021**

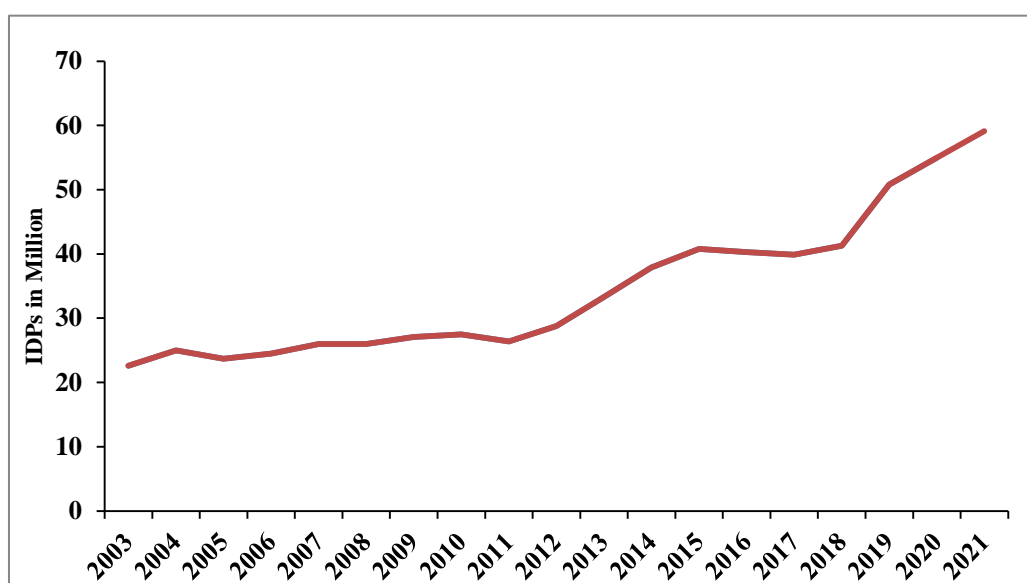
The movement of people within their country of origin is common and it is documented by the Internally Displaced Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Unlike refugees, these internally displaced people do not cross the recognised international border and in some cases, despite facing difficulties from their government they try to settle in their own country. In this case, they relocate from their place of residence but confined themselves within a country. Their displacement occurs due to socio-economic, political and environmental factors.

IDMC has published global internal displacement data based on conflicts and generalised violence as well as displacement due to natural hazards-induced disasters. The data on conflicts and violence and natural disaster were collected from 1998 and 2008 respectively (IDMC Global Internal Displacement Dataset, 22 February 2022). Based on the available information the following table represents the global internal displacement of people due to conflicts, generalised violence and natural disaster.

**Table 4.10 Total Numbers of IDPs Worldwide at Year-End (2003-2021)**

Year	Total No. of IDP (in million)	Year	Total No. of IDP (in million)
2003	22.6	2013	33.3
2004	25.0	2014	37.9
2005	23.7	2015	40.5
2006	24.5	2016	40.3
2007	26.0	2017	39.9
2008	26.0	2018	41.3
2009	27.1	2019	50.8
2010	27.5	2020	55.0
2011	26.4	2021	59.1
2012	28.8		

Source: Internal Displacement-Global Overview of Trend and Development, 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007; 2008; Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020; 2021; 2022



**Figure 4.10 Trends of IDPs Worldwide between 2003 and 2021**

Source: Internal Displacement-Global Overview of Trend and Development, 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007; 2008; Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020; 2021; 2022

The available estimated data suggests that between 2003 and 2021 the number of internally displaced is increasing from more than 22 million to 59 million. This rising trend simply indicates that internal migrants increase over time. In 2003 the global internal displacement affected 52 countries of the world across all continents. At that

## World Migration

time more than 3 million individuals were newly displaced and the majority of them were from Africa due to the civil disturbances and inter-communal conflicts. At the same time, 3 million displaced people were also able to return to their country of origin and it mainly occurred in Angola and Indonesia with 1.9 million and 0.5 million returnees respectively (Global Overview of Trend and Development, 2003).

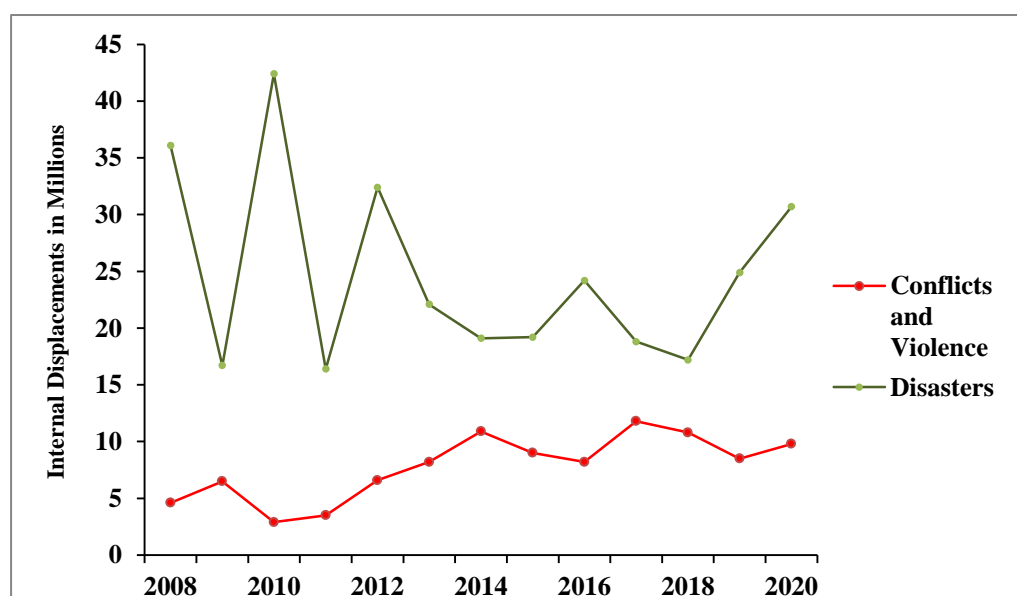
In 2005, around 23.7 million people were displaced internally worldwide which also reflects some lower values than the previous year (In 2004 it was 25 million) (Global Overview of Trend and Development, 2004). It occurs as 3.8 million people were able to return to their country which exceeds the newly displacement which records 2.1 million migrants. It is also stated that this year is quite significant for the IDPs when the estimated number of internally displaced people went down to 23.7 million. The global IDP figure had risen dramatically since the second half of the 1990s century and it reached 25 million in 2001 (Global Overview of Trend and Development, 2004). This displacement affected 50 countries in the world and most of them were displaced from Africa which indicated around 12 million IDPs. Major new displacement occurred from Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Columbia etc. and the majority of returnees were from Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia, etc. (Global Overview of Trend and Development, 2004).

The estimated number of global IDPs is increased over time and in 2021 the numbers are reached more than 59 million. Most of the estimated values (Table 4.10) represent that displacement occurs due to conflicts and violence (GRID, 2022). In 2020, the estimated values (of 55 million) represent the displacement due to political conflicts, violence and as well as natural disasters in which 48 million people were fleeing from conflicts and violence and the remaining 7 million people were displaced due to natural disasters (GRID, 2021). The estimated values of 2021 also represent the displacement due to political violence and natural disaster in which 53.2 million people were internally displaced as a result of conflicts and violence and 5.9 million people were displaced due to natural disasters. Displacement occurs due to conflicts and violence as well as natural disasters that affected 59 and 84 countries and territories of the world respectively. Most of the conflicts and violence-related IDPs were from Syria, DRC, Afghanistan, and Yemen and disaster-related IDPs originated from Afghanistan, China and the Philippines (GRID, 2022).

**Table 4.11 Internal Displacement by Conflicts, Violence and Natural Disasters Worldwide (2008-2021) in millions**

Year	Conflicts and Violence	Disasters	Total
2008	4.6	36.1	40.7
2009	6.5	16.7	23.2
2010	2.9	42.4	45.3
2011	3.5	16.4	19.9
2012	6.6	32.4	39.0
2013	8.2	22.1	30.3
2014	10.9	19.1	30.0
2015	9.0	19.2	28.2
2016	8.2	24.2	31.1
2017	11.8	18.8	30.6
2018	10.8	17.2	28.0
2019	8.5	24.9	33.4
2020	9.8	30.7	40.5
2021	14.4	23.5	37.9

Source: Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022



**Figure 4.11 Internal Displacement by Conflicts, Violence and Natural Disasters Worldwide (2008 - 2021)**

Source: Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID), 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022

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Since 2008 Internal Displaced Monitoring Centres (IDMC) started to categorise the internally displaced data into two parts; displacement due to conflict and generalised violence and Disaster induced displacement. Before that it was assumed that displacement within a country mainly occurred due to political conflicts and generalised violence; natural disasters or environmental displacement did not consider an important aspect of human migration.

The estimated values (Table 4.11 and Figure 4.11) reflect a year-wise displacement pattern due to conflicts and natural disasters from 2008 to 2021. The figure also reflects that environmental factors play a major role in human displacement in which the majority of the internal migration occurred due to weather and climate-related hazards and disasters. In 2008 more than 40 million were internally displaced among them 89 per cent were flown from natural disasters (GRID, 2019). A similar trend is observed in the following years in which disaster-induced displacement exceeds the conflicts and violence-related displacements. An estimated 32.4 million people were newly displaced by rapid onset disasters of floods, earthquakes, storms, etc. in 2012 which was confined to 82 countries of the world. The estimated values also reflect that more than 144 million people were forced to displace from 2008 to 2012 and it affected 125 countries. Among them, 3/4<sup>th</sup> of these countries also faced multiple disaster-induced displacements over the years. In 2012, most disaster-induced displacements occurred in Asia, followed by Africa and Oceania. The two largest events happened in North-east India and Nigeria in 2012 which displaced 41 per cent of the total new displacement of the year (Global Estimates, 2012, IDMC).

In 2016, a total of 31.1 million people were displaced in 125 countries and territories. New internal displacement associated with violence and conflicts was recorded as 6.9 million and most of the movement occurred from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. The sudden onset of natural phenomena in 118 countries and territories was characterised by 24.2 million new displacements. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the new displacement related to natural disasters took place in the Pacific and East Asia which accounted for 16.4 million or 68 per cent of the global total. China secured a leading position in disaster-induced displacement which accounted for 7.4 million new IDPs, followed by Philippines and India with 5.9 and 2.4 million new migrants respectively (GRID, 2017).

## World Migration

In 2020 disasters and conflicts triggered 40.5 million new displacements across 149 countries and territories. There were 9.8 million total new internal displacements associated with conflicts and violence worldwide. The majority of them were generated by armed conflict and communal violence and accounted for 7.5 million and 694000 displaced respectively. The maximum number of IDPs associated with conflicts and violence originated from The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Syria and Ethiopia with 5.2 million, 6.6 million and 2 million people respectively. Displacement due to natural disasters triggered 30.7 million total new IDPs in 2020, the majority of them were the result of floods and tropical storms in East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. The maximum number of disaster-induced displacements occurred in China, Phillipines and Bangladesh with 5.1 million, 4.4 million and 4.4 million new migrants respectively (GRID, 2021).

Estimated numbers of 38 million internal displacement were recorded in 2021 across 141 countries and territories in which 14.4 million people were displaced due to conflicts and violence. The majority of the displacement associated with violence was triggered by armed conflicts with more than 12 million displacements. Ethiopia, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan registered large numbers of displacement associated with political conflicts. Disaster displacement recorded more than 23 million population worldwide in 2021 in which large numbers of displacement occurred from China, the Phillipines and India. More than 94 per cent of disaster displacement was associated with weather-related hazards like storms and floods. This figure was less than the previous years as the intensity of hurricanes in the Americas, and monsoon in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa were less severe than in the previous two years (GRID, 2022).

IDMC also registered the displacement data that occurred in the past 180 days of 2022. Among them, some of them are highlighted here. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) between 1 January, 2022 to 18 June 2022 Democratic Republic of Congo witnessed 7 million displacements due to armed conflict. It occurred in the eastern part of the country. Around 50 thousand were displaced between 6 and 11 June 2022 due to fighting in the West Darfur region of Sudan. A similar situation also forcefully displaced 55 thousand people in Mali in West Africa between 15 March and 17 June 2022. Local conflicts forcibly displaced more than 10 thousand people between 11 May 2022 and 31 May, 2022 in



Philippines. The natural disaster also displaced millions of people internally within the past 6 months. Heavy downpours between 1 June and 8 June 2022 evacuated more than 2.8 lakhs people in China. Between 1 June to 20 June heavy floods in Fujian and Guangdong of China evacuated more than 2 lakhs of people. A province of Indonesia witnessed the forced displacement of 20 thousand people due to the earthquake on 8 June 2022 (IDMC, 2022).

### **4.3 Global Trends of Refugees Status**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), refugees are considered as people or groups of people who have fled due to war, conflict, violence or persecution and have crossed an international boundary to find security in another country. This group of people left their country of origin with little belongings and left behind their homes, jobs, possessions and in some cases leave their loved ones. The 1951 Refugee Convention also defines refugees as a person who are unable or unwilling to back to their own country due to well-founded fear of torture or persecution for race, religion, political opinion, nationality or specific social groups. There were 25.7 million refugees across the world in 2017. Refugees are protected by international law which has many aspects. These incorporate the safety of refugees after returning from danger, their access to the efficient and fair asylum procedure, it ensures to provide basic human rights and secure long-term solutions (UNHCR). In 2019 UNHCR's mandate published the data on global refugees which denoted the number of refugees is 20.7 million. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established in 1949 to take care of Palestine's displaced people. According to UNRWA, there were 5.7 million registered Palestine refugees in 2019 (UNHCR).

UNHCR categorised the globally displaced people into several categories. The following table 4.12 represents the worldwide displacement pattern in 2021

**Table 4.12 Global Displaced People under UNHCR**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Refugees under UNHCR's mandate</b>	<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	<b>IDPs of concern to UNHCR</b>	<b>Palestine Refugees under UNRWA's Mandate</b>
1951	2116011	0	0	-
1952	1952928	0	0	867458
1953	1847304	0	0	874596
1954	1749628	0	0	895249
1955	1717966	0	0	912425
1956	1767975	0	0	924922
1957	1742514	0	0	967786
1958	1698310	0	0	1070783
1959	1674185	0	0	1103730
1960	1656664	0	0	1136487
1961	1789067	0	0	1161874
1962	1765622	0	0	1189573
1963	1682403	0	0	1228064
1964	3079949	0	0	1262649
1965	3531615	0	0	1300117
1966	3501013	0	0	1330077
1967	2356991	0	0	1213764
1968	2463736	0	0	1375915
1969	2531177	0	0	1409659
1970	2464730	0	0	1445022
1971	3279710	0	0	1487096
1972	3251850	0	0	1523035
1973	2901335	0	0	1554979
1974	2994463	0	0	1596721
1975	3529434	0	0	1652436
1976	4270631	0	0	1684251
1977	4518659	0	0	1730520
1978	5065844	0	0	1778815
1979	6279912	0	0	1821933
1980	8454917	0	0	1863162
1981	9714297	0	0	1894841
1982	10319353	0	0	1941791
1983	10620784	0	0	1991957
1984	10728307	0	0	2067216
1985	11864046	0	0	2119862
1986	12633964	0	0	2172380
1987	13128334	0	0	2232622
1988	14347031	0	0	2301919
1989	14732885	0	0	2376167
1990	17395914	0	0	2466516
1991	16854762	0	0	2586273
1992	17838020	0	0	2727820
1993	16325299	743601	4198400	2913237

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Refugees under UNHCR's mandate</b>	<b>Asylum-seekers</b>	<b>IDPs of concern to UNHCR</b>	<b>Palestine Refugees under UNRWA's Mandate</b>
<b>1994</b>	15753494	644640	5322990	3093174
<b>1995</b>	14895916	986458	4286690	3246044
<b>1996</b>	13356861	977087	4853712	3368330
<b>1997</b>	12014967	1028200	4573112	3469109
<b>1998</b>	11480438	977800	5063880	3573382
<b>1999</b>	11686760	1027400	3968648	3677882
<b>2000</b>	12129079	947322	5998501	3806055
<b>2001</b>	12116301	943383	5096502	3926787
<b>2002</b>	10593526	1093121	4646641	4025694
<b>2003</b>	9592247	995567	4181701	4136449
<b>2004</b>	9572719	884285	5426539	4232510
<b>2005</b>	8661293	801119	6616791	4349946
<b>2006</b>	9876879	740253	12794268	4448429
<b>2007</b>	11390082	739958	13740317	4562820
<b>2008</b>	10488915	823931	14442227	4671811
<b>2009</b>	10395713	988030	15628057	4766670
<b>2010</b>	10548835	835969	14697804	4691079
<b>2011</b>	10403937	895691	15473378	4797723
<b>2012</b>	10497017	941497	17670368	4919917
<b>2013</b>	11698233	1162934	23925555	5030049
<b>2014</b>	14384289	1794704	32274619	5149742
<b>2015</b>	16110276	3223460	37494172	5241257
<b>2016</b>	17184286	2729521	36627127	5340443
<b>2017</b>	19940566	3089507	39118516	5442947
<b>2018</b>	20359553	3501629	41425168	5545540
<b>2019</b>	20414669	4148141	43503362	5629829
<b>2020</b>	20661846	4184926	48557439	5703521
<b>2021</b>	21326909	4623253	51322623	5792907

**Source: UNHCR**

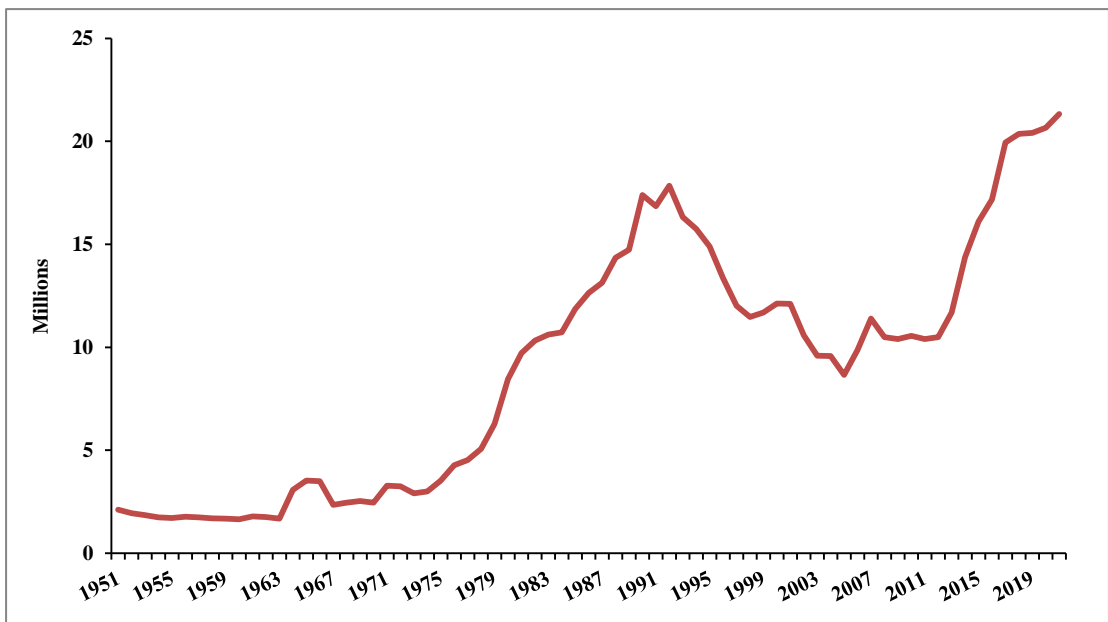


Figure 4.12 Refugees under UNHCR's mandate between 1951 and 2021

Source: UNHCR

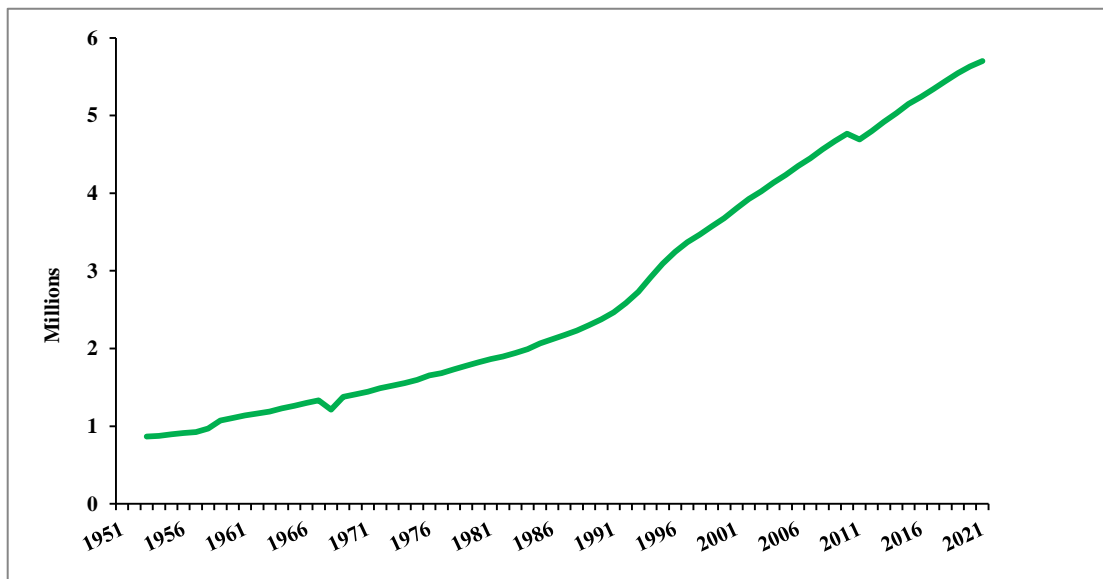


Figure 4.13 Palestine Refugees under UNRWA's Mandate between 1952 and 2021

Source: UNHCR

## World Migration

UNHCR started to register worldwide refugees in 1951 and enumerated more than 2.1 million refugees in 1951 which increased to more than 21 million in 2021 (Table 4.12). Figure 4.12 reflects the fluctuating trend of the refugee population between 1951 and 2021. From 1951 to 1960 the number of refugees slightly declined over the years. After a little increase in 1962, the number of refugees again declined to 1.6 million in 1963. Between 1964 and 1966 more than 3 million refugees registered worldwide. The number of refugees again started to increase from 1973 and continued until 1992 which registered from 2.9 million to 17 million respectively. Between 1993 and 2005 the number of refugees declined over time from 16 million to 8.6 million. After that, the number of refugees increased and in 2021 more than 21 million refugees stayed in the world.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) published its refugee data from 1952 and it registered more than 8.6 lakhs Palestine refugees. It increased over the year (Figure 4.13) and registered more than 57 lakhs in 2021.

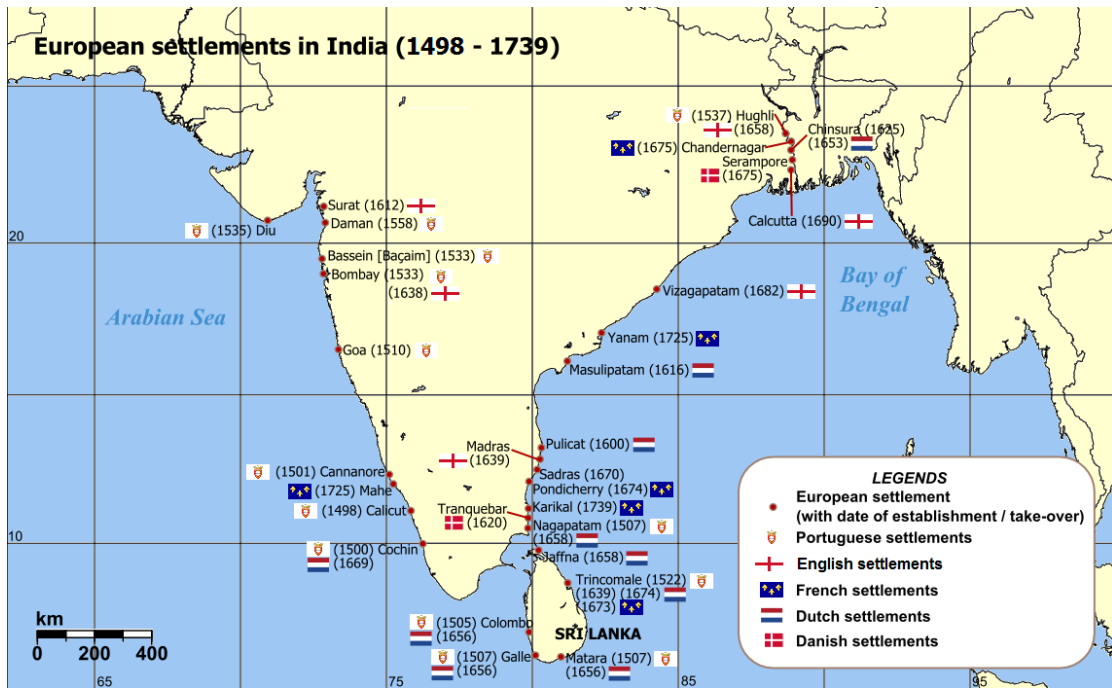
# **Chapter 5 - Immigration Pattern in India (Ancient to Present)**

# Immigration in India

Indian sub-continent is one of the popular destinations for migrants for centuries accounting for nearly 4.9 million foreign-born people in 2020. Globally it secures the 14<sup>th</sup> position as a destination country and accounts for 0.4 percent of its total population which registers as 1.4 billion (Singh, 9 March 2022, Origin of World's Largest Migrant Population, India Seeks to Leverage Immigration, Migration Policy Institute).

## 5.1 History of Migration in Indian Territory

As far back around 65000 years ago, the modern human entered India from Africa 4 Pre-historic migration, The Economic Times, 29 December 2018; Byravan, The Hindu, Early Indians' Review, 19 January 2019; Joesph, Hindustan Times, 7 September 2019) and they referred as First Indians. Presently around 50-60 percent of Indians belong to this group of people Pattanaik, The Economic Times, 2 May 2020). The next major group of migrants was agriculturists, who entered India from the Zagros regions around 9000-5000 years ago and they mainly concentrated in the north-western part of the Indian sub-continent. Around 2000 BC a group of farmers from China arrived in India after carrying Mundari and Khasi languages. They entered India through south-east Asia. The final and major migration occurred between 2000 BC and 1000 BC in India when migrants were coming from the Central Asian Steppe region and were known as Aryans (4 Pre-historic migration, The Economic Times, 29 December 2018,). It was documented that these Aryans settled in the Indian Territory which was invaded by the Dravidian people. After arriving in India these Aryans spread across the northern part of the Indian Territory where they either conquered the existing population or assimilated with them and introduced Vedic civilization (Singh, 9 March 2022, Origin of World's Largest Migrant Population, India Seeks to Leverage Immigration, Migration Policy Institute). Later on many travellers, scholars and emperors arrived in India for securing wealth, knowledge, and many other things. Alexander the Great, Muslim Sultans, Portuguese, Persians, Mughals, and finally British empire ruled India till independence.



**Figure 5.1 European Settlement in India (1498 -1739)**

Source: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/index.php?curid=353153>

## 5.2 Pre-Independence Immigration in India

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, British nationals entered India under the control of the East India Company. Other European also arrived for commercial trades and military purposes. Nearly 1.7 lakhs Europeans registered in India till 1901, among them around 61 thousand were soldiers. Many Europeans temporarily lived in India and return to their country after fulfilling their military duties and earning a sizeable amount of money (Singh, 9 March 2022, Origin of World’s Largest Migrant Population, India Seeks to Leverage Immigration, Migration Policy Institute). According to the British Census of 1851, there was around 80 thousand British population living in India which amounted to 111341 in 1861 (Marshall, 1990). The Census of India was available from 1871 which indicated that more than 1.14 lakhs Europeans lived in India (Table 5.1). Apart from Europeans migrants from other parts of the world were also enumerated in India. The following table 5.1 represents the numbers of migrants enumerated in India in 1871.



## Immigration in India

**Table 5.1 Migrant in India, 1871**

<b>Emigrants</b>	<b>Asian beyond India</b>	<b>European</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>African</b>	<b>Australasian</b>
<b>No. of Immigrants</b>	540989	114187	3190	3692	79

Source: Census of India, 1871

The Census of India enumerated the immigrants since the beginning of its formation in 1871. Between 1901 and 1931 the numbers of immigrants from different parts of the continents were registered in India (Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2 Immigrants in India (1901- 1931)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Other parts of Asia</b>			
	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>Japan</b>
<b>1901</b>	243037	115908	46831	353
<b>1911</b>	280241	91630	80282	1261
<b>1921</b>	273932	47835	108495	1867
<b>1931</b>	327028	81053	120745	2334

<b>Year</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Americas</b>	<b>Australia</b>
<b>1901</b>	8293	124583	2069	1513
<b>1911</b>	3767	129903	2750	1683
<b>1921</b>	4719	121064	3446	1266
<b>1931</b>	11408	118089	4455	646

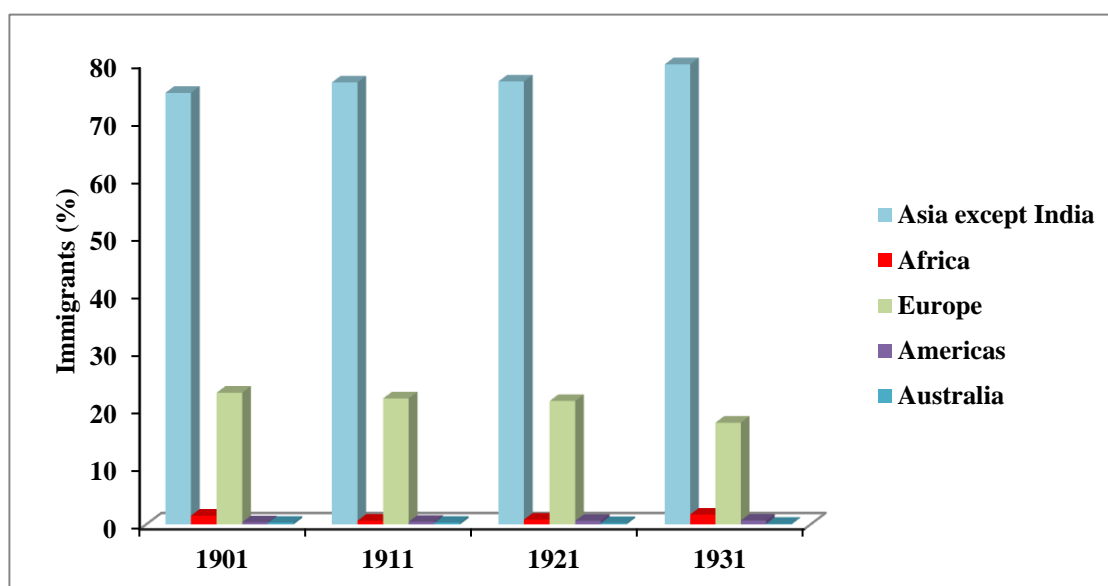
Source: Census of India, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931

More than 6.6 lakhs immigrants registered in India till 1931 and among them, some migrants either returned to their original place or some again displaced to different locations. More than 5.4 lakhs immigrants registered in India in 1901 and among them, the largest contribution was from Asia (Table 5.2, Figure 5.2). It accounts for more than 74 percent of total immigrants registered in 1901. The majority of Asian immigrants entered from Nepal and Afghanistan which contributed 60 percent and 29 percent of total emigrants from Asia respectively (Table 5.2). It was followed by

## Immigration in India

Europe with 23 percent of total 1901 immigrants and the remaining continents' contribution was very less around 2.19% of total 1901 immigrants in India (Figure 5.2).

In 1911 Census enumerated more than 5.9 lakhs migrants from outside India (Table 5.2). Large numbers of these migrants arrived from Asia with 77 percent of total immigrants in 1911 (Figure 5.2). Like the previous census, the immigrants from Asia were also contributed largely from Nepal and Afghanistan with 62 percent and 20 percent of total immigrants in 1911, though the number of immigrants from Afghanistan was reduced from 1901 (Table 5.2). The second major immigration occurred from Europe with 22 percent of total immigration in 1911. The remaining little less than 2 percent of immigrants arrived from other continents (Figure 5.2)



**Figure 5.2 Immigrants in India from 1901 and 1931**

Source: Census of India, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931

There were 5.6 lakhs migrants enumerated in India in 1921 which was slightly declined from the previous census (Table 5.2). Among these immigrants, 76.81 percent were registered from Asia outside India (Figure 5.2) in which Nepal and China contributed more than 63 percent and 25 percent of total Asiatic immigrants in 1921 (Table 5.2). The contribution of a European country was around 22 percent. The remaining 3 percent arrived from other continents. Table 5.2 also reflected that concerning the previous census 1911, the number of immigrants from Nepal,

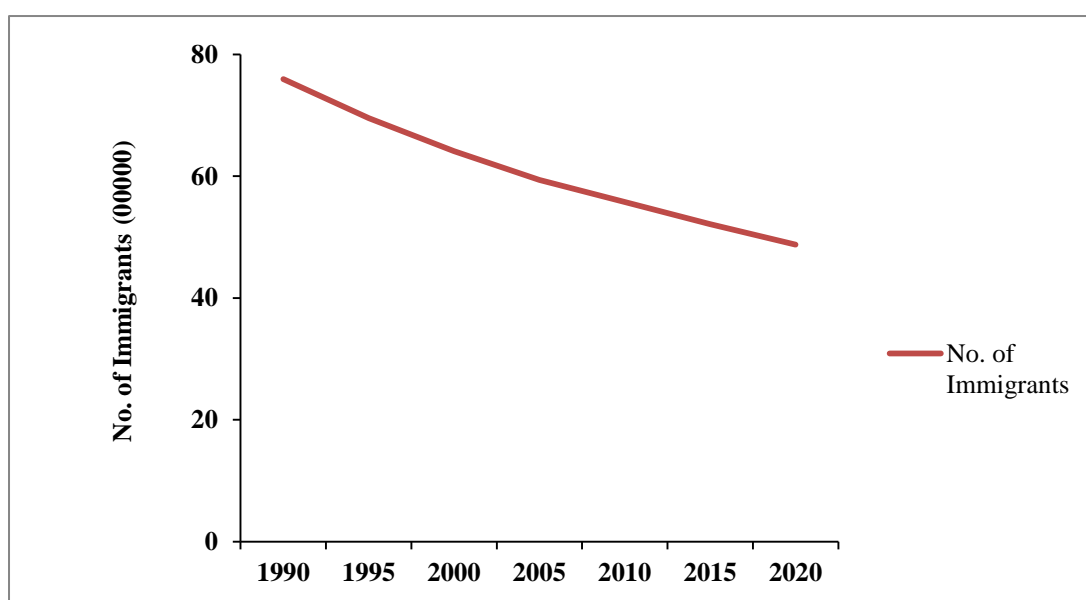
# Immigration in India

Afghanistan, Europe, and Australia was reduced and migrants from China, Japan, and the Americas.

India witnessed more than 6.6 lakhs immigrants from different countries in 1931 and like previous censuses, large numbers of the migrants were enumerated from different countries of Asia (Table 5.2) and it contributed to around 80 percent of total 1931 immigration in India (Figure 5.2). Nepal and China contributed the highest among these Asiatic immigrants and accounted for more than 61 percent and 23 percent of total immigrants from Asia (Table 5.2). After Asia, Europe contributed the second-largest immigrants in India and registered around 18 percent of total immigrants in India in 1931. The remaining 2 percent of migrants in India were registered from the Americas and Australia (Table 5.2).

## 5.3 International Migration Stock in India from 1990 to 2020

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) published the data on international migration based on the origin and destination places of migrants since 1990. According to UN DESA India witnessed large numbers of international immigrants in 2020 estimated at more than 4.8 lakhs immigrants 2020 (Table 5.3). The following figure 5.3 represents the total number of international migrants enumerated in India between 1990 and 2020.



**Figure 5.3 International Migrant Stocks in India between 1990 and 2020**

Source: United Nations Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2020

# Immigration in India

There were more than 7.59 lakh international immigrants registered in India in 1990 which declined over the years and in 2020 the estimated number of immigrants was around 4.9 lakhs (Table 5.3, Figure 5.3).

**Table 5.3 Continent-Wise Origin of International Migration in India from 1990-2020**

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
<b>Africa</b>	15069	10419	5767	38752	63966	59601	55742
<b>Asia</b>	7309485	6878380	6348893	5695189	5195591	4858215	4549214
<b>Europe</b>	20474	16146	11815	15978	19164	17855	16696
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Northern America</b>	12123	8732	5339	26455	42596	39691	37122
<b>Oceania</b>	5501	3262	1022	3443	5295	4932	4612

Source: United Nations Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2020

In 1990 more than 73 lakhs international immigrants had enumerated in India and in 2020 these values declined to more than 46 lakhs international migrants in India. Immigrants originated from different continents and enumerated in India. Among them, the largest contribution of international migrant stocks was from Asia outside India and in 2020 it accounted for around 98 percent of total international immigrants in India (Table 5.3). A similar trend was also observed since 1990 in which large numbers of international migrants originated from Asia outside India (Table 5.3).

In 1990 the second largest number of immigrants originated from Europe and it continued till 2000, after that the number of emigrants from Africa replaced Europe and more numbers of migrants from Africa started to register in India (Table 5.3). It continued till 2000 when an estimated 55 thousand immigrants from Africa registered in India.

The next large group of migrants originated from Africa from 1990 to 2000. The emigrants from Northern America secured the third position from 2005 and it continued till 2020 (Table 5.3).

The less number of migrants originated from Oceania in 1990 and it maintained its position till 2020 (Table 5.3).

# Immigration in India

**Table 5.4 International Migrant Stocks at Mid-Year in India, 1990-2020**

Origin Country	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Afghanistan	14159	19916	12794	15792	18085	16851	16094
Australia*	3116	1964	812	2845	4400	4099	3833
Bangladesh	4375155	4127135	3879114	3298833	2855334	2660632	2488471
Bhutan	11088	9610	8131	9661	10831	10092	9438
Brunei Darussalam	16220	23639	31057	28757	27000	25158	23530
Canada	6474	4242	2009	3637	4883	4550	4255
China*	18165	98000	92343	96684	100003	110098	108008
Fiji	2385	1298	210	598	895	833	779
France*	5858	3628	1397	1734	1992	1856	1735
Germany	5654	4140	2626	2687	2734	2547	2382
Indonesia	1786	1394	1002	1291	1512	1408	1316
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3051	2569	2086	2330	2518	2346	2194
Iraq	1 189	900	610	700	770	717	670
Japan	903	890	876	1 548	2 063	1 922	1 797
Kazakhstan	1408	2052	2696	1449	497	463	433
Kenya	8170	5541	2912	6291	8874	8268	7733
Kuwait	16860	12149	7437	10884	13519	12597	11781
Malaysia*	12295	13758	15220	15439	15607	14542	13601
Maldives	1810	1027	243	667	992	924	864
Mauritius*	2547	1455	362	382	399	371	346
Myanmar	85706	73795	61884	63976	65575	61103	57149
Nepal	518212	591200	664187	764918	841906	784497	733734
Nigeria	1286	1038	790	930	1 037	966	903
Pakistan	1921278	1637255	1353231	1128173	956166	890966	833314
Portugal	454	323	191	299	383	356	332
Saudi Arabia	6058	5767	5476	11769	16579	15448	14448
Singapore	9307	7240	5173	7228	8799	8199	7668
Sri Lanka	281720	235785	189850	202417	212022	197564	184780
Turkey	343	236	129	141	151	140	130
Russian Federation	3445	2547	1649	1526	1433	1335	1248
Uganda	2058	1465	872	29845	51990	48444	45309
United Arab Emirates	9940	12301	14662	31371	44142	41132	38470
United Kingdom*	5063	5508	5952	9732	12622	11761	10999
United States of America*	5649	4490	3330	22818	37713	35141	32867
Viet Nam	2832	1762	692	1161	1520	1416	1324
Zambia	1008	920	831	1304	1666	1552	1451
Other	232149	35299	38495	156923	247406	230553	215318

Source: United Nations Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2020

## Immigration in India

Table 5.4 reflected that in 1990 more than 75.9 million international migrants registered in India. More than 55 percent originated from Bangladesh and it is followed by Pakistan and Nepal with more than 25 percent and 7 percent of total international immigrants in 1990 respectively (Table 5.4).

In 1995 around 69.5 lakhs migrants from different parts of the world registered in India and among them more numbers of migrants emigrated from Bangladesh. It contributed more than 59 percent of total international migrants in 1995. The next major origin countries were Pakistan and Nepal with 24 percent and 8 percent of total immigrants registered in 1995 respectively. The estimated numbers of Bangladeshi and Pakistani immigrants declined from the previous year and in the case of Nepal, the total number of immigrants in 1995 increased from 1990 immigrants (Table 5.4).

There were more than 64.1 lakhs international immigrants enumerated in India in 2000 which slightly declined from the previous year 1995. Like the previous year, the large numbers of international emigrants also originated from Bangladesh and Pakistan and registered in India with more than 60 percent and 21 percent of total immigrants in 2000 respectively. The contribution of Nepal as the origin country reflected more than 10 percent of total international migrant stocks in 2000. Though the estimated number of international migrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan decreased over the year to the total number of immigrants each year; the contribution from Bangladesh and Pakistan increased. The contribution from Nepal was increased over the years both in the case of total emigrants as well as its share in respect to the total international immigrants in India (Table 5.4).

Around 59.1 lakhs immigrants registered in India from various parts of the world in 2005. Estimated numbers of 3.2 lakhs migrants originated from Bangladesh which accounted for more than 55 percent of total international migrant stocks in 2005. It was followed by Pakistan and Nepal with more than 19 percent and 13 percent of total immigrants in India respectively (Table 5.4).

There were around 55.7 lakhs international migrant stocks in India registered in 2010. Among them, more than 2.66 lakhs originated from Bangladesh which contributed more than 51 percent of total international migrants in 2010. The next higher number of migrants was enumerated from Pakistan and Nepal with more than 17 percent and 15 percent of total international migrants in 2010 respectively (Table 5.4).

## Immigration in India

In 2015 around 52 lakhs international migrants registered in India which declined from the previous year 2010. These migrants largely originated from Bangladesh with an estimated number of emigrants being more than 2.66 lakhs. It accounted for more than 51 percent of total international immigrants in India in 2015. The next major group of immigrants was registered from Pakistan and Nepal with more than 17 percent and 15 percent of total international immigrants in India. Unlike previous years, in 2015 the estimated number of Nepali migrants was reduced to more than 7.8 lakhs people which was around 8.4 lakhs in 2010 (Table 5.4).

Presently in 2020, there were 48.7 lakhs international migrants registered in India. The majority of them originated from Bangladesh with more than 2.48 lakhs immigrants. It accounted for more than half of the total international migrants in India by 2020. Apart from Bangladesh, the next major immigration occurred from Pakistan and Nepal which contributed 17 percent and 15 percent of total immigrants in 2020. Like the previous year, the estimated number of immigrants from Nepal also declined from 7.8 lakhs in 2015 to 7.3 lakhs in 2020 (Table 5.4). The following figure 5.4 represents the top 10 origin countries of international migrants in India by 2020.

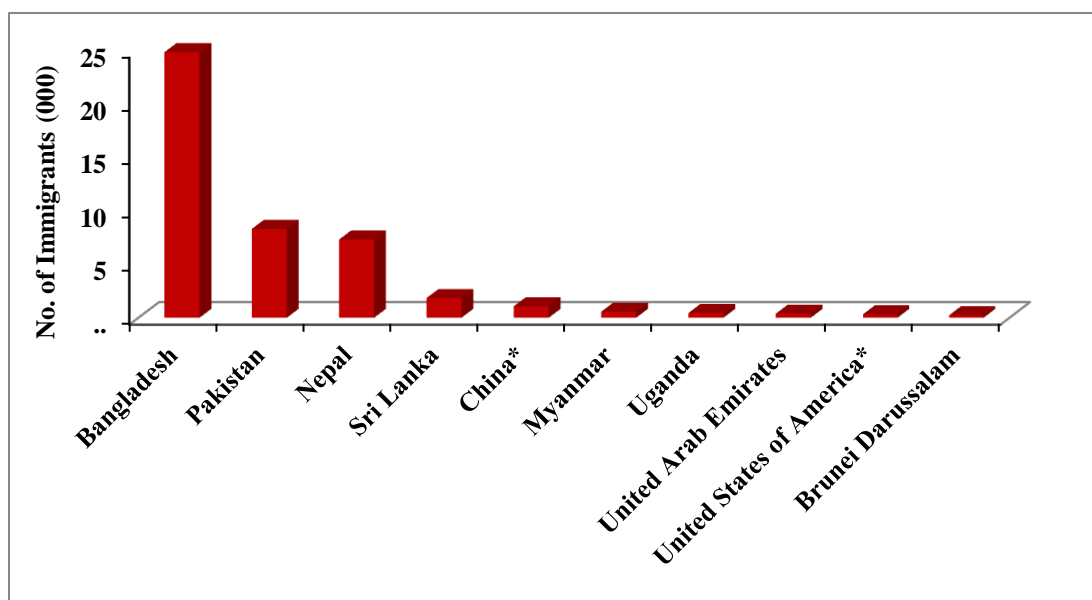


Figure 5. 4 Top 10 Origin Countries of International Immigration in India, 2020

Source: United Nations Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), 2020

# Immigration in India

## 5.4 Current Scenario of Immigration Pattern in India (Census 2011)

The Census of India also enumerated the migration data since the beginning of its formation in 1871. The current census 2011 also categorized the immigration data into two categories, immigration by birth and immigration by place of last residence.

By 2011 there were more than 53 lakhs population who were born in different parts of the world and enumerated in India. The following table 5.5 reflects the numbers of immigrants in India from different parts of the world by 2011.

**Table 5.5 Immigrants in India by Birth (2011)**

<b>Origin</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Countries in Asia beyond India</b>	<b>4981807</b>
Afghanistan	6476
Bangladesh	2747062
Bhutan	7964
China	18114
Indonesia	947
Iran	1958
Iraq	613
Japan	978
Kuwait	8618
Malaysia	13646
Maldives	722
Myanmar	59282
Nepal	810158
Pakistan	918982
Saudi Arabia	12961
Singapore	6854
Sri Lanka	198193
Turkey	61
United Arab Emirates	24634
Kazakhstan	51
Vietnam	624
Elsewhere	142909

<b>Countries in Europe</b>	<b>46131</b>
France	1068
Germany	1628
Portugal	108
UK	6941
Elsewhere	36386



## Immigration in India

<b>Origin</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Countries in Africa</b>	<b>133622</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	2480
<b>Mauritius</b>	205
<b>Nigeria</b>	645
<b>Uganda</b>	813
<b>Zambia</b>	252
<b>Elsewhere</b>	129227

<b>Countries in the Americas</b>	<b>170481</b>
<b>Canada</b>	3212
<b>U.S.A.</b>	21506
<b>Elsewhere</b>	145763

<b>Countries in Oceania</b>	<b>31058</b>
<b>Australia</b>	2233
<b>Fiji</b>	129
<b>Elsewhere</b>	28696

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-01

There were more than 49 lakhs migrants born in Asia outside India and registered as immigrants in India by 2011. The majority of these migrants were born in Bangladesh which covered more than 55 percent of total Asian emigrants in India. The next large group of migrants was born in Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka with 18 percent, 16 percent, and 4 percent of total immigrants registered in India respectively. More than 1.4 lakhs immigrants did not specify their country of origin and they were termed as 'elsewhere' in table 5.4 and they accounted for 3 percent of total Asian emigrants in India (Table 5.5).

India witnessed more than 46 thousand emigrants born in Europe by 2011. Among them, around 79 percent were born in unspecified countries of Europe and in the census 2011 it was termed as 'elsewhere'. The next major group of migrants were born in the United Kingdom and enumerated in India and accounted for more than 15 percent of total European emigrants in India. It was followed by Germany and France with 4 percent and little more than 2 percent of total emigrants born in Europe and registered in India respectively (Table 5.5).

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Africa contributed more than 1.33 lakhs emigrants by 2011 and they registered in India. Large numbers of these migrants were born as 'elsewhere' due to their unspecified location. They contributed around 97 percent of total emigrants born in Africa and enumerated in India. The next large number of immigrants from Africa was born in Kenya and they accounted for around 2 percent of total emigrants. The remaining 1 percent of immigrants were born in other countries in Africa and registered in India (Table 5.5).

According to the Census of India, 2011 there were more than 1.70 lakhs migrants born in the Americas and enumerated in India. Among them, more than 85 percent were born 'elsewhere' in the Americas. The next large numbers of immigrants were born in the U.S.A and Canada of Americas with 13 percent and 2 percent of total emigrants born in the Americas and entered India respectively (Table 5.5).

Around 31 thousand emigrants were born in Oceania by 2011 and enumerated in India. Large numbers of these emigrants were born elsewhere in Oceania and they accounted for more than 92 percent of total emigrants from Oceania. It was followed by Australia and Fiji islands with more than 7 percent and 0.42 percent of total Oceania-born immigrants entered in India respectively (Table 5.5).

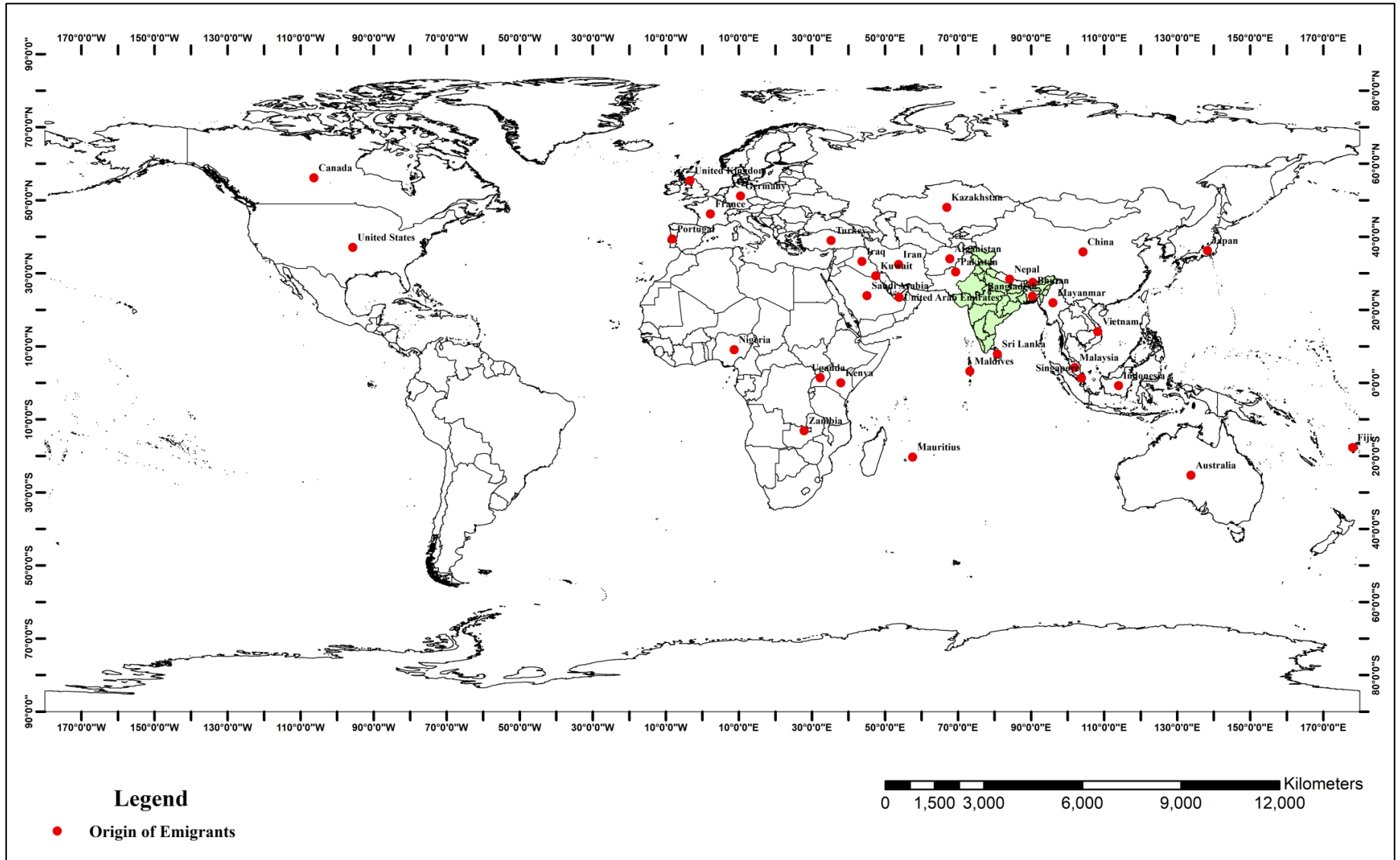


Figure 5.5 Immigration in India from Different Parts of the World, 2011

## Immigration in India

**Table 5.6 Immigrants Born Outside India and Enumerated at the Different States in India, 2011**

<b>Destination States</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	66413
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	15567
<b>Assam</b>	117329
<b>Bihar</b>	305327
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	46912
<b>Goa</b>	12454
<b>Gujarat</b>	88302
<b>Haryana</b>	200287
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	64028
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	34353
<b>Jharkhand</b>	17653
<b>Karnataka</b>	71715
<b>Kerala</b>	66722
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	67501
<b>Maharashtra</b>	229089
<b>Manipur</b>	2158
<b>Meghalaya</b>	8748
<b>Mizoram</b>	16608
<b>Nagaland</b>	7108
<b>Odisha</b>	59734
<b>Punjab</b>	320751
<b>Rajasthan</b>	116012
<b>Sikkim</b>	21487
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	276673
<b>Tripura</b>	259994
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	261271
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	82871
<b>West Bengal</b>	2297578

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-01

There were more than 51 lakhs migrants born outside India and enumerated in different states of India (Table 5.6). Among these immigrants, maximum were counted in West Bengal which accounted for around 45 percent of total outside-born migrants who entered various states in India. The major states of India were Punjab, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Tripura with 6.25 percent, 5.95 percent, 5.39 percent, 6.09, and 5.06 percent of total foreign-born immigrants in different states India respectively (Table 5.6).

## Immigration in India

**Table 5.7 Immigrants Born Outside India and Enumerated at Different Union Territories in India, 2011**

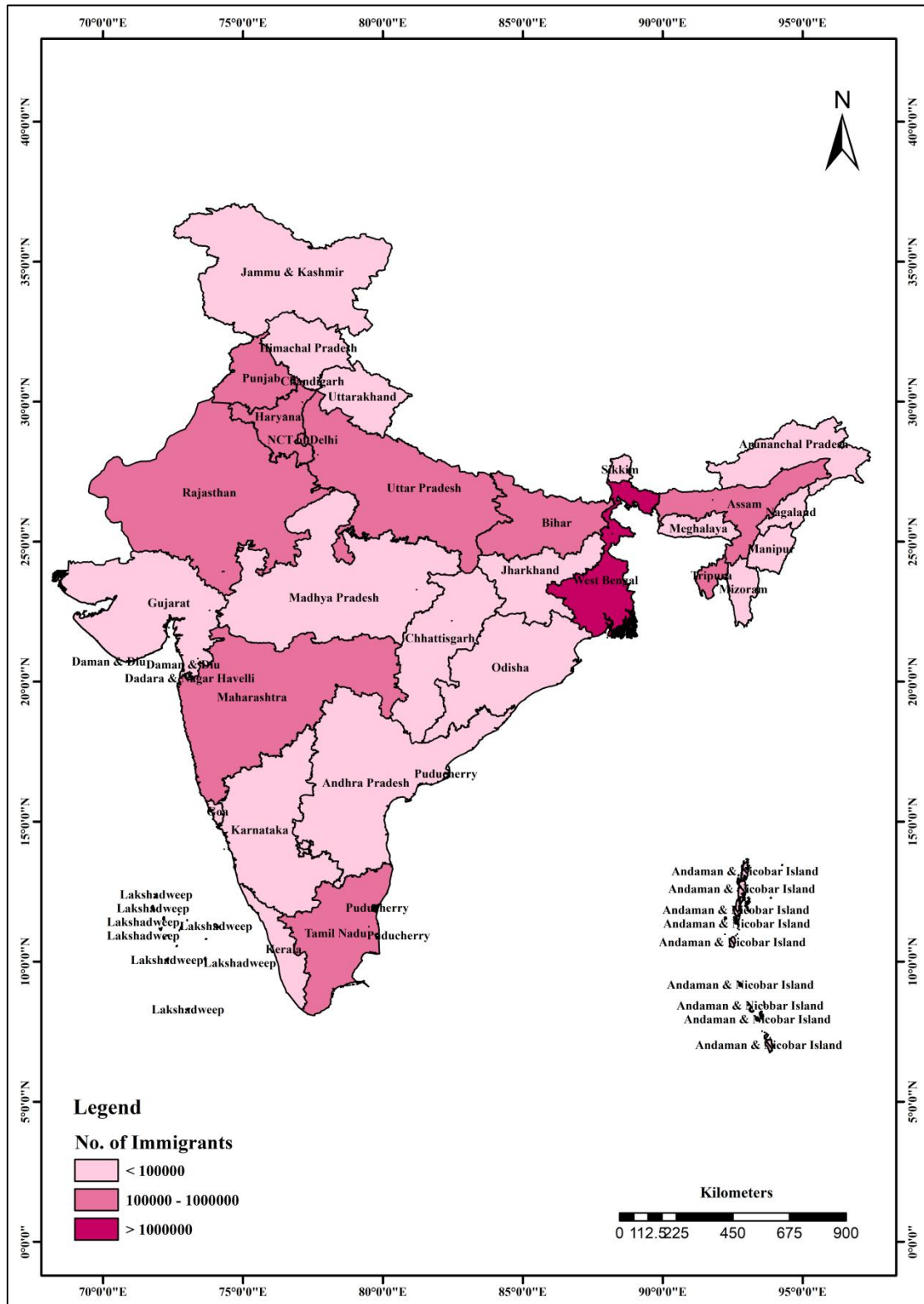
<b>Destination United Territories</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>NCT of Delhi</b>	189256
<b>Chandigarh</b>	21267
<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</b>	10919
<b>Puducherry</b>	3656
<b>Daman &amp; Diu</b>	1719
<b>Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli</b>	1591
<b>Lakshadweep</b>	46

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-01

More than 2.28 lakhs migrants were born in different parts of the world and entered different union territories of India in 2011 (Table 5.7). The majority of these immigrants were enumerated in Delhi with 83 percent of total foreign-born immigrants in different union territories of India. The next higher group of emigrants from outside India registered in Chandigarh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands with 9.31 percent and around 5 percent of total foreign-born immigrants settled in union territories of India respectively (Table 5.7).

The foreign-born immigrants were largely concentrated in the eastern part of the country mainly in West Bengal which was estimated more than 20 lakhs migrants. The northern plain regions and north-western part of India witnessed more than 1 lakh foreign-born immigrants while a comparatively less number of immigrants (less than 1 lakh) were enumerated in the northern, central, and north-eastern parts of the country (Figure 5.6).

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**Figure 5.6 Concentration of Foreign-Born Immigrants in India, 2011**

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-01

## Immigration in India

There were around 55 lakhs immigrants who stayed in India by 2011 who previously lived outside India. The following table 5.8 reflects the number of immigrants by their place of last residence (POLR) outside India in 2011.

**Table 5. 8 Immigrants in India by Place of Last Residence, 2011**

<b>Origin</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Countries in Asia Beyond India</b>	<b>4509010</b>
Afghanistan	6596
Bangladesh	2304305
Bhutan	9007
China	13537
Indonesia	1182
Iran	1856
Iraq	722
Japan	1346
Kuwait	15371
Malaysia	11284
Maldives	835
Myanmar	36419
Nepal	778224
Pakistan	707974
Saudi Arabia	37112
Singapore	9678
Sri Lanka	124709
Turkey	64
United Arab Emirates	69607
Kazakhstan	79
Vietnam	1003
Elsewhere	378100

<b>Countries in Europe</b>	<b>106580</b>
France	1597
Germany	2271
Portugal	122
UK	11304
Elsewhere	91286

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<b>Origin</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Countries in Africa</b>	381362
<b>Kenya</b>	2192
<b>Mauritius</b>	223
<b>Nigeria</b>	1052
<b>Uganda</b>	636
<b>Zambia</b>	361
<b>Elsewhere</b>	376898

<b>Countries in Americas</b>	400518
<b>Canada</b>	5269
<b>U.S.A.</b>	37785
<b>Elsewhere</b>	357464

<b>Countries in Oceania</b>	93724
<b>Australia</b>	4162
<b>Fiji</b>	135
<b>Elsewhere</b>	89427

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-02

There were more than 55 lakhs migrants who previously stayed in different foreign countries and registered in India by 2011.

Maximum numbers of immigrants previously resided in Asia and it contributed to more than 45 lakhs population. The majority of the Asian migrants originated from Bangladesh which contributed more than 51 percent of total immigrants who lastly resided in Asia. The next larger group of immigrants lived in Nepal and Pakistan with 17 percent and 16 percent of total Asian origin immigrants in India respectively. It was followed by some locations which were not specified in the census and jointly stated that 'elsewhere'. It was estimated more than 3.7 lakhs immigrants accounted for more than 8 percent of total Asian immigrants registered in India. Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates were the next major countries in Asia which originated 8 percent and 2 percent of total Asians who emigrated lived in India respectively (Table 5.8).

The European continent contributed more than 1 lakhs immigrants to India and the majority of them previously resided 'elsewhere' in Europe which contributed to more than 85 percent of total immigrants lastly residing in Europe. It was followed by the



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United Kingdom and Germany which accounted for 11 percent and 2 percent of total European emigrants registered in India respectively (Table 5.8).

A large number of migrants lastly resided in Africa which estimated more than 3.8 lakhs population and they enumerated in India. Among these people, more than 98 percent originated from unspecified places in Africa. The remaining numbers of migrants previously resided in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Mauritius with 0.57 percent, 0.28 percent, 0.17 percent, 0.09 percent, and 0.07 percent of total African emigrants and enumerated in India (Table 5.8).

More than 4 lakhs migrants were enumerated in India from the Americas and among them, large numbers were from the unspecified location of that continent. It contributed more than 89 percent of the total American return population in India. It was followed by The United States of America and Canada with more than 9 percent and 1 percent of total emigrants from the Americas respectively (Table 5.8).

The last major group of migrants last resided in Oceania and enumerated in India. It was estimated more than 93 thousand immigrants of which around 95 percent were last stayed at undefined places of Oceania and in the census it was termed as 'elsewhere'. The remaining more than 4 percent of emigrants previously resided in Australia and 0.14 percent of migrants originated from Fiji Island and enumerated in India (Table 5.8).

## Immigration in India

**Table 5.9 Immigrants Last Resided Outside India and Enumerated at the Different States in India, 2011**

<b>Destination States</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	138095
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	10901
<b>Assam</b>	110314
<b>Bihar</b>	398592
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	62961
<b>Goa</b>	15060
<b>Gujarat</b>	87160
<b>Haryana</b>	160290
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	60335
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	35428
<b>Jharkhand</b>	31729
<b>Karnataka</b>	105356
<b>Kerala</b>	153545
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	90291
<b>Maharashtra</b>	324654
<b>Manipur</b>	2702
<b>Meghalaya</b>	7648
<b>Mizoram</b>	15370
<b>Nagaland</b>	6433
<b>Odisha</b>	73609
<b>Punjab</b>	277287
<b>Rajasthan</b>	164361
<b>Sikkim</b>	18470
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	270353
<b>Tripura</b>	222431
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	355488
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	82198
<b>West Bengal</b>	2005945

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-02

There were more than 52 lakhs migrants enumerated in different states in India by 2011. They previously resided in foreign countries and entered India. A large number of these foreign return migrants registered in West Bengal which accounted for around 38 percent of total immigrants in different states in India. The next large group of foreign migrants was enumerated in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh with 7.54 percent and 6.7 percent of total immigrants who last resided outside India respectively. Maharashtra, Punjab, and Tamilnadu secured the following positions with 6.14

## Immigration in India

percent, 5.24 percent, and 5.11 percent of total foreign migrants enumerated in India respectively (Table 5.9).

**Table 5.10 Immigrants Last Resided Outside India and Enumerated at Different Union Territories in India, 2011**

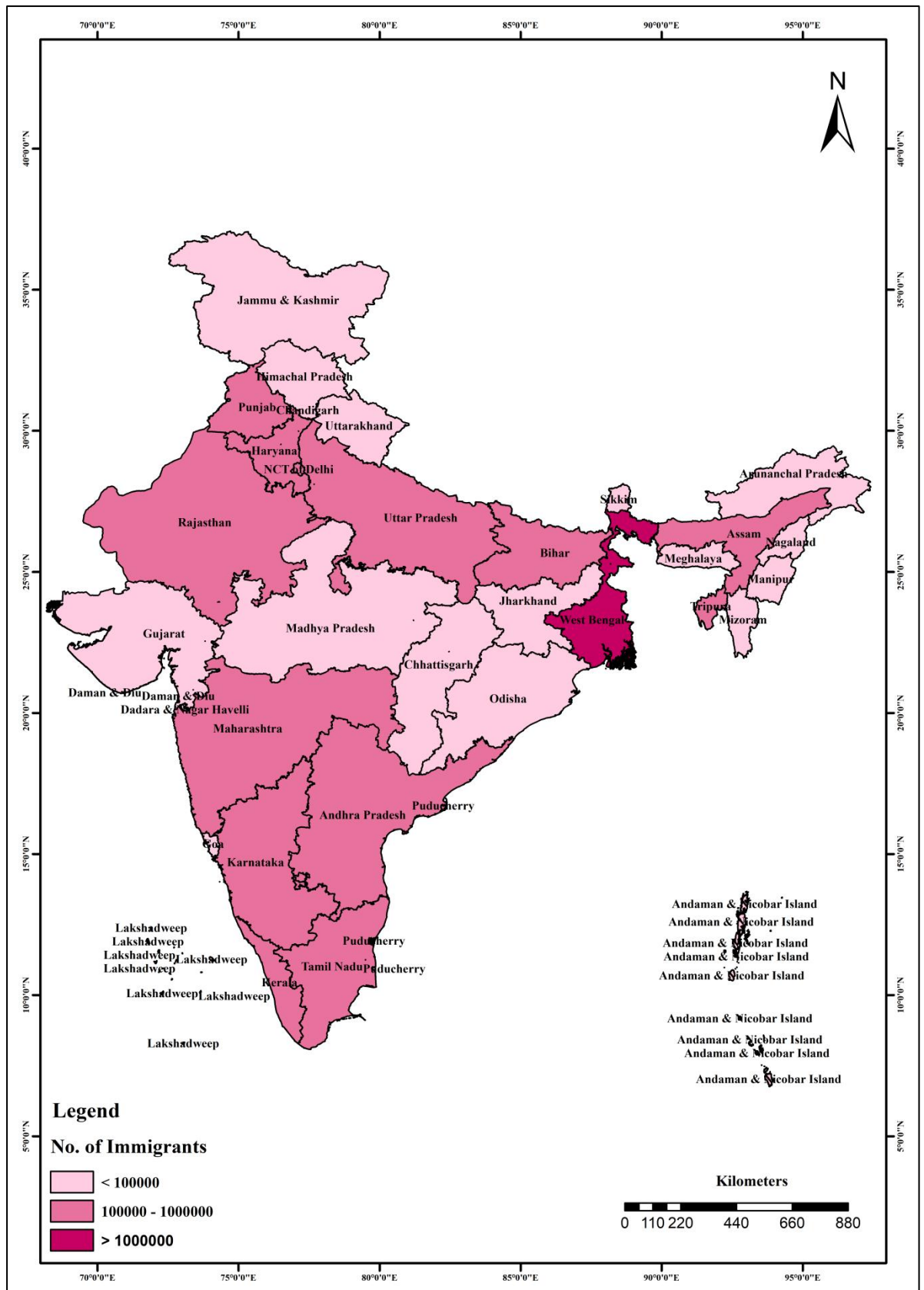
<b>Destination Union Territories</b>	<b>No. of Immigrants</b>
<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar islands</b>	3926
<b>Chandigarh</b>	13092
<b>Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli</b>	1481
<b>Daman &amp; Diu</b>	1720
<b>Lakshadweep</b>	131
<b>NCT of Delhi</b>	177900
<b>Puducherry</b>	5938

Source: The Census of India, 2011, Table D-02

There were more than 2 lakhs foreign migrants registered in different union territories of India by 2011. Among them, more than 87 percent were enumerated at NCT of Delhi. After Delhi, the next large group of migrants was registered in Chandigarh with more than 6 percent of total foreign migrants in union territories of India by 2011. The Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands absorbed 3 percent and 2 percent of total immigrants and lastly stayed outside India respectively (Table 5.10).

The immigrants who previously resided outside India largely concentrated in the eastern part of India mainly in West Bengal which was estimated more than 20 lakhs, foreign return migrants, by 2011. The Indo-Gangetic plain, western and southern parts of India witnessed more than 1 lakhs foreign return migrants while the other parts of India especially the Northern hilly region and central part of the country absorbed less than 1 lakh population from outside India (Figure 5.7).

# Immigration in India



**Figure 5.7 Concentration of Foreign-Return Immigrants in India, 2011**

Source: Census of India, 2011, Table D-02

## 5.5 Internal Displacement in India between 2011 and 2021

The movement of people within an international boundary is known as internal movement or displacement. Internally displaced persons or IDPs refers to a person or a group of persons who have been forced to move from their place of origin to avoid conflicts, violence, or natural or man-made disasters. This displacement is mainly confined within a specific international boundary The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)). Unlike refugees, they stayed within their country under the protection of the government (UNHCR).

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centres (IDMC) published reports on internal displacement worldwide. It categorized the IDPs into two segments; displaced by conflicts and violence and displacement by natural disasters. The following table 5.11 highlights the internal displacement in India between 2011 and 2021.

**Table 5.11 New Internal Displacements in India between 2011 and 2021**

Year	New Internal Displacements	
	Conflicts and Violence	Disasters
2011	53000	1503320
2012	500000	9110000
2013	64000	2140000
2014	345000	2892000
2015	1000	3655000
2016	448000	2400000
2017	78000	1346000
2018	169000	2675000
2019	19000	5037000
2020	3900	3856000
2021	13000	4903000

Source: IDMC 2011 to 2022

There were more than 15.56 lakhs IDPs registered in India in 2011. Among them, more than 3.40 percent were displaced due to political conflicts and violence and the remaining 96.5 percent were displaced by natural disasters (Table 5.11). The conflicts and violence which uprooted more than 50 thousand population were mainly confined to the north-eastern states of India, especially Assam and Meghalaya. Here inter-ethnic violence between Rabha and Garo communities forcefully moved many people. Counter-insurgency in Manipur forcefully evicted more than 3000 people from a floating island of Loktak Lake. Conflicts in central India newly displaced

## Immigration in India

many people (IDMC Global Overview, 2011). Natural and man-made disasters displaced more than 15 lakhs people in India of which around 5.7 lakhs and 2.8 lakhs people were displaced due to Assam and Odisha floods that occurred between August and early October and September and October of 2011 respectively. Cyclone Thane in December 2011 evacuated more than 2 lakhs people and floods in West Bengal in mid of September also displaced 1.9 lakhs people in India (IDMC Global Estimates, 2011).

In 2012 there were more than 96 lakhs displaced people registered in India among them more than 96 percent were displaced due to natural disasters (Table 5.11). The internal armed conflicts and communal violence displaced around 5 lakhs of new people all over India. Inter-communal violence between Bodo tribal and Bengal Muslims in Assam displaced nearly 5 lakhs people. It occurred during July and August of 2012. An armed conflict was observed in Central India over land and natural resources which displaced many people but actual estimation was not available to the government. Inter-communal violence in Jammu & Kashmir, Gujrat, and Odisha also fled huge numbers of people forcefully (IDMC Global Overview, 2012). Natural hazards and disasters displaced more than 9 million people in India. The majority originated from the northeastern part of India. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh jointly triggered 6.9 million people. From the third week of June continuous rainfall, rising water, and consequent floods displaced 9 lakhs and 6 million people in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam respectively. Assam witnessed a second round of floods in August and September which also displaced around 2 million people (IDMC Global Estimates, 2012).

At the end of 2013 around 5.2 lakhs of people were displaced due to armed conflicts and communal violence in India. Estimated numbers of 64 thousand people were newly displaced this year due to communal violence in the north-eastern part of Assam and the northern part of Uttar Pradesh. In September 2013 around 51 thousand people were displaced in Uttar Pradesh due to riots. Around 3 thousand people from Karbi and Rengma Naga tribes took shelter at displacement camps in central Assam in December 2013 (IDMC Global Overview, 2014). Natural hazards and disasters displaced more than 21 lakhs people in 2013. Among them, more than 10 lakhs of people were forced to flee due to severe floods in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and West Bengal. It occurred between June and

## Immigration in India

October 2013. Tropical cyclone Phailin hit the eastern coast of India mainly Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in October 2013 and displaced around 10 lakhs people (IDMC Global Estimates, 2014).

There were more than 2 lakhs of people newly displaced in India in 2014 and among them, more than 89 percent of the movement occurred due to natural hazards and disasters (Table 5.11). Around 3.45 lakhs people were newly evacuated due to conflicts and violence which was five times greater than in 2013. Non-State armed groups (NSAG) violence on Adivasis in the western part of Assam forcefully displaced 3 lakhs people. Apart from that west Assam also witnessed inter-communal violence in May 2013. Violence in Nagaland and conflict between India and Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir displaced the remaining 45 thousand people in August and October and December 2013 respectively (IDMC Global Overview, 2015). There were more than 28 lakhs people displaced due to natural hazards and environmental disasters in 2014 in India. Floods in Jammu & Kashmir in September 2014 displaced around 8.12 lakhs people. Assam witnessed severe floods in July and September-October which displaced around 3.67 lakhs people in Meghalaya. Nearly 1.16 lakhs people from Bihar were displaced in August due to floods. Floods in Odisha displaced around 1.1 million people in July 2014. Cyclone Hudhud made landfall in October 2014 in Andhra Pradesh and displaced nearly 6.39 lakhs people (IDMC Global Estimates, 2015).

In 2015 there were more than 36 lakhs people displaced due to natural hazards in India. Heavy rains, flash floods, and associated cyclones in November displaced 1.8 million people in Tamilnadu and the southern part of Andhra Pradesh. Cyclone Komen with monsoon floods stuck in Bangladesh in July and it displaced nearly 1.2 million people in Manipur, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujrat, and West Bengal. Conflicts and violence newly displaced only 1 thousand people in India (IDMC GRID, 2016).

There were more than 28 lakhs people newly displaced in 2016 due to violence, conflicts, and natural disasters (Table 6.11). Among them, around 16 percent of more than 4.48 lakhs people were displaced due to political conflicts and violence. The remaining 84 percent or an estimated number of 24 lakhs people evacuated due to environmental hazards and natural disasters. Monsoon floods in Bihar led to the

## Immigration in India

largest displacement of 16 lakhs people between July and October 2016 (IDMC GRID, 2017).

In 2017 there were nearly 14.24 lakhs of people were newly displaced in India due to violence and natural disaster (Table 6.11). Among them, more than 5.47 percent of people were displaced due to conflicts and violence. At least 70 thousand new displacements occurred in the India-controlled area due to violence between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory of Jammu & Kashmir. More than 13 lakhs people were displaced in 2017 due to natural disasters, among them more than 8.5 lakhs evacuated for severe floods in Bihar like the previous year. Cyclone Mora hit Bangladesh in May 2017 and also affected a part of India according to local media coverage. Around 300 people were displaced due to the cyclone (IDMC GRID, 2018).

There were around 28.44 lakhs of people were newly displaced in 2018 due to ongoing violence, conflicts, and natural disaster (Table 6.11). More than 1.60 lakhs of displacement occurred due to cross-border shelling in India-occupied Kashmir in 2018. Firing from Pakistan triggered nearly 54 thousand displacements in Kashmir in January 2018, and around 1 lakh people were displaced in May 2018 in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts. Apart from that violence in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tripura triggered many displacements in 2018. Natural hazards and disasters displaced nearly 27 lakhs of new displacement during this year in India. Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018 affected vast regions of the south-eastern pacific between May and October and displaced around 20 lakhs people. Despite its widespread impact, Kerala received more attention from the media, and the resultant floods newly displaced around 15 lakhs people. During this year eastern part of the region was affected by three cyclones. Cyclone Titli caused 3 lakhs pre-emptive displacement in Odisha and 1 lakhs displacement from Andhra Pradesh in October 2018. After two months, cyclone Phethai forcefully displaced around 32 thousand people in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh jointly in which many of them were still suffering the adverse effect of cyclone Titli and living in damaged homes. In November, cyclone Gaja triggered 2.49 lakhs newly displacements in Puducherry and Tamilnadu (IDMC GRID, 2019).

There were more than 50 lakhs of people newly displaced within India in 2019 as a result of political conflicts, violence, and natural disaster. Around 19 thousand people were displaced due to conflicts and violence. Electoral violence in Tripura and West



## Immigration in India

Bengal displaced more than 7 thousand people in the first several months of the year. Shelling at the border of India and Pakistan displaced around 2600 people till March and further shelling during autumn forcefully displaced additional 5300 people in Jammu & Kashmir. The natural disaster displaced more than 50 lakhs of people in India this year. Cyclone Fani, equivalent to a category 4 Hurricane hit the eastern coastal part of India mainly the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal in early May but it severely affected Odisha and evacuated more than 18 lakh people. Cyclone Vayu evacuated around 2.9 lakh people from Gujrat in June 2019. Around 26 lakhs displacement occurred as a result of the south-west monsoon during the rainy season and it was replaced by the north-west monsoon which also triggered many displacements in the following months of October and November. Cyclone Maha hit Lakshadweep and Kerala on 31 October 2019 and displaced many people. After 10 days of cyclone Maha cyclone, Bulbul hit Odisha and West Bengal and triggered 1.86 lakhs displacements. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra also witnessed displacements due to drought in the same year. Water shortages forcefully displaced around 50 thousand people in Maharashtra between March and June of 2019. It was also estimated that till 31 December 2019 there were around 6 lakhs people in India living as internally displaced due to natural disasters (IDMC GRID, 2020).

In 2020 around 39 lakhs of people were newly displaced in India as a result of violence and natural disaster. Very small numbers of displacements occurred due to conflicts and data sources for this kind of displacement were very limited for this region. The Citizenship Amendment Act which was passed in 2019 created major tension among Hindus and Muslims in India which led to widespread violence in Delhi and displaced around 1800 people in February. Cross-border shelling between India and Pakistan over a disputed part of Jammu & Kashmir created tensions and displaced many people from this region. More than 38 lakhs people displaced due to environmental disasters in 2020. Cyclone Amphan approached the coasts of Bangladesh and India as a category 5 cyclone in May 2020. It triggered more than 24 lakhs of evacuations, especially from the eastern part of West Bengal and Odisha. Two weeks later cyclone Nisarga evacuated 1.7 lakhs of people from the western part of Maharashtra and Gujrat. During this year, the southwest monsoon period was also extended till October which is usually withdrawn from 1 to 17 September. It affected

## Immigration in India

22 Indian states and union territories and displaced nearly 7.63 lakhs people between June and late October 2020 (IDMC GRID, 2021).

In India, around 49 lakhs people were forcibly displaced in 2021. Among them, conflicts and violence triggered nearly 13 thousand displacements. The announcement of election results on 2 May and its consequences of political violence led to 11 thousand of displacements in West Bengal. In October 2021 violence against migrant workers and minority communities displaced 500 people in Jammu & Kashmir. At the end of July 2021, Bru IDPs in Tripura triggered 1500 displacements among the indigenous communities. Erratic and prolonged south-western monsoon brought heavy rain and floods in southern states in India, especially Kerala. It received 84 percent of total rainfall till October 2021 and forcefully displaced around 14 thousand people. Subsequent floods in Tamilnadu also displaced nearly 3.12 lakhs population in November. India witnessed three major storms during this year which displaced more than 25 lakhs of people. On 17 May 2021 cyclone Tauktae hit Gujrat and evacuated more than 2.58 lakhs people. It was the most powerful storm that hit the western part of India and it also affected 5 states and the united territories. On 26 May cyclone Yaas made landfall in Odisha and West Bengal and triggered 22 lakhs of displacement in these states. Disaster Management Authority of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh evacuated nearly 50 thousand people on 26 September as a precaution for cyclone Gulab (IDMC GRID, 2022).

IDMC also updated the displacement data from the last 180 days. It indicates that between January 2022 and June 2022 the numbers of displacements in India are categorized into two segments; such as displacement due to conflicts and violence and displacement due to natural disasters. Severe winter displaced around 28 people in the Rajouri and Reasi districts of Jammu & Kashmir on 9 January 2022. Heavy rain and snowfall in Himachal Pradesh destroyed 2 houses and displaced 9 people on 19 January 2022. Andaman and Nicobar Islands witnessed strong winds and heavy rainfall between 16 March and 21 March 2022 and evacuated 1525 people by state and national authorities. Between 14 April and 30 April 2022, 32 districts of Assam witnessed severe thunderstorms and they displaced approximately 16370 populations. Communal violence in Madhya Pradesh displaced 73 people on 12 April 2022. Heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala between 18 May and 23 May 2022 triggered 32 and 334 displacements respectively. Cyclone Asani and its resultant violent storm

## Immigration in India

and rainfall evacuated 1539 people to relief camps on 13 May 2022. Floods in Karnataka displaced around 2323 people on 19 May 2022. On 18 May 2022, a flood triggered 5 displacements in Tripura. Rainfall and pre-monsoon floods in the Hailakandi district of Assam displaced 916 people between 18 May and 26 May 2022. Karimganj district of Assam also witnessed severe rainfall and floods and displaced around 614 people between 17 May and 21 May 2022. A similar condition in the Cachar district of Assam observed 71443 displacements between 14 May and 26 May 2022. Dima-Hasao districts of Assam witnessed rainfall and pre-monsoon floods and displaced 2986 people between 16 May and 26 May 2022. Similar environmental conditions displaced 43811 people in the Hojai district of Assam between 14 May and 19 May 2022. Karbi district of Assam witnessed 275 displacements on 15 May 2022 as a result of rainfall and floods. Around 24 thousand people were displaced due to severe rainfall and associated floods in the Nagaon district of Assam between 17 May and 26 May 2022. Nearly 105 people in the Morigaon district of Assam were displaced due to similar environmental conditions between 20 May and 23 May 2022 and 227 people from Kamrup district were also evacuated on 17 May 2022. On 16 May 2022, the Biswanath district of Assam observed 100 displacements due to rainfall and associated floods. A similar situation was also observed in the Darrang and Udalguri districts of Assam which observed displacements of 91 people and 322 people during this month respectively. There were around 149 people taking shelter in relief camps of Arunachal Pradesh between 18 May and 22 May 2022 due to flooding. Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir displaced around 300 people between 1 May and 8 June due to violence and insecurity. Similarly, on 4 June 2022 Baramulla and Kupwara districts of Jammu & Kashmir witnessed 548 displacements. Around 2000 displacement due to rainfall and significant flooding occurred in Tripura on 17-18 June 2022. Heavy rainfall and associated flooding displaced 284875 people from Assam between 14 June and 23 June 2022 (IDMC Internal Displacement Updates).

## **5.6 Refugees in India according to UNHCR (1964 – 2021)**

A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country of origin to protect themselves from any kinds of violations and persecutions. The violation of human rights in their place makes their lives so insecure and immeasurable that they have no choice rather leave the country. Their government cannot protect them from these situations (Amnesty.org).

Asylum seekers are a person facing similar kinds of violations and persecution as refugees and they also leave their place of origin to defend themselves. These groups of people are expecting protection and security from another country but they are not legally recognized as refugees and are waiting for the decision on their asylum claim. As seeking asylum is a human right so any person should be allowed to enter any country for asylum (Amnesty.org).

India witnessed a major flow of refugees during the time of Independence. The partition of India and its consequences created rapid tension among the people of both India and the newly formed Pakistan. The partition was based on religion which forced the Hindus from Pakistan and Muslims from India to leave their country and tried to seek refuge in another country where their co-religionists were abundant in numbers. The flow of refugees which abundantly started in 1946 continued nowadays.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) enumerates the latest numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in India. The following table 5.12 reflects the trend of refugees in India between 1964 and 2021 and for the asylum seekers between 2000 and 2021.

## Immigration in India

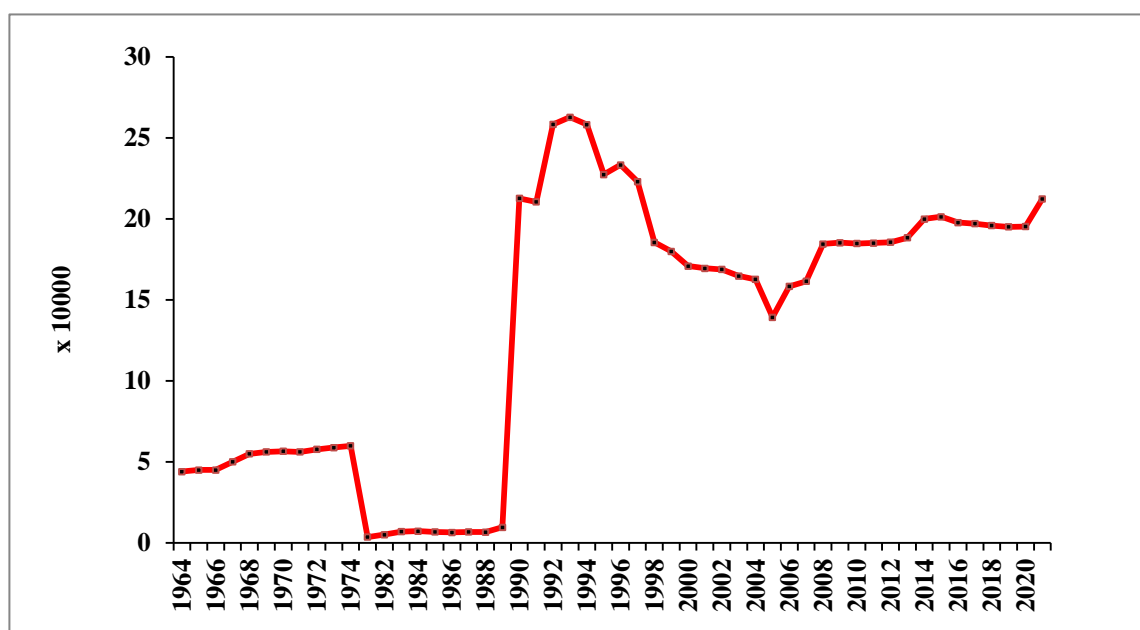
**Table 5.12 Numbers of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in India (1964-2021)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Refugees under UNHCR's Mandate</b>	<b>No. of Asylum Seekers under UNHCR's Mandate</b>
1964	44000	0
1965	45000	0
1966	45000	0
1967	50000	0
1968	55000	0
1969	56150	0
1970	56500	0
1971	56180	0
1972	57680	0
1973	58840	0
1974	59900	0
1981	3510	0
1982	5010	0
1983	6930	0
1984	7200	0
1985	6720	0
1986	6440	0
1987	6720	0
1988	6645	0
1989	9549	0
1990	212743	0
1991	210569	0
1992	258372	0
1993	262802	0
1994	258342	0
1995	227481	0
1996	233371	0
1997	223072	0
1998	185516	0
1999	180031	0
2000	170940	58
2001	169548	204
2002	168853	493
2003	164754	530
2004	162683	304
2005	139284	296
2006	158358	671
2007	161534	2415

## Immigration in India

Year	No. of Refugees under UNHCR's Mandate	No. of Asylum Seekers under UNHCR's Mandate
2008	184539	3774
2009	185318	5436
2010	184814	3741
2011	185118	3508
2012	185644	3549
2013	188391	3669
2014	199931	5057
2015	201379	6476
2016	197848	9209
2017	197142	10508
2018	195887	11938
2019	195103	12202
2020	195373	11217
2021	212413	13368

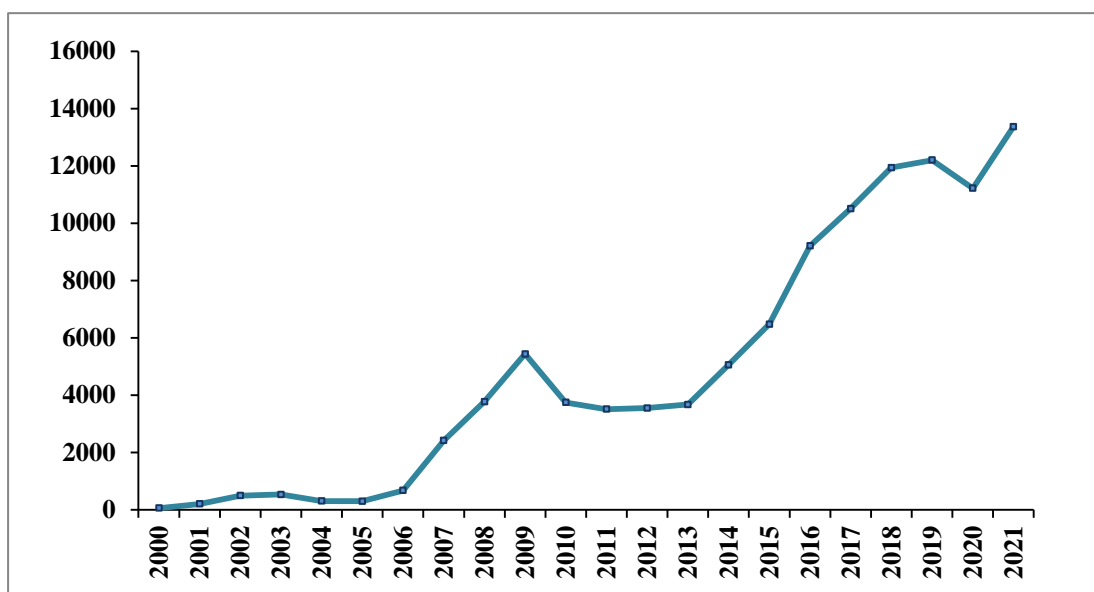
Source: UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder



**Figure 5.8 Numbers of Refugees Asylum in India according to UNHCR's Mandate between 1964 and 2021**

Source: UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder

## Immigration in India



**Figure 5.9 Numbers of Asylum Seekers in India according to UNHCR's Mandate between 2000 and 2021**

Source: UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder

UNHCR published the data regarding the refugees' asylum in India between 1964 and 2021 and asylum seekers in India between 2000 and 2021 (Table 5.12).

Figure 5.8 represents that from 1964 to 1974 the number of refugees gradually increased in India between 44 thousand to 60 thousand. No data has been found between 1975 and 1980. The number of refugees' asylum in India suddenly dropped in 1981 and register little more than 3.5 thousand population. This trend is following till 1989 with more than 9.5 thousand refugees in India; after that, the numbers suddenly increased to 2.1 lakhs in 1990 and reached 2.6 lakhs in 1993. From 1992 to 2013 the registered number of refugees' asylum in India declined gradually and enumerate for more than 1.88 lakhs population in 2012 which further rise from 2014 and maintain the increasing trend till 2021 with more than 2.12 lakhs refugees in India (Figure 5.8).

Figure 5.9 reflects the number of asylum seekers who resided in India between 2000 and 2021 is gradually increased over the years. There are only 58 asylum seekers registered in 2000 and in 2021 their numbers are increased to more than 13 thousand. The number of asylum seekers increased gradually between 2000 and 2006, after that a sharp increasing trend is observed from 2007 to 2009. From 2010 the rising trend of asylum seekers continued to 2021 and it register more than 13 thousand populations.

# **Chapter 6 -Immigration pattern in West Bengal**



# Immigration in West Bengal

The movement of a population from one place to another is known as migration. This phenomenon includes a specific pattern in which a migrant left a place and enters a new place either temporarily or permanently in which the former pattern is known as out-migration and later is named as in-migration of respective places. Migration mainly occurs due to socio-economic, political, or environmental factors which determine a people or a group of people to leave their place of residence in search of better livelihood opportunities.

West Bengal, situated in the eastern part of India faces a similar issue of migration since the beginning of its formation. Partition of India was one of the tragic incidents of Indian history which fragmented the sub-continent of India into two different regions based on religion. The formation of a new country, as well as the division of undivided Bengal, created a major flow of population movement in both regions. People started to displace from their countries and entered new countries which resulted in a massive flow of migration.

## **6.1 Census Data Enumeration Procedure**

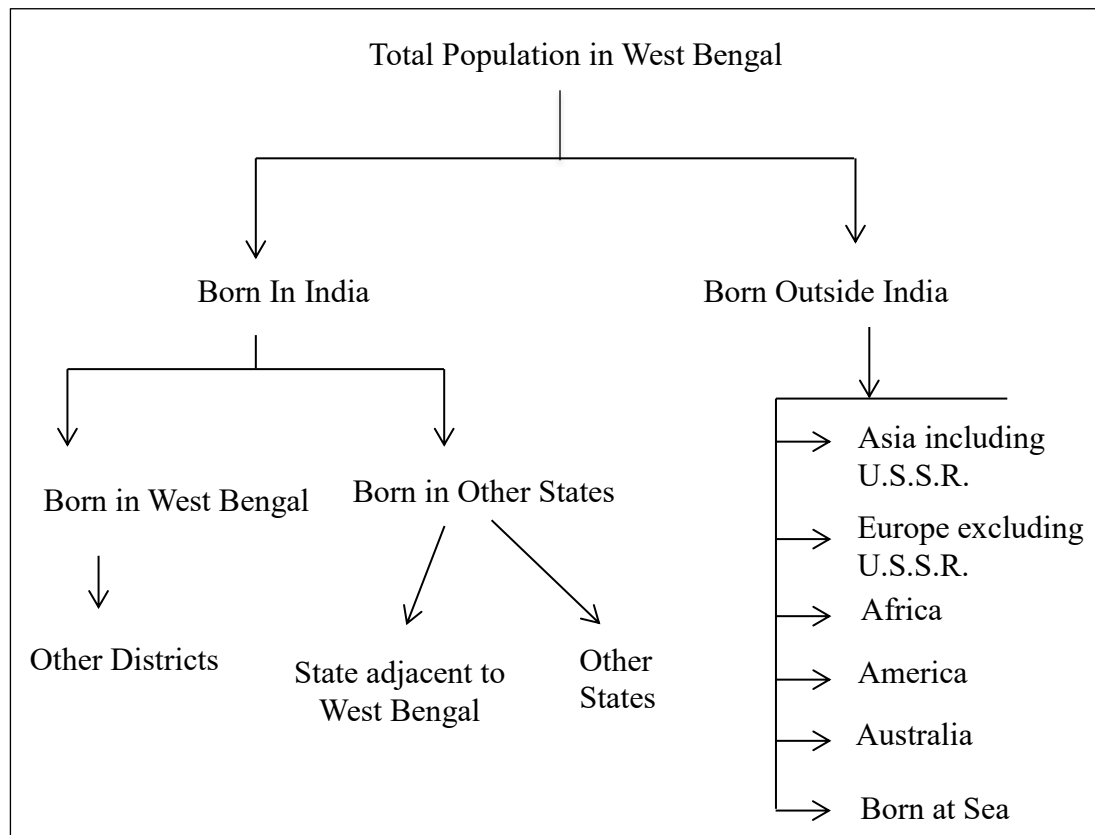
The government of India started to enumerate the migration data in 1951. Despite having various sources like Population Registers, and Vital Statistics, Census was used to document the migration data and became a prime source of migration data. The Census data are enumerated in ten years intervals, so the 1951 census was the first census published after the independence of India. It documents both immigration and emigration data which covers every scale of a country either at the district level or state level.

West Bengal experienced a massive scale of human migration since the beginning of the partition and this immigration flow is continued nowadays. Initially, census data enumerated the immigration information based on the birthplace of a migrant and then his/her movement in West Bengal. From 2001, the census starts to incorporate the immigration data by place of the last residence of a migrant. In this case, it is not necessary for migrants that their birthplace and place of last residence will be the same.

From 1951 to 2011, the census of India follows a specific pattern to enumerate the immigrants in West Bengal. In this case, not only internal immigrants (immigration

# Immigration in West Bengal

within the country) but immigrants from outside India are also calculated. The following figure 6.1 reflects the census enumeration procedure based on birth.



**Figure 6.1 Census Enumeration Procedure**

## 6.2 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 1951

India got independence in 1947 and undivided Bengal was partitioned into two different sectors along religious lines. The western part of Bengal merged with India and was named West Bengal and the eastern part joined with newly created Pakistan as a province of East Bengal which was renamed East Pakistan and finally appeared as an independent country of Bangladesh in 1971 (Harun-or-Rashid, 2012). This incident created a large scale of human migration on both sides of the international border.

# Immigration in West Bengal

## 6.2.1 Structure of Indian Administrative Regions, 1951

As a federal union currently India is comprised of 28 states and 8 union territories. Before independence, the Indian administrative region was quite different from now. Throughout its history, various ethnic groups ruled the Indian sub-continent with their policies and administrative divisions (Reddy, 2003; Majumder, 1977; Thapar, 1966; Mahajan, 2007). Finally, Mughal Empire started to take over the Indian subcontinent and its administrative structure was retained by the British Government (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022). During this time the Indian Sub-continent was divided into several provinces and princely States. These provinces were also known as Presidencies, directly governed by the British. The princely states were administered by a local prince or raja but the British Empire had sovereignty over these states (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022). The princely states were incorporated into the Indian Union between 1947 and 1950 in which most of them were joined with existing provinces. Several new provinces were formed by incorporating other princely states such as Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Few of them converted into separate provinces such as Hyderabad, Bilaspur, Bhopal, and Mysore. On 26 January 1950, the constitution of India was formed and it made India a democratic, sovereign, and republican country. The new republic is also called the 'union of states' and was categorized into several parts (Constitution of India, GOI).

- Part A states were the provinces of British India, governed by an elected governor and state legislature. There were 9 states in Part A, such as Assam, Bihar, Bombay, East Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orrisa, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. All of them were formerly named provinces such as Assam province of Bihar province, but Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal were named Central Provinces and Berar, United Provinces, and Bengal province respectively (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022).
- Part B states were formerly known as princely states and ruled by a rajpramukh who was employed by the President of India. There were 8 states under Part B, such as Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan, Mysore, Saurashtra, Patiala, East Punjab States Union (PEPSU), and Travancore-Cochin. The term 'princely state' was incorporated after the

# Immigration in West Bengal

states name such as Hyderabad Princely state or Mysore Princely state except for Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, and Saurashtra which were renamed as Rajputana Agency, Central India Agency, Baroda, Western India, and Gujrat States Agency correspondingly (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022).

- Part C states were comprised of both provinces and some princely states, and each of them was ruled by a chief commissioner. The President of India appointed the Chief Commissioners. There were 10 states in Part C such as Ajmer, Bhopal, Bilaspur, Coorg state, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch, Manipur, Tripura, and Vindya Pradesh. Among them, Vindya Pradesh and Ajmer were formerly known as Central India Agency and Ajmer-Merwara Province respectively (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022).
- Part D state included only The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, run by a lieutenant governor who was appointed by the central government (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022).

## 6.2.2 Population Enumeration in West Bengal, 1951

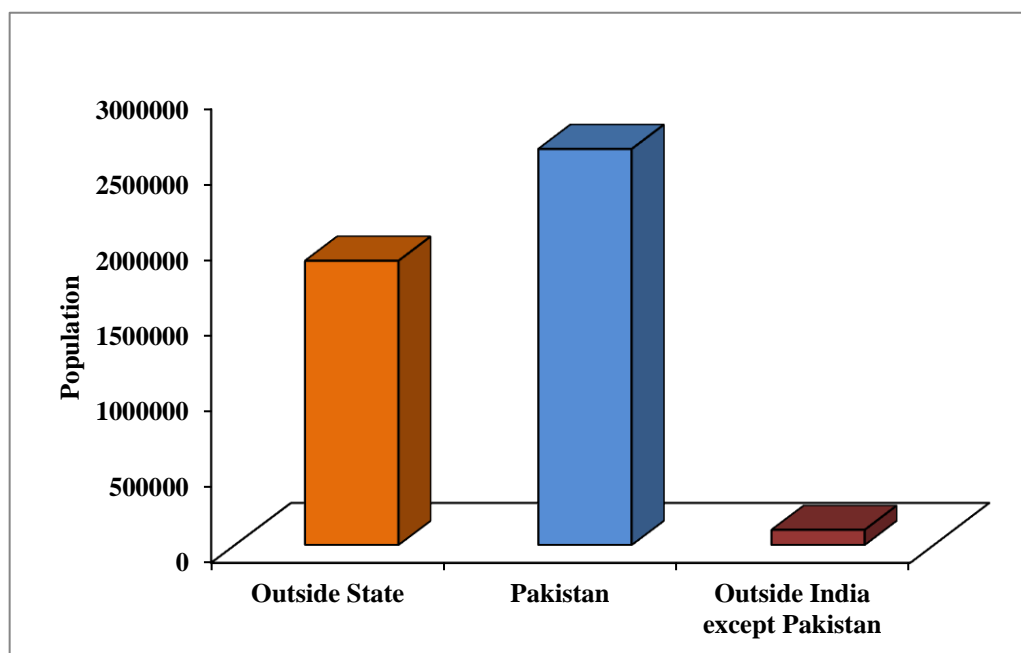
According to Census 1951 West Bengal, a state located along the eastern part of the Indian sub-continent was organized into 15 districts. The administrative division of West Bengal was divided into two segments; the Burdwan Division and the Presidency Division (Census of India, 1951). Six districts fall under the jurisdiction of the Burdwan division, such as Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapur, Hooghly, and Howrah. The remaining nine districts were incorporated into the Presidency division; these were 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, and Cooch Behar (Census of India, 1951). During the partition of Bengal, many spatial arrangements occurred both in West Bengal and East Bengal according to the Radcliff plan. This plan initially excluded the northern part of West Bengal from its main territory which created major administrative problems. Later on, a narrow strip of land was excavated from Bihar and connected both the northern and southern parts of West Bengal. Similarly, a small part of the Chotonagpur Plateau was incorporated adjacent to Bankura (Chatterjee, 2007) and in 1956 Purulia was formed (Kamal, 2009).

# Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.1 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 1951**

Categories	Total Population
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	24810308
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	20209636
<b>Born Outside State</b>	1881731
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	2618938
<b>Born Outside India except Pakistan</b>	100003

Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part –II Tables



**Figure 6.2 Population Influx in West Bengal, 1951**

In 1951 there were around 24 million populations in West Bengal (Table 6.1). Among them, 4.6 million were born outside West Bengal which constituted 18.54 percent of the total population. These groups of people were either born outside State within India or outside India and their numbers were estimated at 1.9 million or 2.7 million respectively (Table 6.1). The maximum numbers of immigrants enumerated in West Bengal were born outside India mainly from Pakistan (Figure 6.2) which constituted

## Immigration in West Bengal

96.32 percent of total foreign immigrants and the remaining 3.68 percent of immigrants were from outside India excluding Pakistan.

This phase of immigration was mainly related to the Bengal partition and its resultant population movements on both sides of the country. The newly formed East Bengal was incorporated with Pakistan and large-scale dispersal occurred in West Bengal. Apart from that, inter-state displacement was also observed in which maximum numbers of displacement occurred due to religious factors.

The following table 6.2 represents the number of migrants originating from different countries outside of India and their displacement to West Bengal in 1951.

**Table 6.2 Migrants Origin from Outside India and Enumerated in West Bengal (1951)**

<b>Asia</b>			
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	772	<b>Pakistan</b>	2618938
<b>Burma</b>	6411	<b>Strait Settlement and Malaya</b>	129
<b>Ceylon</b>	203	<b>U.S.S.R</b>	100
<b>China</b>	3969	<b>Elsewhere</b>	5479
<b>Nepal</b>	73299		

<b>Europe</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>
<b>United Kingdom and Northern Ireland</b>	6829
<b>Eire</b>	50
<b>Elsewhere in Europe</b>	1350

## Immigration in West Bengal

<b>Africa</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	24
<b>Mauritius</b>	10
<b>Mozambique</b>	0
<b>Union of South Africa</b>	108
<b>Elsewhere</b>	5

<b>America</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>
<b>Canada</b>	17
<b>United States</b>	1071
<b>Elsewhere</b>	33

<b>Australia</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>
<b>Australia</b>	110
<b>New Zealand</b>	15
<b>Elsewhere</b>	10

**Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part –II Tables**

According to Census 1951, apart from Pakistan, Nepal (Table 6.2) was the second-highest origin country of the migrants who entered West Bengal. It constituted more than 73 thousand immigrants which was very less (2.7%) compared to Pakistan (96.32%). Europe was the second-highest continent of the world after Asia from where migrants originated.

## Immigration in West Bengal

The undivided Bengal received many immigrants from different parts of the world during the Mughal and Sultanate periods; many of them arrived as refugees due to the Mongol invasion. Some of the immigrants found fertile lands in Bengal which might be suitable for cultivation. It was assumed that Arabs were the earliest immigrants settled in coastal areas (Arabs, The, Banglapedia, 18 June 2021). Later on, many colonial settlements were established in Bengal after granting permission from the Bengal Sultanate. Among them, the French colonies and factories were set up in Chandernagore (French, The, Banglapedia, 27 August 2021) in 1673 after obtaining the permission of then Bengal Nawab, Ibrahim Khan. They established their colonies on the right bank of the Hooghly River. In 1688 the French colony was permanently established in Chandernagore and Joseph François Dupleix was appointed as Governor in 1730. Later on, France and Great Britain were involved in a battle in 1756 and finally British Navy won Chandernagore on 23 March 1757. In the following years, the city of Chandernagore was under the control of the British, and in 1763, the city was returned to France. In 1794 the British government recaptured the city and again it returned to France along with 3 sq. miles territory in 1816. Until 1950 Chandernagore was administered by the governor-general of Pondicherry as part of French India. On 8 June 1948 after discussion with the Government of India, the Government of the French Republic declared that the people of French colonies in Chandernagore might be decided their future fate and status by themselves which was agreed by the people of Chandernagore and they voted in support of the merger of the city with India on 19 June 1949. On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1950, the Government of India took over the Chandernagore administration by the 'de facto' method. 'Treaty of Session' was signed in Paris in presence of the President of the French Republic and representatives of the President of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1951 for the territory of the Chandernagore administration. On 9 June 1952 Chandernagore was incorporated with the Union of India by the 'de Jure method. On 19 August 1952 Ministry of External Affairs published a notification regarding the transfer of power from France to India. On 19 November 1953 Government of India appointed Dr. Amarnath Jha, PSC Chairman of Bihar to investigate and ascertain the demands of the Chandernagore citizen to maintain the future administration of the territory. On 8 May 1954 Government of India published the 'Jha report' directed by Dr. Amarnath Jha and finally according to the Chandernagore Merger Act, 1954 the city of Chandernagore was incorporated with West Bengal on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1954 (History of Chandannagar, 2014).



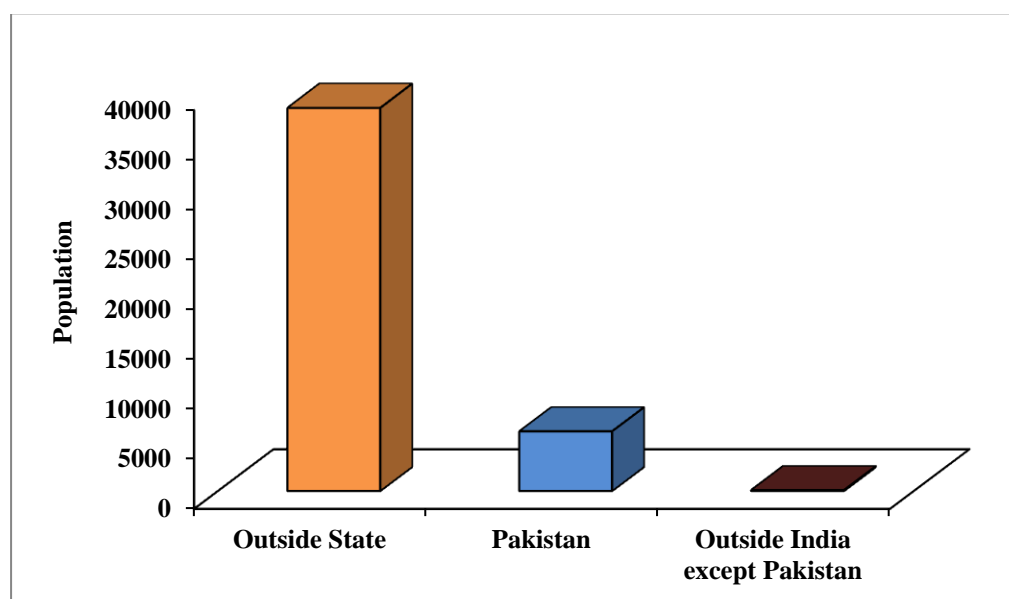
## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 1951 enumerated the district-wise population data of West Bengal which excluded Chandernagore city as it was a part of French India till 1950. As a separate entity, the Census of India 1951 enumerated the population data of Chandernagore. The following table 6.3 reflects the same.

**Table 6.3 Estimated Population Enumerations in Chandernagore, 1951**

Born	Population	Born	Population
<b>Total Population in Chandernagore</b>	49909	<b>Born Outside India</b>	6131
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	5370	<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	6035
<b>Born Outside State</b>	38408	<b>Born Outside India except in Pakistan</b>	96

Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part –II Tables



**Figure 6.3 Population Influx in Chandernagore (1951)**

There was around 50 thousand population in Chandernagore among them 44 thousand were born outside of the state (Table 6.3) which constituted 76.95 percent of the total population. There was around 6 thousand population (Table 6.3) who were born outside India and enumerated in Chandernagore which constituted 14 percent of total immigrants. Most of the foreign-born migrants came from Pakistan and it was estimated more than 6 thousand or 98 percent of total foreign immigrants.

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.4 District wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 1951 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>Other State</b>	<b>Elsewhere within India</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>America</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Born At Sea</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	1845580	29656	0	110856	545	0	37	1	1	108850	2590
<b>Birbhum</b>	1018868	2271	0	15048	7	0	0	0	0	14887	168
<b>Bankura</b>	501782	1368	0	10565	18	0	0	0	0	10526	327
<b>Midnapur</b>	3235103	35567	0	37035	77	0	11	0	0	36388	735
<b>Hooghly</b>	1372412	13148	0	72470	191	0	2	0	0	72034	629
<b>Howrah</b>	1409447	33564	0	95667	463	4	57	9	0	93801	2399
<b>24 Parganas</b>	3633393	116541	0	625130	835	24	23	3	0	621227	4788
<b>Calcutta</b>	1159654	246340	411	705362	5444	112	926	104	4	685672	26280
<b>Nadia</b>	680462	4284	0	442141	27	0	0	0	0	441874	294
<b>Murshidabad</b>	1637526	1632	0	63872	5	1	0	0	0	63761	117
<b>Malda</b>	855073	1522	0	64211	4	0	0	0	0	64133	82
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	567322	2040	0	128992	1	0	0	0	0	128780	213

## Immigration in West Bengal

<b>Born</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>Outside State</b>	<b>Elsewhere within India</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>America</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Born At Sea</b>	<b>Born at Pakistan</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan</b>
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	635696	122098	0	156520	210	2	9	3	0	132358	24386
<b>Darjeeling</b>	344949	40846	0	58990	395	4	61	15	0	22601	36864
<b>Cooch Bihar</b>	525242	23468	0	122441	7	0	0	0	0	122046	402
<b>Purulia</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part -II Tables

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.5 Population Influxes in West Bengal (Outside State, Pakistan, and Outside India except for Pakistan) in 1951**

<b>Enumerated Districts</b>	<b>Born Outside State</b>	<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	<b>Born Outside India except Pakistan</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	234648	108850	2590
<b>Birbhum</b>	32966	14887	168
<b>Bankura</b>	17507	10526	327
<b>Midnapur</b>	86796	36388	735
<b>Hooghly</b>	109245	72034	629
<b>Howrah</b>	105726	93801	2399
<b>24 Parganas</b>	349901	621227	4788
<b>Calcutta</b>	677071	685672	26280
<b>Nadia</b>	22294	441874	294
<b>Murshidabad</b>	14355	63761	117
<b>Malda</b>	18202	64133	82
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	24258	128780	213
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	122098	132358	24386
<b>Darjeeling</b>	40846	22601	36864
<b>Cooch Bihar</b>	23468	122046	402
<b>Purulia</b>	NA	NA	NA

Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part –II Tables

# Immigration in West Bengal

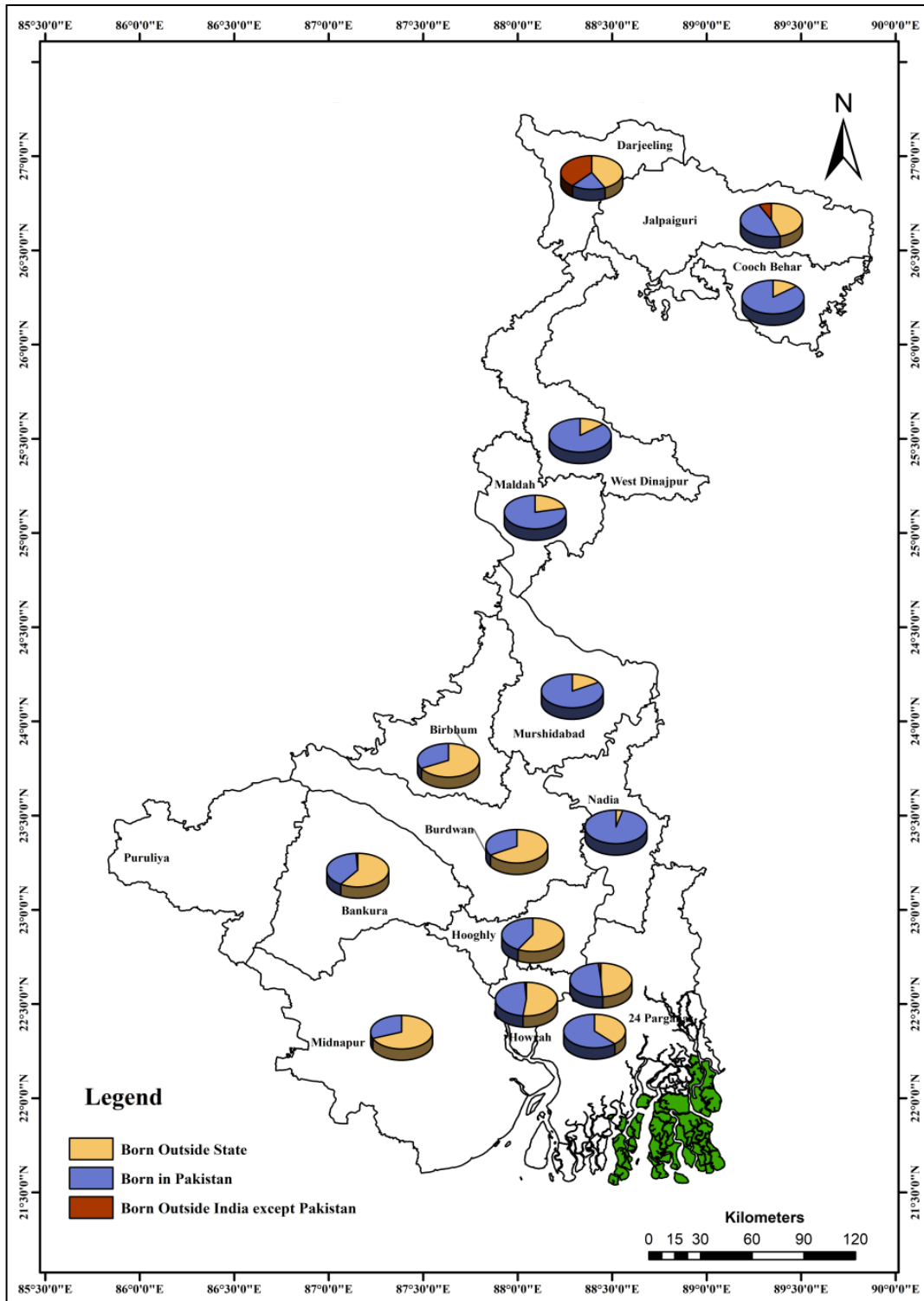


Figure 6.4 Influx of Population in West Bengal, 1951

## Immigration in West Bengal

There was a 1.9 million population in West Bengal who were born outside the state. The majority of them entered Calcutta (Figure 6.4) which contained more than 67 thousand (Table 6.5) or 36 percent of total immigrants born outside the state. It was followed by 24 Parganas and Burdwan with 19 percent and 12 percent of total immigrants born in India respectively.

According to the 1951 census, 2.7 million people were born outside of India and the majority of them (96.32%) were from Pakistan. Maximum numbers of Pakistani migrants entered Calcutta and 24 Parganas (Table 6.5) which constituted 26 percent and 24 percent of total Pakistan-born migrants separately. Nepal was the second-highest country (Table 6.2) from where a majority of the people arrived in West Bengal and concentrated mainly in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts (Figure 6.4).

In the northern part of West Bengal maximum number of outside state, immigrants choose Jalpaiguri for their displacement and it contained more than 1 lakh (Table 6.5) or 6.5 percent of total outside state-born immigrants. Darjeeling is the only district in West Bengal where a majority of the immigrants were coming outside India, especially from Nepal (Figure 6.4).

In 1951 after Asia, Europe was the second-highest continent from where immigrants arrived in West Bengal. The majority of them were from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland (Table 6.2).

After the declaration of Independence by the British, the government of India decided to divide Bengal into two segments based on religion. The Hindu-dominated parts would be joined in India and Muslim dominated part would be incorporated with the newly formed Pakistan. This decision created major turmoil among the people of India and as well as Pakistan and they started to cross the border. Immigrants were entering West Bengal both from East and West Pakistan but the majority of them were from East Pakistan (Census, 1951). The Government of West Bengal addressed these new migrants as 'displaced persons'. Relief and Rehabilitation Commission initially considered those migrants as displaced ones who had taken shelter in India or forcefully left their land of East Pakistan due to civil disturbances occurring on and after 15 October 1947 on account of the formation of two nations (Department of Relief and Rehabilitation, GoWB, 1998). Later on, another three criteria were added; such as the displaced persons should be the permanent residents of East Pakistan and

## Immigration in West Bengal

due to communal riots they left their country and arrived in West Bengal before 31 December 1950; they owned no lands in West Bengal and finally, the displaced persons should be declared in an affidavit that they would not return to East Pakistan (Department of Relief and Rehabilitation, GoWB, 1998).

The exodus of Bengali Hindus started after Noakhali and Tippera riots in 1946 and it became massive after the partition. The migrants started to cross the international boundary and settled in West Bengal. The wave-like immigration never seized rather it became trickled down gradually. The first phase of migration occurred in 1946 due to ongoing riots in the Noakhali and Tippera districts of East Pakistan which accelerated the migration flow to 2.46 lakh at the end of 1947 (Sengupta et al., 2017). Police action in Hyderabad again increased the immigration pattern in West Bengal in which a standstill agreement was signed between Nizam of Hyderabad and the Government of India regarding the coalescence of Hyderabad, a princely state of India into the Indian Territory. Initially, Hyderabad Nizam wanted to be an independent state within India but after prolonged discussions and collisions, the Indian Government successfully invaded Hyderabad into Indian Territory (Raghavan, 2010). This incident swelled the immigrants' flow to 13 to 15 lakhs by the end of 1948 (Choudhury, 1983). The next major displacement occurred in 1950 when communal violence occurred against the Namasudra community by the Muslims in the Khulna districts of East Pakistan which gradually spread over Rajshahi, Dacca, and Faridpur. This phase of immigration was mainly limited to the lower-class artisans and peasants (Singh, 2003). During this phase of migration around 56 thousand refugees arrived in West Bengal within the first fifty-three days of 1950 which increased to 1.5 lakh within the first three months and their daily arrival was around 15 thousand. (Chakrabarty, 1999). The rate of immigration temporarily trickled down after the Nehru-Liaquat treaty on 8 April 1950 which was popularly known 'Delhi pact'. This treaty was in favor of returning all proprietary rights of immovable assets to all emigrants who left their country during the partition. This treaty also confirmed to return of all abducted and molested women and secured minority rights (Chandra et al., 2008; Chakrabarty, 1999). Despite the agreement, the arrival of refugees never ceased and there were around 3 million refugees in West Bengal, in 1951 (Chatterjee, 2007). The following table 6.6 denotes the numbers of displaced people who arrived in West Bengal from Pakistan in 1951.

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.6 Displaced Persons in West Bengal from Undivided Pakistan (1946 to 1951)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>West Pakistan</b>	<b>East Pakistan</b>	<b>Unspecified District of Pakistan</b>
<b>1946</b>	0	44624	673
<b>1947</b>	8062	377899	2673
<b>1948</b>	1995	419018	2798
<b>1949</b>	669	273592	2151
<b>1950</b>	528	925185	7579
<b>1951</b>	73	30879	674

**Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part –II Tables**

Census of India enumerated the number of immigrants who were displaced from Pakistan due to the post-partition strategy and divided the Pakistan immigrants into three segments such as East Pakistan displaced persons, West Pakistan displaced persons, and the immigrants who did not mention their origin of displacement in Pakistan. There were more than 2 million displaced people in West Bengal, originating from undivided Pakistan. The majority of them were from East Pakistan which covered more than 98 percent of total displaced persons. The remaining immigrants came from West Pakistan and Unspecified places in Pakistan.

The wave of displacement started in 1947 after the partition of Bengal and it reached 3.8 lakhs displaced people (Table 6.5) in West Bengal. Among them, 97 percent of immigrants were from East Pakistan. The majority number of West Pakistan migrants arrived in 1947, after that the flow of immigration in West Bengal reduced.

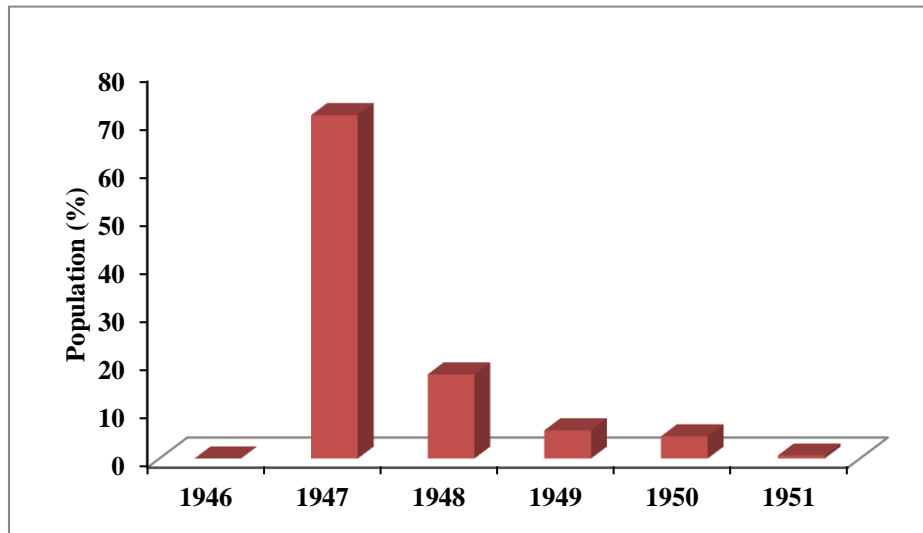
A maximum number of displaced persons arrived in 1950 when the ‘Delhi Pact’ was signed between two nations which resulted in 9.3 lakhs displacement (Table 6.6) in West Bengal. This displacement also occurred from East Pakistan and it incorporated more than 99 percent of total displacement in 1950.

Between 1946 and 1951 there were more than 11 thousand displaced persons from West Pakistan and a majority of them (71.17%) (Figure 6.5) came to West Bengal in

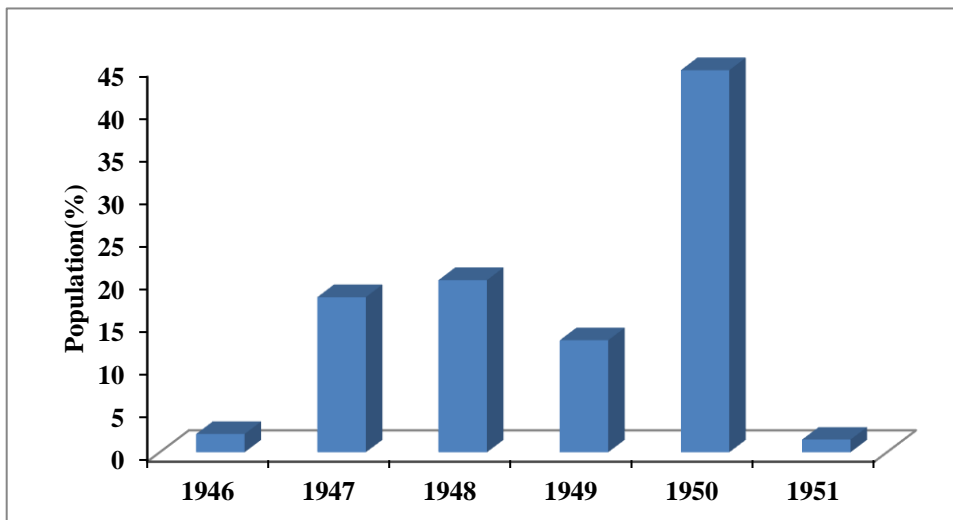


## Immigration in West Bengal

1947. East Pakistan immigrants constituted more than 2 lakhs people between 1946 and 1951, among them, 45 percent (Figure 6.6) arrived in 1950. Maximum numbers of displaced persons from unspecified districts of Pakistan entered West Bengal in 1950 which denoted 45 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.7) between 1946 and 1951.

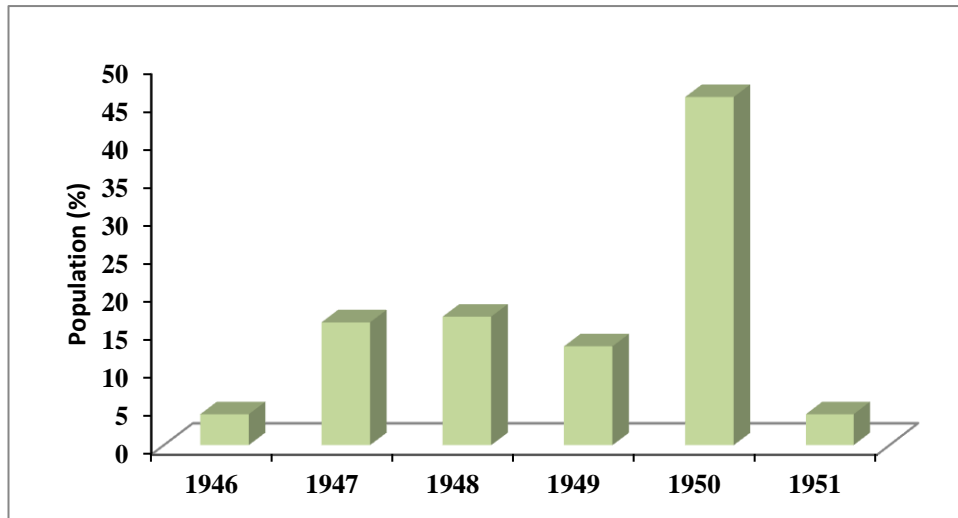


**Figure 6.5 Displaced Persons in West Bengal from West Pakistan (1946-1951)**



**Figure 6.6 Displaced Persons in West Bengal from East Pakistan (1946 -1951)**

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.7 Displaced Persons in West Bengal from Unspecified Districts of Pakistan (1946-1951)**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.7 District Wise Enumeration of Displaced Person from East Pakistan 1946-1951**

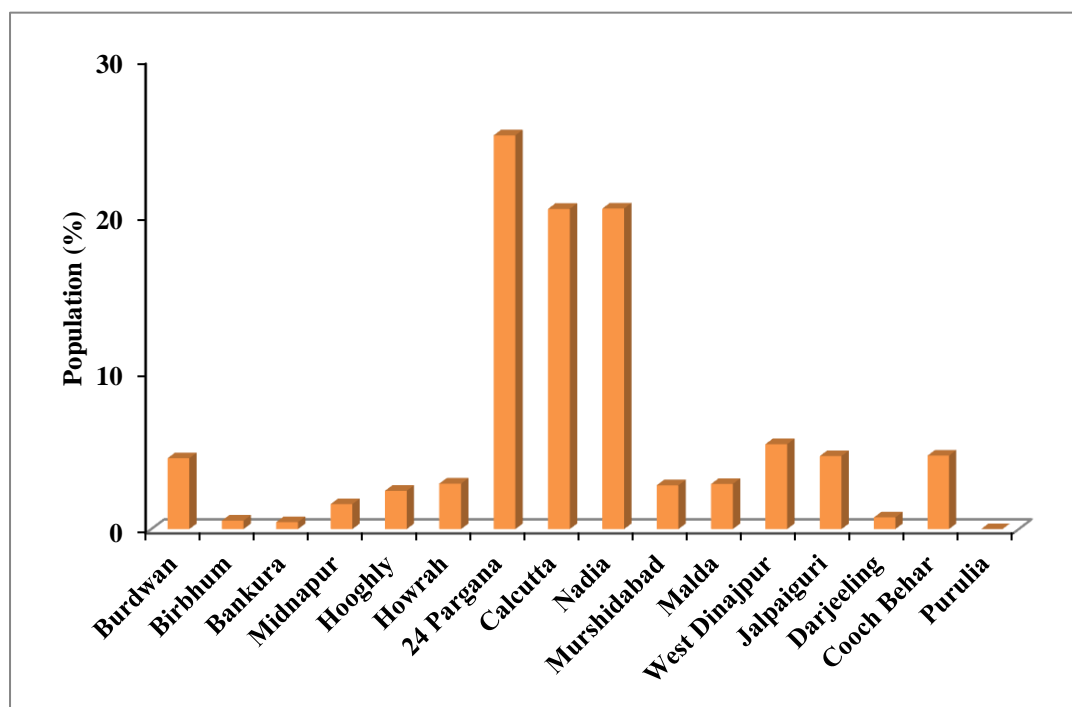
Districts	Year						Total
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
<b>Burdwan</b>	1888	22332	23854	13863	31250	1065	94252
<b>Birbhum</b>	425	2948	2185	1117	4335	300	11310
<b>Bankura</b>	68	2025	1016	549	5574	34	9266
<b>Midnapur</b>	603	12405	11651	3282	4965	267	33173
<b>Hooghly</b>	989	10810	11958	7255	19514	437	50963
<b>Howrah</b>	1662	15239	11230	8192	23477	756	60556
<b>24 Pargana</b>	9608	101970	112999	68639	221675	6322	521213
<b>Calcutta</b>	19264	113962	102700	43306	137036	7851	424119
<b>Nadia</b>	5649	47425	74434	65262	225393	6493	424656
<b>Murshidabad</b>	223	11317	15301	9051	21974	390	58256
<b>Malda</b>	191	4271	5215	6250	43119	980	60026
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	222	7226	14524	13160	75659	2115	112906
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	1630	13552	18419	15452	47025	1033	97111
<b>Darjeeling</b>	161	3459	4301	2201	5278	134	15534
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	2041	8938	9231	16013	58911	2602	97736
<b>Purulia</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part –II Tables

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 2.07 million displaced populations in West Bengal who arrived between 1946 and 1971 from East Pakistan. After entering they started to settle into different districts of West Bengal. In 1946, when the first phase of migration was initiated, the majority of immigrants choose Calcutta (Table 6.7) for their settlement. From 1947 to 1949 maximum number of immigrants entered 24 Parganas (Table 6.7). The arrival of immigrants in Nadia outnumbered the other districts in 1950.

Between 1946 and 1951 majority numbers of East Pakistani immigrants were concentrated in 24 Parganas, Calcutta, and Nadia districts (Figure 6.8 and 6.9) of the southern part of West Bengal which reflected 25 percent, 20 percent, and 21 percent of the total numbers of East Pakistan immigrants (Figure 6.8). In the Northern part of West Bengal, displacement mainly occurred in West Dinajpur which was followed by Cooch Bihar (Figure 6.9) with 5.45 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal.



**Figure 6.8 Displacements from East Pakistan to West Bengal (1946 -1951)**

# Immigration in West Bengal

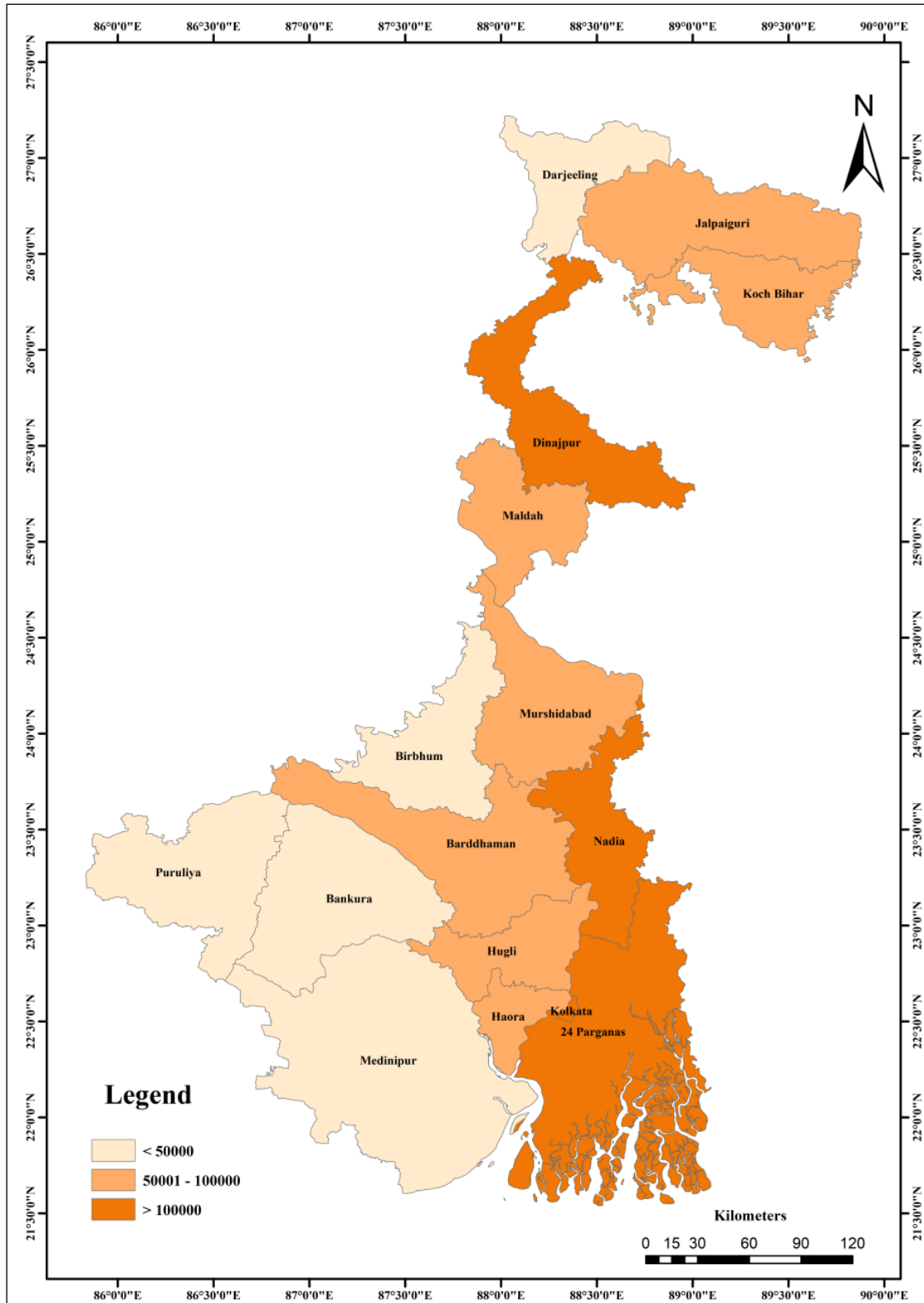


Figure 6.9 Displaced People from East Pakistan (1946-1951)

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.8 District-wise Enumeration of Displaced Persons from West Pakistan (1946 to 1951)**

District	Year					Total
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
<b>Burdwan</b>	761	173	15	7	4	960
<b>Birbhum</b>	45	3	2	4	0	54
<b>Bankura</b>	12	9	0	0	0	21
<b>Midnapur</b>	213	21	12	0	0	246
<b>Hooghly</b>	41	8	19	23	5	96
<b>Howrah</b>	293	47	67	52	2	461
<b>24 Pargana</b>	619	264	104	266	31	1284
<b>Calcutta</b>	5634	1332	272	139	28	7405
<b>Nadia</b>	52	34	20	6	3	115
<b>Murshidabad</b>	8	0	0	1	0	9
<b>Malda</b>	7	0	0	0	0	7
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	58	27	18	13	0	116
<b>Darjeeling</b>	163	29	10	7	0	209
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	155	43	130	10	0	338
<b>Purulia</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part -II Tables

## Immigration in West Bengal

After the declaration of Independence, a greater part of the immigrants originated from East Pakistan and it constituted 98 percent of total displacement between 1946 and 1951. The remaining number of migrants were coming from West Pakistan and unspecified districts of Pakistan. The estimated numbers of displaced persons from West Pakistan were around 11 thousand which formed less than 1 percent of total displacement (Table 6.8). Among these immigrants, most of them settled in Calcutta (Figure 6.11) which constituted 65 percent (Figure 6.10) of total displaced persons from West Pakistan. 24 Parganas and Burdwan were the second and third highest destination regions of West Bengal (Figure 6.11), occupied by West Pakistani immigrants and covered little more than 11 percent and 4 percent of total emigrants.

West Pakistan displaced persons could not consider the northern part of West Bengal as their destination but some of them settled in Cooch Behar and Darjeeling contained 2.9 percent and 1.85 percent respectively (Figure 6.10).

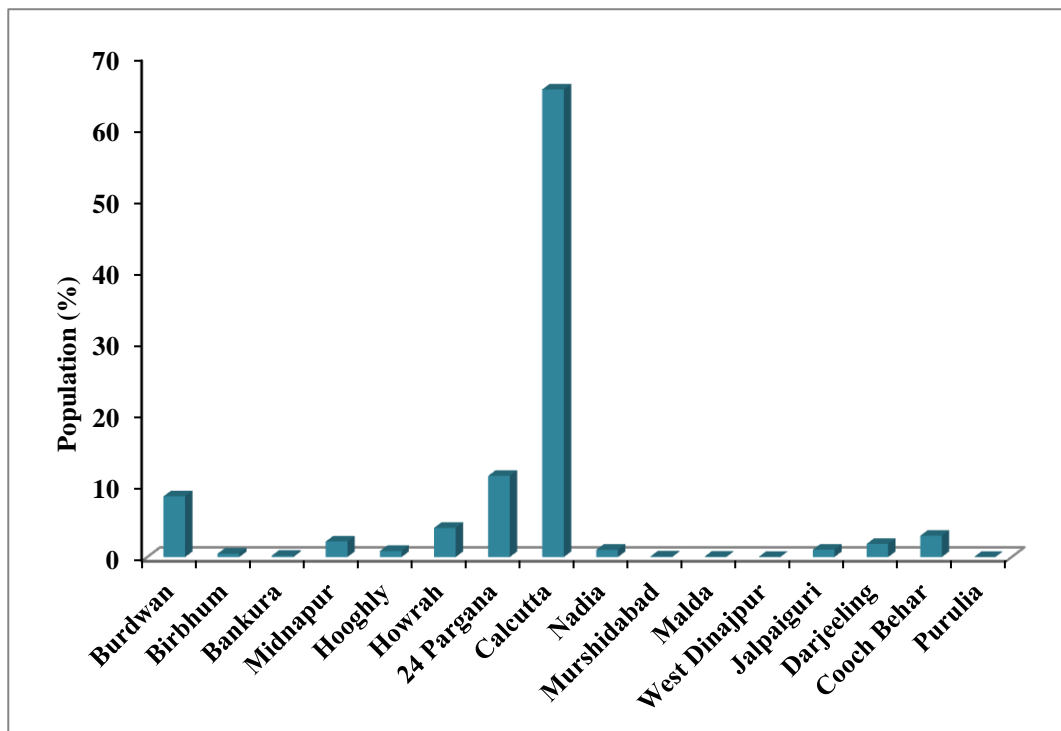


Figure 6.10 Displacements from West Pakistan to West Bengal (1946 -1951)

# Immigration in West Bengal

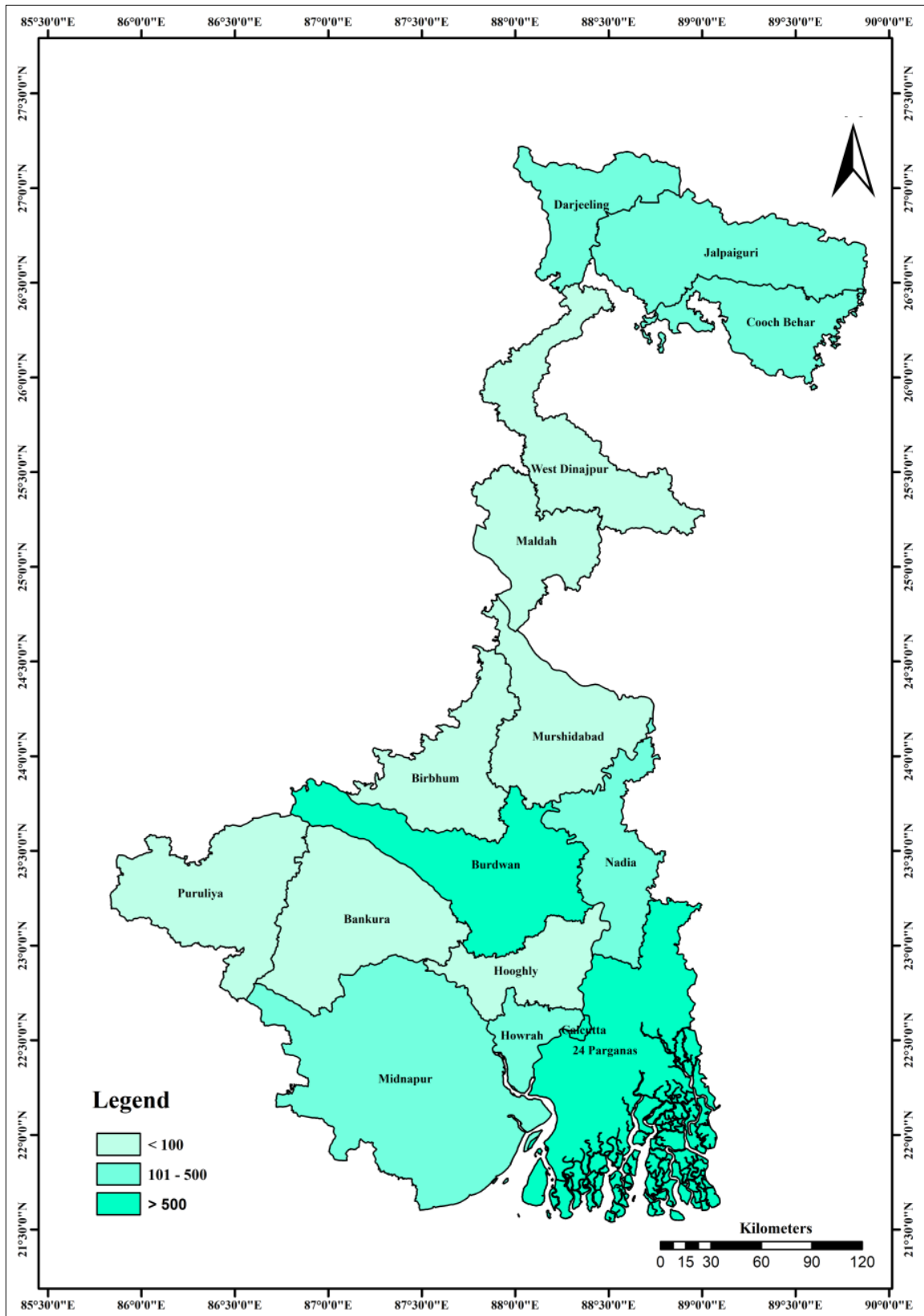


Figure 6.11 Displaced People from West Pakistan (1946-1951)



## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.9 District wise Enumeration of Displaced Persons from Unspecified Districts of Pakistan (1946 to 1951)**

District	Year						Total
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
<b>Burdwan</b>	15	200	237	127	302	12	893
<b>Birbhum</b>	0	81	10	23	305	0	419
<b>Bankura</b>	0	2	0	0	5	0	7
<b>Midnapur</b>	6	13	18	1	96	6	140
<b>Hooghly</b>	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
<b>Howrah</b>	6	31	11	23	1	7	79
<b>24 Pargana</b>	316	1042	1244	527	1569	67	4765
<b>Calcutta</b>	182	523	351	107	505	36	1704
<b>Nadia</b>	5	331	318	337	1003	142	2136
<b>Murshidabad</b>	0	109	174	58	115	8	464
<b>Malda</b>	0	7	6	24	116	12	165
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	51	105	204	216	1661	335	2572
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	68	161	157	343	588	19	1336
<b>Darjeeling</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	24	68	65	333	1313	30	1833
<b>Purulia</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

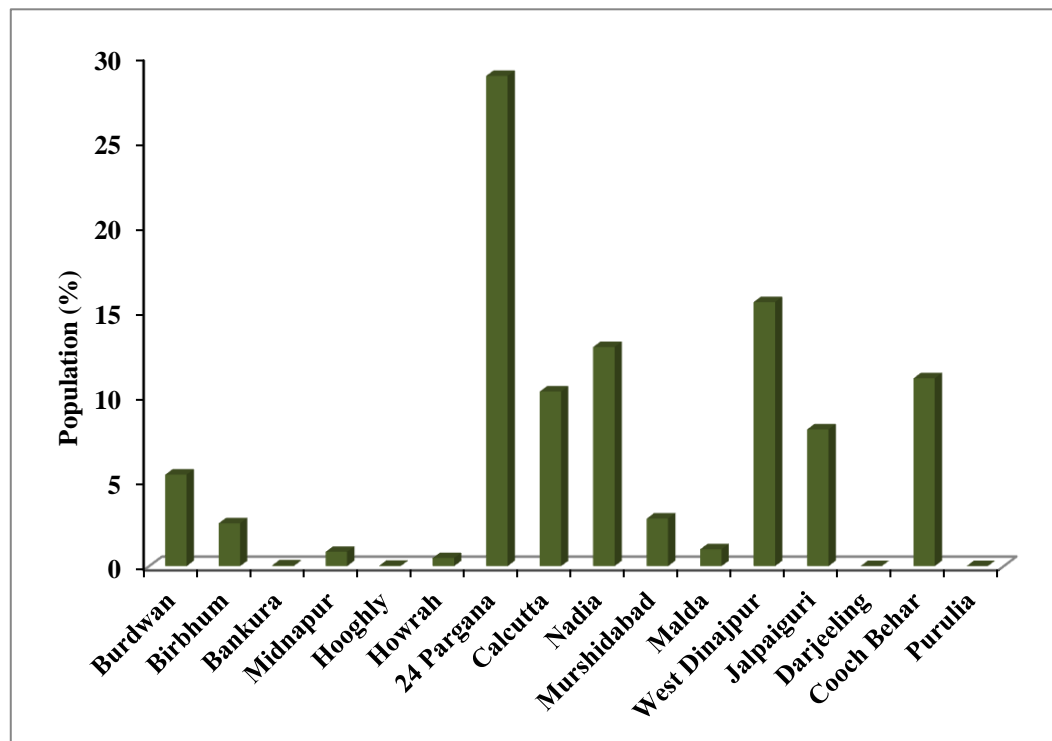
Source: Census of India, 1951, Volume 6, West Bengal Sikkim & Chandernagore, Part -II Tables

## Immigration in West Bengal

A group of immigrants from undivided Pakistan entered West Bengal but could not disclose their place of origin and the census of India enumerated their information in a specific table and named them as displaced persons from Unspecified Districts of Pakistan. Their migration to West Bengal started in 1946 and the majority of them settled in 24 Parganas and Calcutta (Table 6.9).

There was a total of 16.5 thousand displaced persons in West Bengal entered between 1946 and 1951 from unspecified districts of Pakistan and 28.85 percent of them were enumerated in 24 Parganas (Figure 6.12) which was followed by West Dinajpur and Nadia (Figure 6.13) with 15.57 percent and 12.93 percent of total unspecified immigrants respectively (Figure 6.13).

When cross-border migration started after the partition of Bengal, the majority of the immigrants from adjacent countries choose the nearest border towns or districts for their displacement. The northern part of Bengal except West Dinajpur, Cooch Behar, and Jalpaiguri (Figure 6.13) experienced immigration flow which included 11.10 percent and 8 percent (Figure 6.12) of total unspecified immigrants from Pakistan.



**Figure 6.12 Displacements from Unspecified District of Pakistan to West Bengal (1946 -1951)**

# Immigration in West Bengal

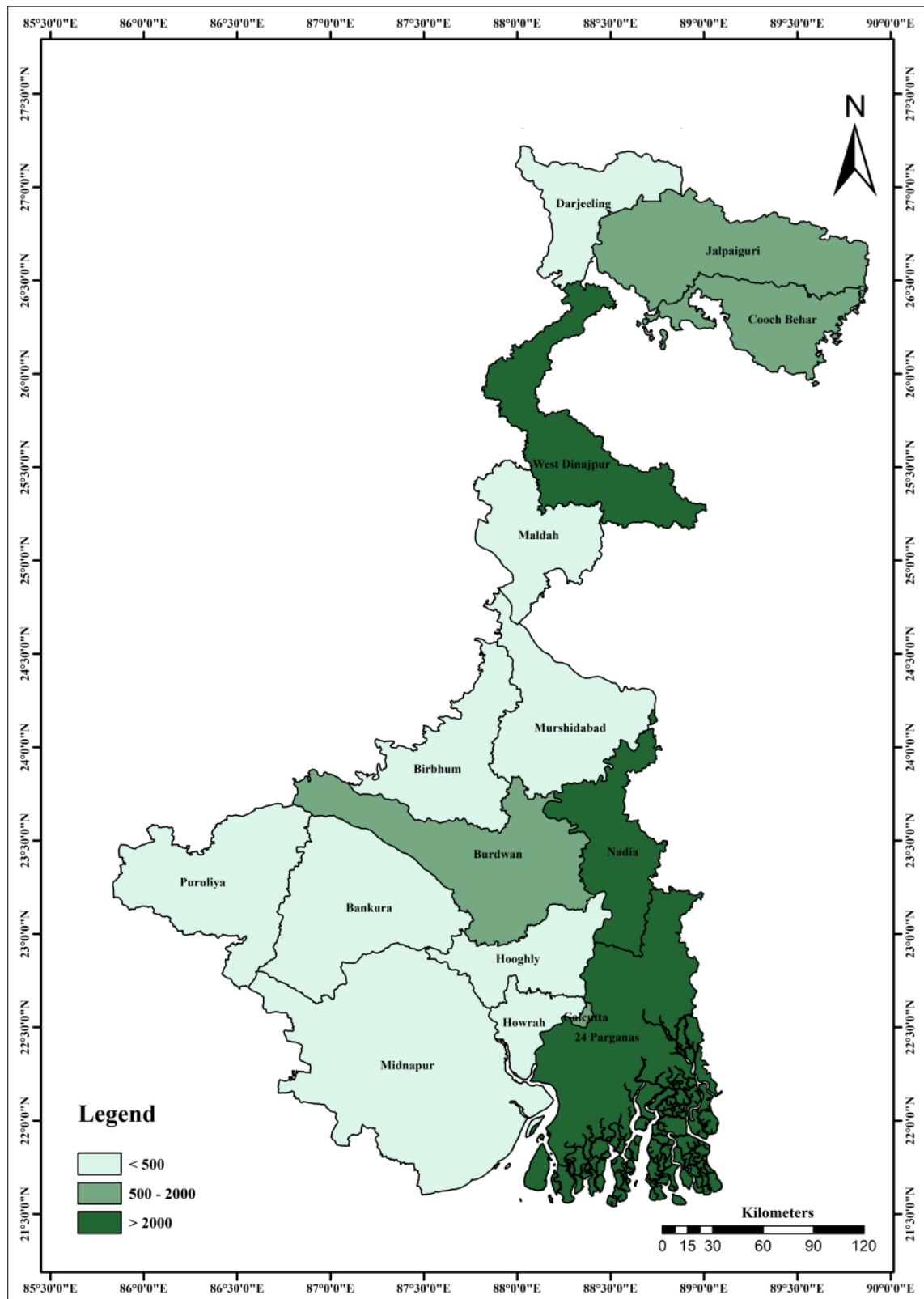


Figure 6.13 Displaced Persons Unspecified District of Pakistan (1946-1951)

# Immigration in West Bengal

## **6.3 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 1961**

The partition of Bengal and resulting displacement in West Bengal was never seized after the declaration of the 'Delhi Pact' on 8 April 1950 (Chakrabarty, 1999). This phase of migration was not confined to West Bengal rather displacement occurred between two newly formed countries due to the introduction of the passport system. Immigration from outside of the state continued and occupied a specific percentage of total immigration in West Bengal.

### **6.3.1 Structure of Indian Administrative Regions, 1961**

After incorporating several provinces and princely states the whole administrative division of the Indian Union was divided into several states and union territories in 1950. As per the new constitution of India the newly formed 'union of states' was characterized by three types of states and united territories (Article 1, Constitution of India, GOI).

During the period of British rule, there was a demand for separate states based on the languages. The first linguistic movement was initiated by the existing Bihar and Orissa provinces in 1935. In the following years, the movement gained a motion and it demanded a separate Orissa province by bifurcating the existing Bihar Orissa province (Sharma, 1995). The movement finally succeeded and in 1936 the Orissa province appeared as the first pre-independent Indian state which was prepared based on language (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).

After independence, there were several political movements in India for the formation of new states based on common languages. The Linguistic Provinces Commission of 'Dhar Commission' which was founded on 17 June 1948, rejected language as criteria for separating states. In December 1953, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru founded the States Reorganisation Commission to restructure the Indian states. The first linguistic state Andhra was founded on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1953 for Telugu-speaking people. It was excavated from the Madras after prolonged agitation and strikes (Explainer: The reorganisation of states in India and why it happened, The News Minute, 2 November 2016). On 30 September 1955, the commission submitted its report with recommendations for restructuring of Indian states (Reorganisation of States, The Economic Weekly, 15 October 1955). Initially, it was suggested to divide the whole country into 16 states and 3 central governed areas but the government

# Immigration in West Bengal

decided to fragment India into 14 states and 6 union territories (Explainer: The reorganisation of states in India and why it happened, The News Minute, 2 November 2016). Finally, the constitution was changed to manage the restructuring of states.

The States Reorganisation Act was passed on 31 August 1956 and became effective on 1 November 1956. An important amendment was changed in the constitution before the implementation of the act. The terminology of Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D states was under the seventh amendment of the constitution in which the distinction between the states of Part A and Part B was removed and all of them were fall under a simple category of 'States'. The states of Part C and Part D were rearranged under a new category known as 'Union Territory (States and Union Territories of India, Wikipedia, 28 April 2022).

According to the State Reorganisation Act, 1956 several states, union territories, and other regions were formed and some of them were altered. The following regions were effective from and after 1 November 1956.

- **Madras state:** The former Madras Province was known as Madras state after its formation in 1950 which incorporated coastal Andhra, present-day Tamilnadu except for Kanyakumari, Rayalaseema, the Malabar region, South Canara, Bellary, and Kollegal. Later on, in 1953 Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra were incorporated into Andhra State while South Canara, Bellary, and Kolegulum Taluk were merged with Mysore and Malabar district with Travancore-Cochin formed Kerala in 1956. The remaining portion became part of Madras state (Sundari, 2007).
- **Mysore state:** This state was enlarged by incorporating Coorg and Kannada-speaking regions from Bombay Presidency, Western Hyderabad state, and part of Madras province (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **Bombay state:** It was enlarged by the addition of Kutch and Saurashtra state and some Maratha-speaking districts of Berar and Nagpur division of Central province (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **Madhya Pradesh state:** It was expanded due to the incorporation of Bhopal, Madhya Bharat, and Vindya Pradesh (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).

# Immigration in West Bengal

- **Kerala state:** Kerala was founded by the merger of Malabar district with Travancore-Cochin state and some parts of South Canara district of Madras province (Reorganisation of States, The Economic Weekly, 15 October 1955).
- **Punjab state:** Punjab was expanded by incorporating Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **Rajasthan state:** Ajmer state and parts of Madhya Bharat and Bombay were incorporated in Rajasthan (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **Bihar:** The region of Bihar was slightly reduced due to the transfer of some parts into West Bengal which involved Manbhum district for Purulia and Purnea district for Islampur (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **West Bengal State:** It was enlarged by incorporating some parts of Bihar to form Purulia (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **Manipur:** As per “The Manipur State Constitution Act, 1949 Manipur merged with India as Part C state which became a union territory in 1956 (States Reorganisation Act, 1956, Wikipedia, 18 March 1922).
- **Pondicherry:** With the Chandernagore, The French enclaved Pandichery was also incorporated into India in 1954 and later annexed as a union territory (Reorganisation of States, The Economic Weekly, 15 October 1955).
- **Dadra and Nagar Haveli:** In 1954, Portuguese enclaved Dadra and Nagar Haveli was liberated and declared it a free region which became part of the union territory on 11 August 1961 (Dadra and Nagar Haveli Celebrated Its 60<sup>th</sup> Liberation Day, Jagranjosh.com. 2 August 2013. Retrieved on16-05-22; Dasgupta, 2019; Pal, 2018).
- **Daman and Diu:** The region is comprised of two islands Daman and Dio, separated by the Gulf of Cambay. In December 1961, the Portuguese enclaves Daman and Diu were occupied by the Indian Army with the Annexation of Goa (Daman and Diu, Wikipedia, 24 April 2020). This action was known as the Liberation of Goa in India (Annexation of Goa, Wikipedia, 8 May 2022). Since then Goa was administered as part of the union territory with Daman and Diu.

## Immigration in West Bengal

- **N.E.F.A:** In 1914, Lakhimpur and former Darrang districts had been separated from some tribal areas in Assam province of British India and formed North-East Frontier Tract (NEFT). Initially, NEFT was divided into two sections; the Central and Eastern Section and the Western Section the former was renamed the Sadiya Frontier Tract and later was retitled the Balipara Frontier Tract respectively in 1914 (East Kameng - at a glance, 10 December 2003). After independence, the NEFT was considered a part of the Assam state. In 1948, the Abor Hills district and Mishmi Hills Districts were excavated from the Sadiya Frontier Tract and in 1950, the plain portions of Balipara Frontier Tract, Tirap Frontier Tract, Mishmi Hills District, and Abor Hills District were reassigned under Jurisdiction of the Assam State Government and remaining portion became a tribal-dominated region of Assam state. In 1951, the tribal-dominated Naga areas along with the Balipara Frontier Tract, Tirap Frontier Tract, Mishmi, and Abor Hills districts were joined together and formed the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) (Inception of Administration, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, 10 April 2009) and became a union territory in India.
- **Himachal Pradesh:** As a Chief Commissioner's province, Himachal Pradesh was founded on 15 April 1948. Later on 26 January 1950, it became a Part C state. On 1 July 1954 Bilaspur district, formerly known as Bilapur Princely State was incorporated into Himachal Pradesh. It became a union territory on 1 November 1956 (Post Independence Period, Himachal Pradesh, 11 May 2020).
- **Tripura:** Tripura was a princely state in British India. During that time an estate in the plains of undivided India was ruled by a King which was known as Tippera (Currently in Comilla district of Bangladesh) (Chisolum, 1911) along with Hill Tippera (Hill Tippera-History, The Imperial Gazetteer of India. 13: 118. 1909, 7 June 2011). In 1947 after the partition of India Comilla incorporated into East Pakistan while the Hilly Tippera remained under the control of the regency council. On 9 September 1949 'Tripura Merger Agreement, was signed by the Maharani Regent of Tripura and it turn into a Part C state of India. In November 1956 it was converted into a union territory in India (Tripura human development report 2007).

# Immigration in West Bengal

- **Nagaland:** In 1947, the area of Nagaland was under the administration of Assam Province. A nationalist movement arose among a group of Nagas in which the Naga National Council demanded a separate political union for their natives. The movement turned into a series of violence and it damaged the officials and civil infrastructure. In 1955, the central government tried to settle the issue by sending the Indian Army. Finally, an agreement was done between the central government and the Naga leaders regarding a separate region, and finally, in 1957, it became a union territory in India (The Naga Hills- Tuensang Area Act, 1957, 24 December 2013).
- **Sikkim:** Before the independence, the Indian Constituent Assembly put a resolution and decided that the Himalayan states of Sikkim and Bhutan were not a part of Indian states rather they were regarded as separate states. A standstill agreement was also done in February 1948 (Duff, 2015). Later on, a treaty was signed between India and Sikkim in which Sikkim was considered an Indian Protectorate. [Protectorate was a state which was controlled by other sovereign states. This dependent territory had local autonomy over its internal affairs]. Sikkim was considered under the suzerainty of India which later controlled its external affairs, communications, and defense (Levi, 1959).
- **Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi:** According to the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 the Laccadive Islands, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands were separated from the Malabar district of Madras and merged to form a union territory for administrative purposes (The States Reorganisation Act, 1956).

## 6.3.2 Population Enumeration in West Bengal, 1961

According to Census 1961, India had 14 states and 11 united territories. As per the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 small parts of Bihar incorporated with West Bengal and Purulia were formed 1956 (The States Reorganisation Act, 1956). The Chandernagore which was a French enclave even after the partition of India was merged with West Bengal by the 'de Jure method (History of Chandernagore, 2014). During this time several events exaggerated the rapid immigration in West Bengal.

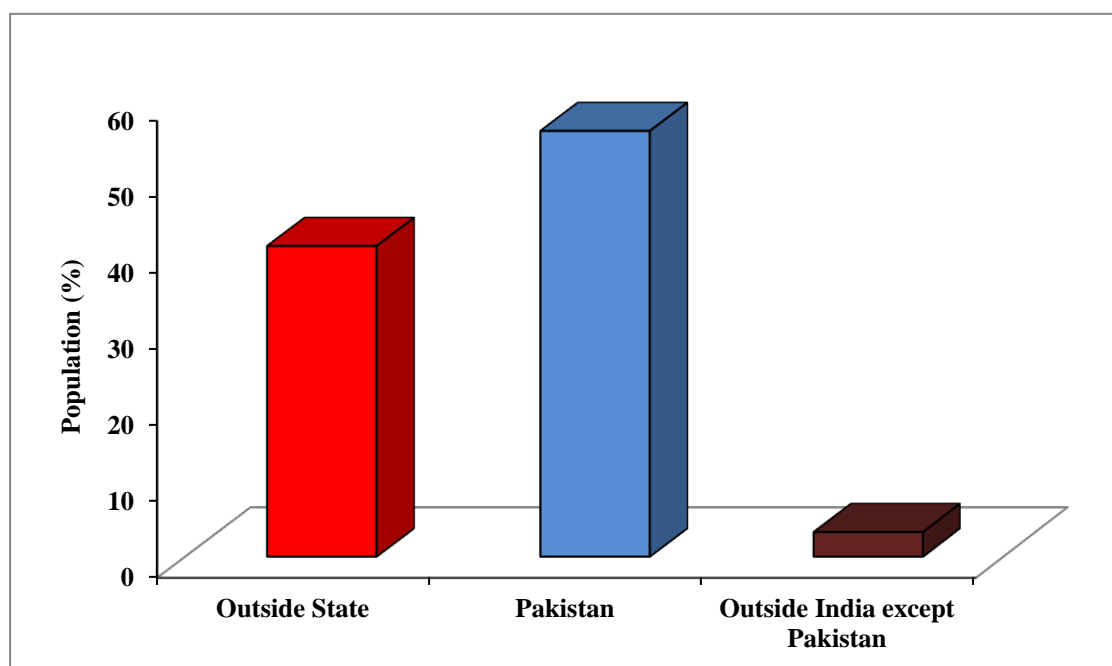


# Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.10 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 1961**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	34926279
<b>Born Outside State</b>	2238854
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	3068750
<b>Born Outside India except Pakistan</b>	177275

Source: Census of India, 1961, Volume XVI, West Bengal & Sikkim, Part I-A



**Figure 6.14 Population Influx in West Bengal, 1961**

There were around 35 million populations in West Bengal, among them 21 million, or 62.8 percent were born in the place of enumeration in West Bengal (Table 6.10). Others were migrated to the place of enumeration either from other parts of the same districts, from other districts of West Bengal, from different states of India, or from outside India (Census 1961). The total number of immigrants who entered West Bengal was 5.4 million (Table 6.10). The majority of them were from Pakistan which

## Immigration in West Bengal

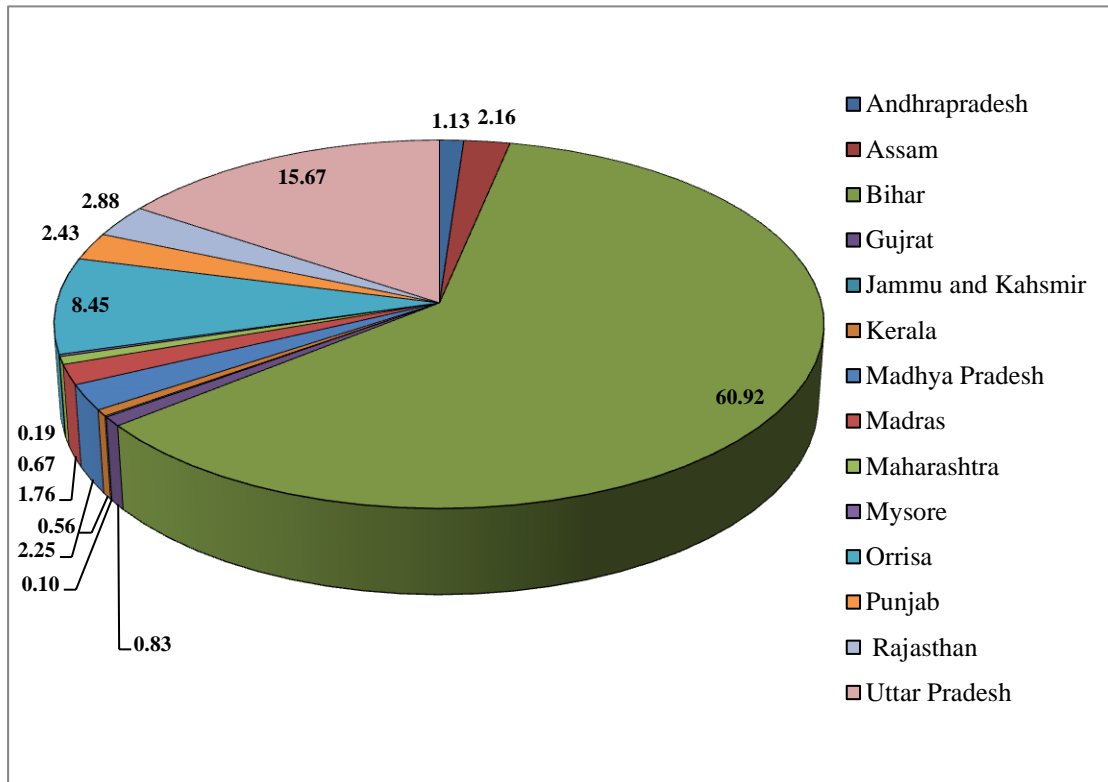
denoted 3 million (Table 6.10) or 56 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Pakistani immigrants incorporated both the value of East and West Pakistan. There were 2.2 million (Table 6.10) immigrants from different states of India which constituted 41 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. The following table 6.11 denoted the number of immigrants who entered West Bengal in 1961.

**Table 6.11 Enumerations in West Bengal from Outside State of India, 1961**

<b>States (Born)</b>	<b>Immigration to West Bengal</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	25116
<b>Assam</b>	47902
<b>Bihar</b>	1350599
<b>Gujrat</b>	18382
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	2182
<b>Kerala</b>	12419
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	49867
<b>Madras</b>	39003
<b>Maharashtra</b>	14959
<b>Mysore</b>	4128
<b>Orrisa</b>	187321
<b>Punjab</b>	53800
<b>Rajasthan</b>	63910
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	347396

Source: Census of India, 1961, Volume XVI, West Bengal & Sikkim, Part I-A

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.15 Immigration to West Bengal from Other States of India (1961)**

There were 2.2 million immigrants enumerated in West Bengal who belong from others states of India in 1961 (Census 1961). The majority of them were born in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (Table 6.11) which constituted 61 percent and 16 percent of total immigrants to West Bengal from all states outside West Bengal (Figure 6.15). Orrisa contributed 1.8 lakhs (Table 6.11) or 8.45 percent (Figure 6.15) of total immigrants in West Bengal. Unemployment, lower level of urbanization, social backwardness, etc. were the prime factors that pushed migrants to leave their state of origin and settled in West Bengal. The numbers of estimated migrants from Rajasthan and Punjab were 64 thousand and 54 thousand which contributed to 2.88 and 2.43 percent (Figure 6.15) of total immigrants from all states of India in 1961.

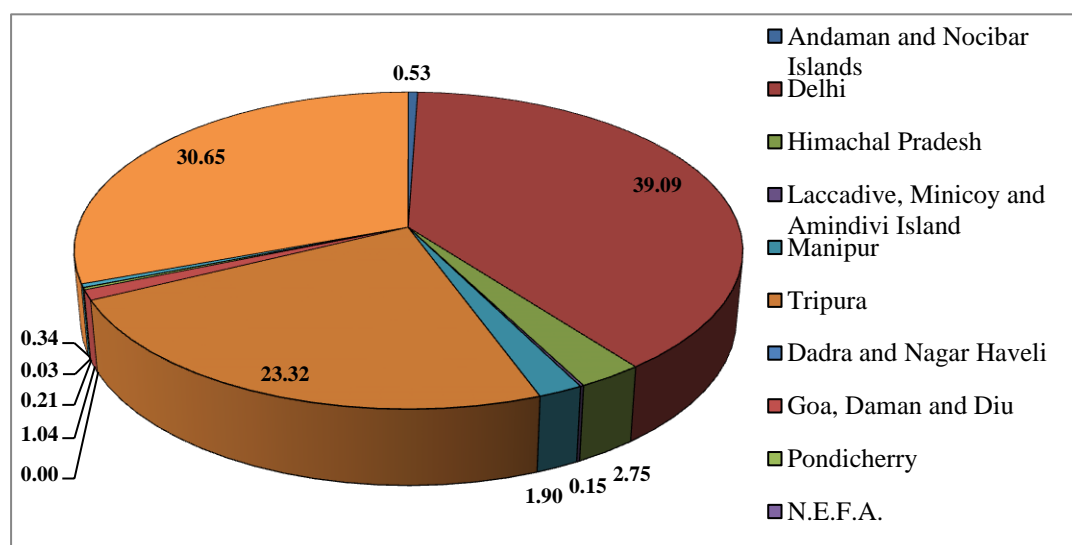
## Immigration in West Bengal

In the case of union territories and other areas, there were around 21 thousand immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.12), and the largest source of immigrants born in Delhi (39.09 %) (Figure 6.16) followed by Sikkim and Tripura which contributed 30.65 percent and 23.32 percent respectively (Figure 6.16) of total immigrants born within union territories and other areas in India.

**Table 6.12 Immigration to West Bengal from Union Territory and other areas of India (1961)**

Union Territory and other areas (Born)	Immigration to West Bengal
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	115
Delhi	8548
Himachal Pradesh	602
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Island	32
Manipur	415
Tripura	5100
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
Goa, Daman and Diu	228
Pondicherry	45
N.E.F.A.	7
Nagaland	74
Sikkim	6702

Source: Census of India, 1961, Volume XVI, West Bengal & Sikkim, Part I-A



**Figure 6. 16 Immigration to West Bengal from Union Territory and other areas of India (1961)**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.13 Migrants Origin from Outside India and Enumerated in West Bengal (1961)**

<b>Asia including U.S.S.R</b>			
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Aden</b>	1	<b>Japan</b>	276
<b>Afghanistan</b>	451	<b>Mongolia</b>	1
<b>Bhutan</b>	4459	<b>Nepal</b>	109190
<b>Burma</b>	6885	<b>Pakistan</b>	3068750
<b>Ceylon</b>	139	<b>Philippines</b>	113
<b>China</b>	4119	<b>Singapore, Malaya, etc.</b>	406
<b>Cambodia</b>	1	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	2
<b>Hong Kong</b>	38	<b>Thailand</b>	31
<b>Indonesia</b>	253	<b>Tibet</b>	5515
<b>Iran</b>	68	<b>Turkey</b>	1
<b>Iraq</b>	9	<b>U.S.S.R</b>	54
<b>Israel</b>	1	<b>Unspecified</b>	32

<b>Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>			
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Austria</b>	3	<b>Iceland</b>	1
<b>Belgium</b>	34	<b>Ireland</b>	53
<b>Czechoslovakia</b>	8	<b>Italy</b>	59
<b>Denmark</b>	24	<b>Malta</b>	5
<b>Finland</b>	1	<b>Netherlands</b>	121
<b>France</b>	134	<b>Norway</b>	65
<b>Germany</b>	162	<b>Poland</b>	7
<b>Greece</b>	154	<b>Portugal</b>	11
<b>Hungary</b>	3	<b>Spain</b>	52

## Immigration in West Bengal

<b>Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>			
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	5	<b>West Germany</b>	90
<b>Switzerland</b>	16	<b>Yugo Slovakia</b>	28
<b>U.K including N. Ireland</b>	3852	<b>Unspecified</b>	202

<b>Africa</b>		<b>America</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	2	<b>Canada</b>	43
<b>French Somaliland</b>	1	<b>Greenland</b>	2
<b>Kenya</b>	1	<b>U.S.A</b>	211
<b>Mauritius</b>	0	<b>Unspecified</b>	33
<b>Mozambique</b>	0		
<b>Nigeria</b>	1		
<b>Portuguese Guinea</b>	1		
<b>U.A.R (Egypt)</b>	0		
<b>Uganda</b>	2		
<b>Union of South Africa</b>	58		
<b>Unspecified</b>	84		

<b>Oceania</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Australia</b>	38
<b>Fiji Islands</b>	1
<b>New Zealand</b>	1
<b>Unspecified</b>	40

Source: Census of India, 1961, Volume XVI, West Bengal & Sikkim, Part I-A

## Immigration in West Bengal

The total number of foreign-born migrants who entered West Bengal was registered as 3.2 million in the census of 1961. This type of immigration was categorized into two types; migrants from Asiatic countries and migrants from Non-Asiatic countries. The Asiatic countries including U.S.S.R accounted for more than 3 lakhs immigrants which majority of them were from Pakistan followed by Nepal. The Non-Asiatic countries contributed more than 5 thousand immigrants and the maximum numbers of immigrants were born in the U.K and North Ireland (Table 6.13).

Pakistan contributed around 3 lakh (Table 6.13) or 95 percent of total foreign-born migrants (Census 1961) entered West Bengal, followed by Nepal with more than 1 lakh immigrants in 1961 (Table 6.13).

The post-partition effect was the prime reason for the movement from Pakistan. After the 'Delhi Pact,' the migration flow from Pakistan to West Bengal reduced which further accelerated after the introduction of the 'migration certificate' by the Pakistan government. On 15 October 1952, the passport system was introduced unilaterally by the Pakistan government to leave their country. It created tensions among the Hindus of Pakistan and they assumed that it might be seized their movement in West Bengal and they had to stay in Pakistan permanently (Chakrabarty, 1999). It was also stated that India Government also followed a similar rule for Pakistani immigrants and besides the passport, the visa system was also introduced. According to the Indian press, though the Pakistan government took the first initiative of the passport system to restrict the smuggling activity, their prime motive was to financially weak the Hindu immigrants of East Pakistan in India. This method would not allow them to extract any benefits from their lands left in Pakistan (Cochrane, 2009). So, before the introduction of the passport system majority of the migrants from Pakistan entered West Bengal.

The main concentrations of Nepal-born immigrants in West Bengal were in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri which enumerated 41109 and 38142 immigrants respectively (Census 1961) but they were found in very small numbers in the remaining districts of West Bengal. The third Asian country from which the majority of the immigration had taken place was Burma. A total of 6885 persons born in that country (Table 6.13) were enumerated in West Bengal and half of them were found in Calcutta with 3434 immigrants (Census 1961). There were 5515 persons in West

## Immigration in West Bengal

Bengal born in Tibet (Table 6.13) and a majority of them were settled in Darjeeling (Census 1961). The next largest group was coming from Bhutan with 4459 immigrants (Table 6.13) and they were found to be settled in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri with 2239 and 2186 immigrants respectively (Census 1961). These districts had a common frontier with Tibet (Census 1961).

Apart from the U.K (including North Ireland) the contribution of other non-Asiatic countries was very less in number in West Bengal. It included the U.S.A, Germany, Greece, France, and the Netherlands with 211, 162, 154, 134, and 121 immigrants respectively in 1961. 944 immigrants from the U.K including Northern Irelands were settled in Calcutta (Census 1961).



## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.14 District-wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 1961 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Outside States</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	287941	144704	6921
<b>Birbhum</b>	40727	22239	5026
<b>Bankura</b>	10763	14878	1133
<b>Midnapur</b>	84396	41298	2595
<b>Hooghly</b>	159267	130951	3915
<b>Howrah</b>	207533	80229	5811
<b>24 Parganas</b>	327130	786661	10076
<b>Calcutta</b>	679940	528205	23534
<b>Nadia</b>	27251	502645	4408
<b>Murshidabad</b>	20256	64862	6195
<b>Malda</b>	31027	64474	4539
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	61327	172237	4377
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	158912	218341	43345
<b>Darjeeling</b>	66987	38162	50580
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	29492	252753	4031
<b>Purulia</b>	45905	6111	789

Source: Census of India, 1961, Volume XVI, West Bengal & Sikkim, Part I-A

# Immigration in West Bengal

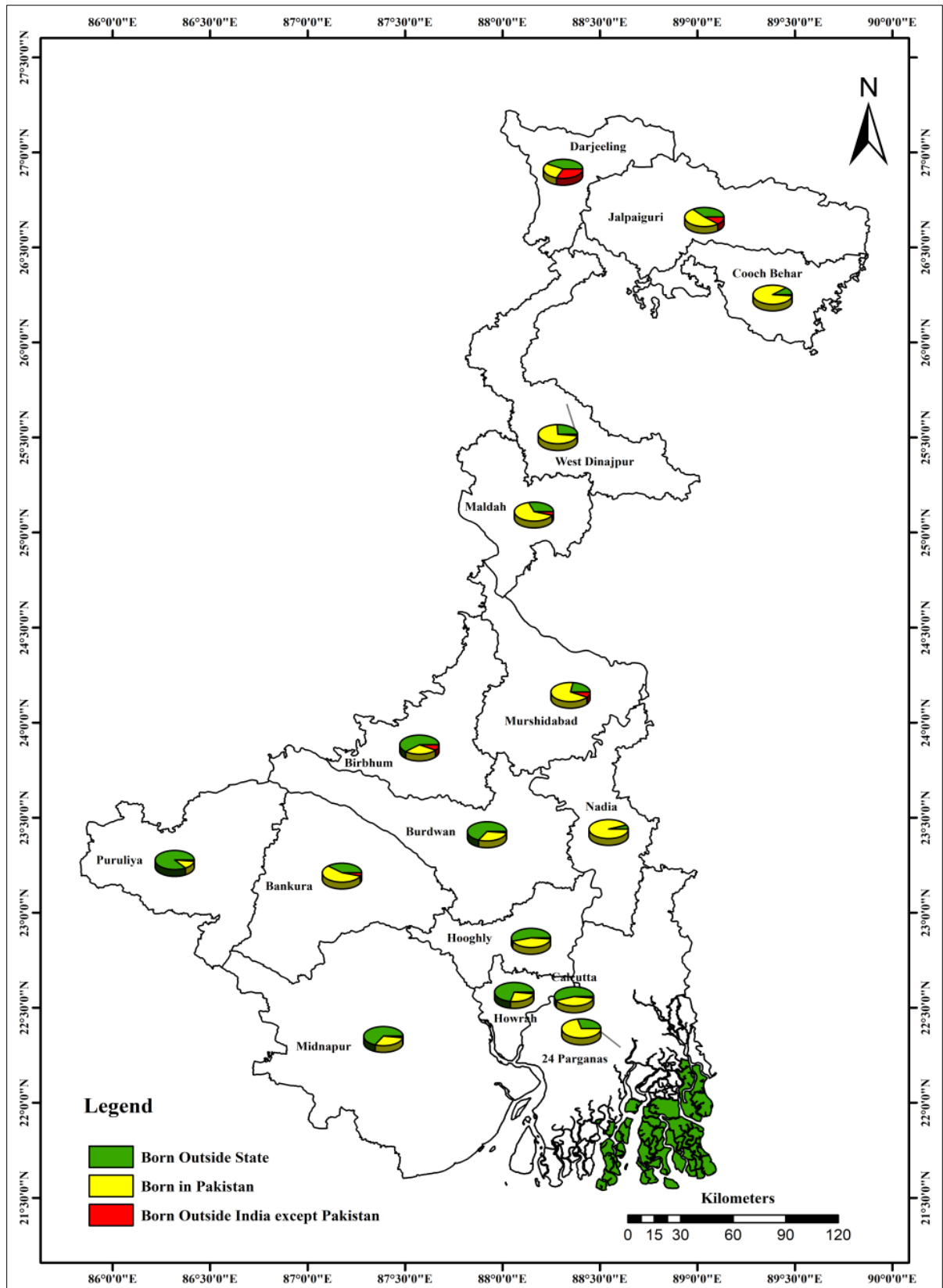


Figure 6.17 Influx of Population in West Bengal, 1961

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 2.2 million immigrants in West Bengal, born in others states of West Bengal (Census 1961). The majority of them were settled in Calcutta and 24 Parganas which accounted for 679940 and 327130 immigrants respectively (Table 6.14). The next important district in West Bengal where large immigration had taken place was Burdwan. All total contributed 287941 immigrants in 1961 (Table 6.14). During this time West Bengal was enriched with fertile lands which attracted many peasants' families to shift to Burdwan and Nadia. Employment opportunities and secure and healthy living attracted many emigrants to Calcutta and its surrounding 24 Parganas district. The majority of the people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh entered Calcutta.

In the case of the northern part of West Bengal, immigrants choose Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling as their destinations which accounted for 158912 and 66987 immigrants respectively. These immigrants were mainly coming from Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet due to their nearest locations.

There were around 5.48 million immigrants in West Bengal who were born outside the state as well as outside India and enumerated in West Bengal in 1961. The large numbers of immigrants were enumerated in Calcutta and 24 Parganas districts which contributed 22.46 percent and 20.49 percent of immigrants respectively (Table 6.14). Among them, a majority of the immigrants from the outside state of West Bengal were entered in Calcutta which contributed 30 percent of total outside-born immigrants (Figure 6.17). 24 Parganas and Burdwan secured the next positions with 14.61 percent and 12.86 percent of total immigrants born outside West Bengal in India. There were 3.2 million People born outside India and the majority of them enumerated in 24 Parganas, Calcutta, and Nadia districts which accounted for 25 percent, 17 percent, and 15.62 percent of total foreign-born migrants (Table 6.14) respectively.

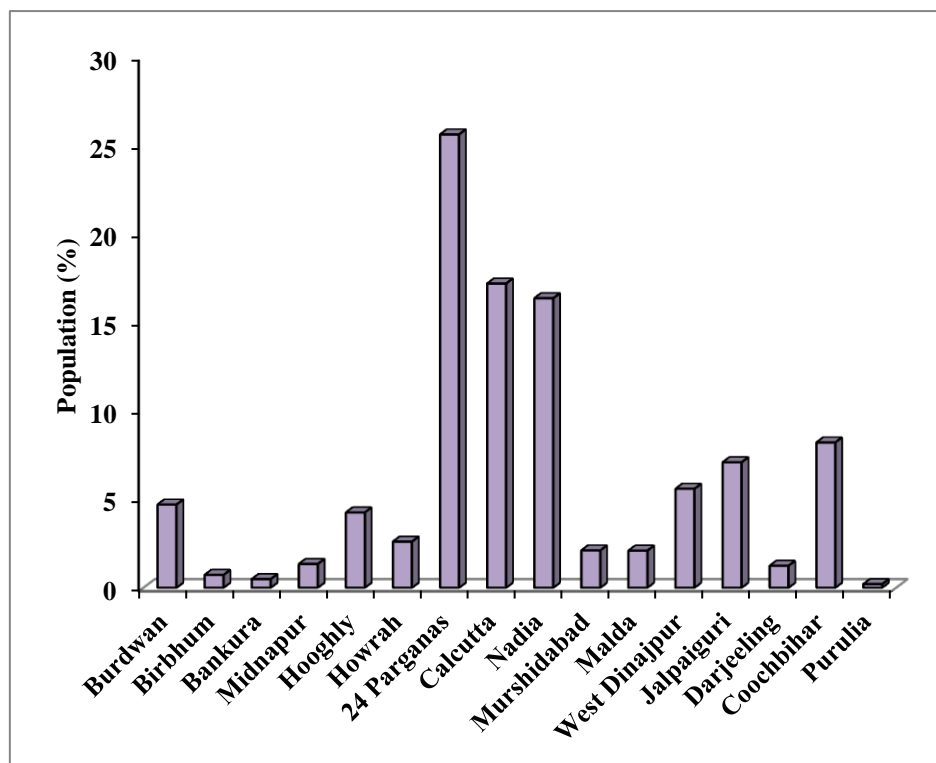
Figure 6.17 reflects that half of the districts of West Bengal contributed more numbers of immigrants from outside states in India than foreign migrants and is observed in Purulia, Howrah, Midnapur, Calcutta, Birbhum, Burdwan, Darjeeling, and Hooghly. Foreign immigrants outside Pakistan choose the northern part of West Bengal mainly Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. Concerning the total immigrants, some of the foreign-born migrants outside Pakistan were also reflected in Murshidabad and Birbhum (Figure 6.17).

## Immigration in West Bengal

In 1961, there were around 3 million Pakistan-born immigrants in West Bengal which incorporated both the people from East and West Pakistan collectively. A large number of Pakistan immigrants settled in 24 Parganas, Calcutta, and Nadia (Figure 6.19) which accounted for 25.63 percent, 17.21 percent, and 16.38 percent of total Pakistani immigrants (Figure 6.18) respectively.

During this time communal disturbances in East Pakistan and the introduction of migration certificates created a massive flow of migration in West Bengal. The majority of the immigrants were in search of better employment opportunities and security of life which led them to select 24 Parganas and Calcutta for their dispersal. Large numbers of fertile lands in Nadia and 24 Parganas attracted many immigrants from Pakistan. On the other hand, the government also opened various refugee camps and colonies all over West Bengal and the majority of it was established in 24 Parganas. Due to its location near Calcutta large number of Pakistan-born immigrants settled in Nadia and 24 Parganas (Bandhopadhya, 1970).

In the northern part of West Bengal, immigrants from Pakistan settled in Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri which contributed 8.24 percent and 7.11 percent of total Pakistan-born immigrants (Figure 6.18).



**Figure 6.18 Immigrations from Pakistan, 1961**

# Immigration in West Bengal

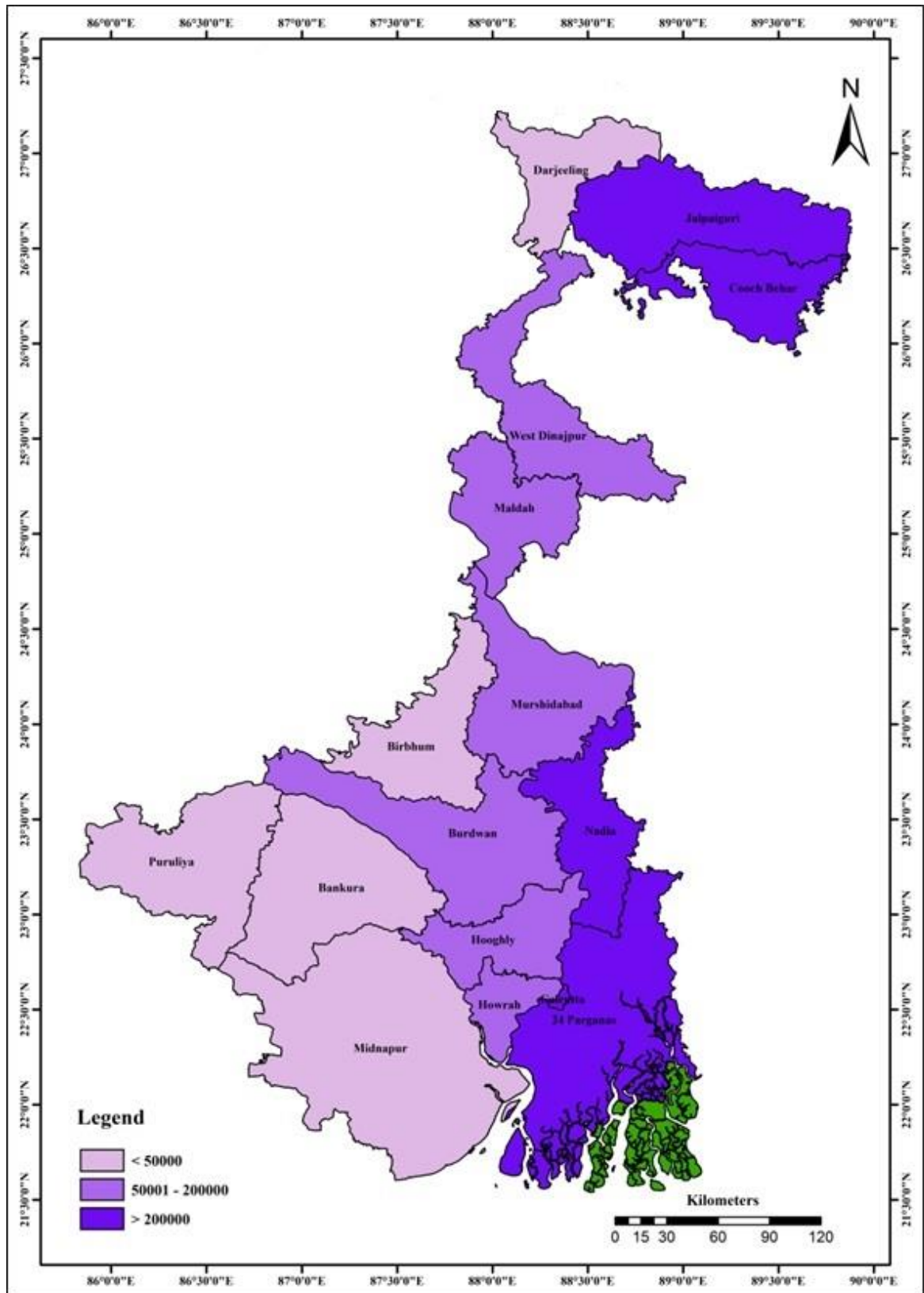


Figure 6.19 Concentrations of Pakistani Immigrants in West Bengal, 1961

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.15 District wise Enumeration of Pakistani Migrants in West Bengal 1961 (based on duration of residence in West Bengal)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Less than 1</b>	<b>1-5 yrs</b>	<b>6-10 yrs</b>	<b>11-15 yrs</b>	<b>16+</b>	<b>Period Not Stated</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	144704	7083	29840	46668	44605	15412	1096
<b>Birbhum</b>	22239	2296	8752	5476	3151	2382	182
<b>Bankura</b>	14878	1311	5565	4468	2295	1173	66
<b>Midnapur</b>	41298	4120	13688	10733	8596	3750	411
<b>Hooghly</b>	130951	9179	34483	40063	35456	10889	881
<b>Howrah</b>	80229	4304	20848	23496	22941	7997	643
<b>24 Parganas</b>	786661	37417	201533	236637	207128	96995	6951
<b>Calcutta</b>	528205	17206	76644	134364	183876	114596	1519
<b>Nadia</b>	502645	15525	91566	174440	190977	24174	5963
<b>Murshidabad</b>	64862	2019	16613	14901	24995	5599	735
<b>Malda</b>	64474	2136	9044	19626	26649	6273	746
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	172237	5762	31234	60843	58118	14571	1709
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	218341	18321	58921	60409	47413	29533	3744
<b>Darjeeling</b>	38162	9682	9210	6654	8033	4364	219
<b>Coochbihar</b>	252753	11470	73204	86403	57566	19902	4208
<b>Purulia</b>	6111	644	1634	1734	1433	605	61

Source: Census of India, 1961, Volume XVI, West Bengal & Sikkim, Part I-A

## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 1961 classified the immigrants from Pakistan based on their duration of residence in West Bengal. Among 3.08 million Pakistani immigrants were classified into six segments, such as-

1. Migrants entered West Bengal within 1 year
2. Immigrants residing in West Bengal from 1 to 5 years
3. Immigrants residing in West Bengal from 6 to 10 years
4. Immigrants residing in West Bengal from 11 to 15 years
5. Immigrants residing in West Bengal for more than 16 years
6. Immigrants did not mention the period of their arrival in West Bengal

An estimated number of 3068750 Pakistan-born immigrants were residing in West Bengal until 1961 (Census 1961). Among them, about 12 percent were living at the place of their enumeration for more than 16 years (Table 6.15). Census 1961 stated that this group of immigrants was not displaced due to ongoing conflicts or violations rather they left their land at least two years before the partition of India. A little more than 30 percent of Pakistani immigrants were residing at the place of enumeration from 11-15 years (Table 6.15). It was assumed that these immigrants were settled permanently in West Bengal. Another 30 percent of migrants were staying at the place of enumeration from 6 to 10 years. Around 22.25 percent of immigrants had a duration of residence of 1 to 5 years and little more than 4 percent of immigrants entered West Bengal within 1 year (Table 6.15). The remaining 0.95 percent of Pakistani immigrants did not mention their time of arrival in West Bengal. Census 1961 also stated that no specific conclusion was drawn from the above-mentioned figures regarding the intensity of inflow of migrants in West Bengal but it was assumed that 'Nehru-Liaquat Treaty' in 1950, the introduction of the passport system in 1952, and conflicts and violence in East Pakistan generated a rapid flow of migration in West Bengal.

## Immigration in West Bengal

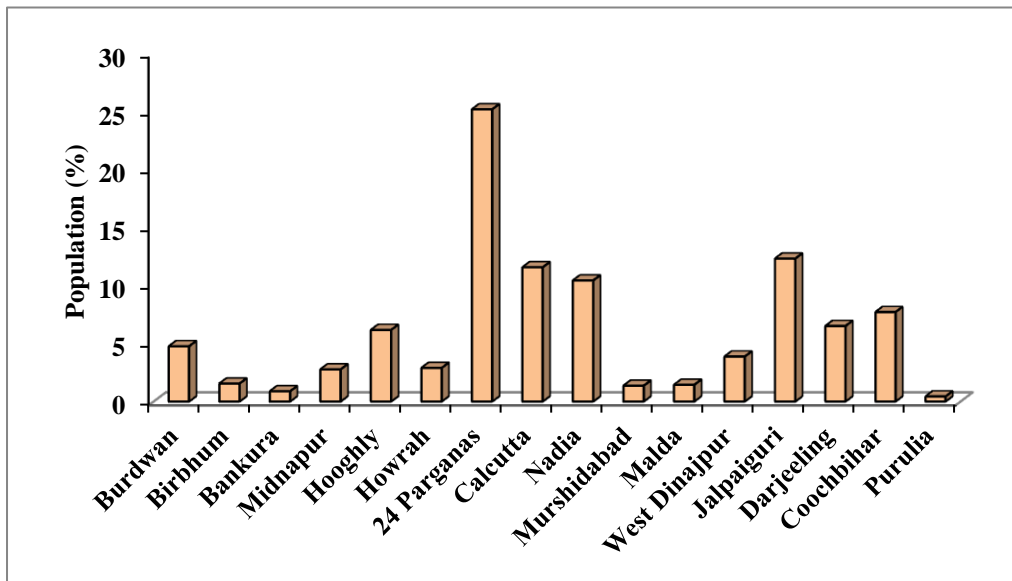


Figure 6.20 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for Less than 1 Year, 1961

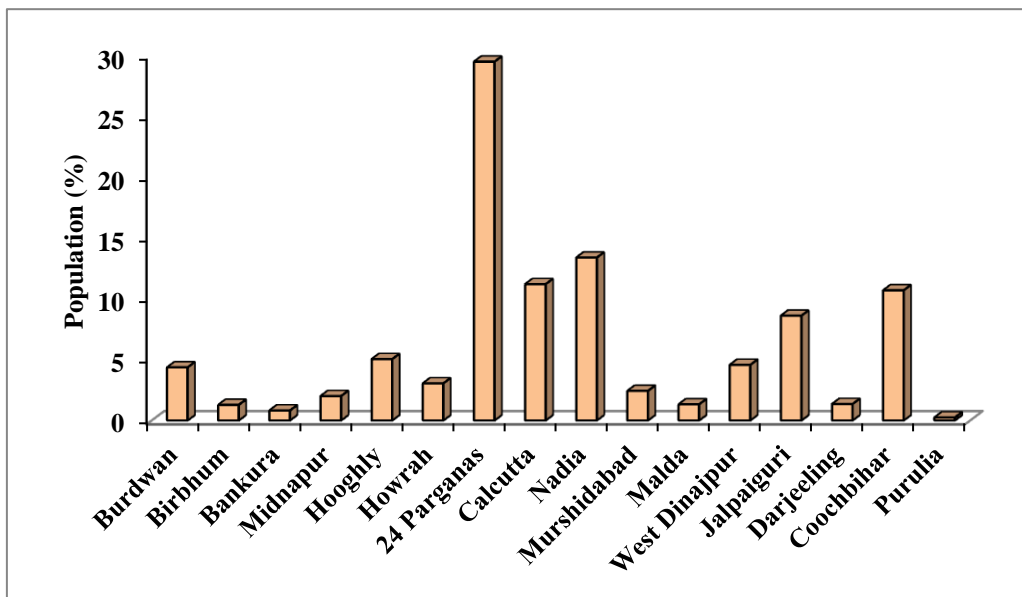


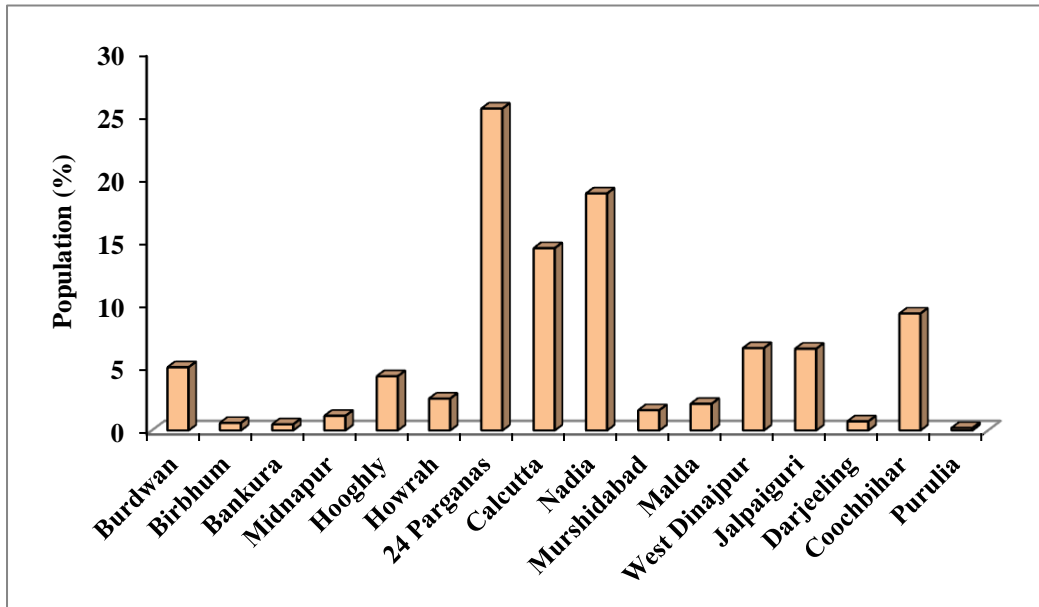
Figure 6.21 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 1 to 5 Years, 1961

According to Census 1961, more than 1.4 lakh immigrants entered West Bengal within 1 year from Pakistan (Figure 6.20). Among them, little more than 25 percent was entered in 24 Parganas. It was followed by Jalpaiguri and Calcutta with 12.34 percent and 11.59 percent of total immigrants who were residing in West Bengal for less than 1 year (Figure 6.20). Communal disturbances in East Pakistan exaggerated this displacement.

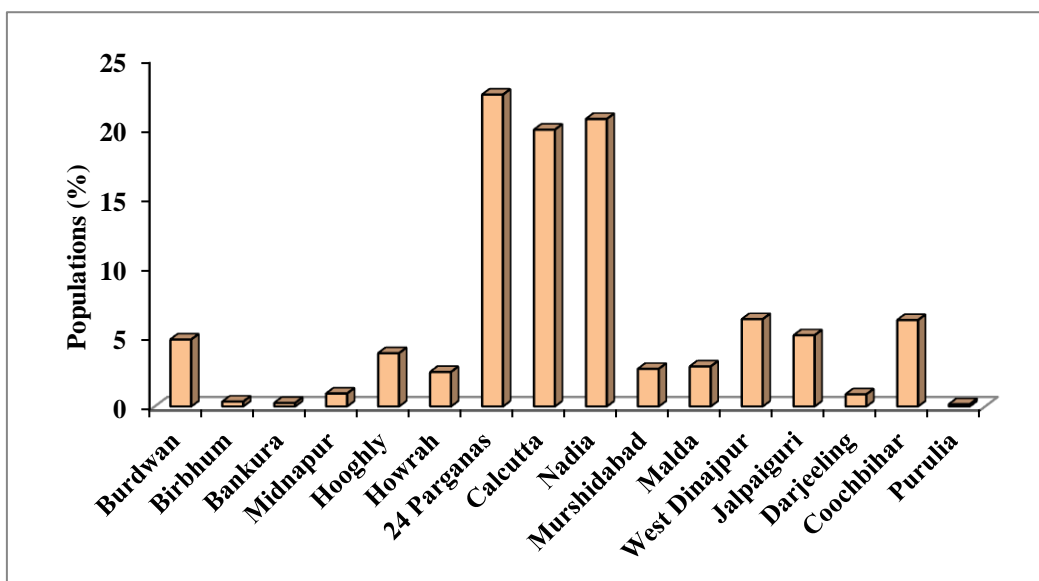


## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 6.8 lakhs Pakistan-born immigrants in West Bengal who stayed more than 1 year to 5 years (Table 6.15). The majority of them were enumerated in 24 Parganas, Calcutta, and Nadia which constituted 29.52 percent, 13.41 percent, and 11.23 percent of total Pakistan (Figure 6.21) born immigrants residing in West Bengal between 1 and 5 years. In the northern part of West Bengal, large numbers of migrants entered Cooch Behar which constituted 10.72 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.21) residing in West Bengal between 1 and 5 years.



**Figure 6.22 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 6 to 10 Years, 1961**

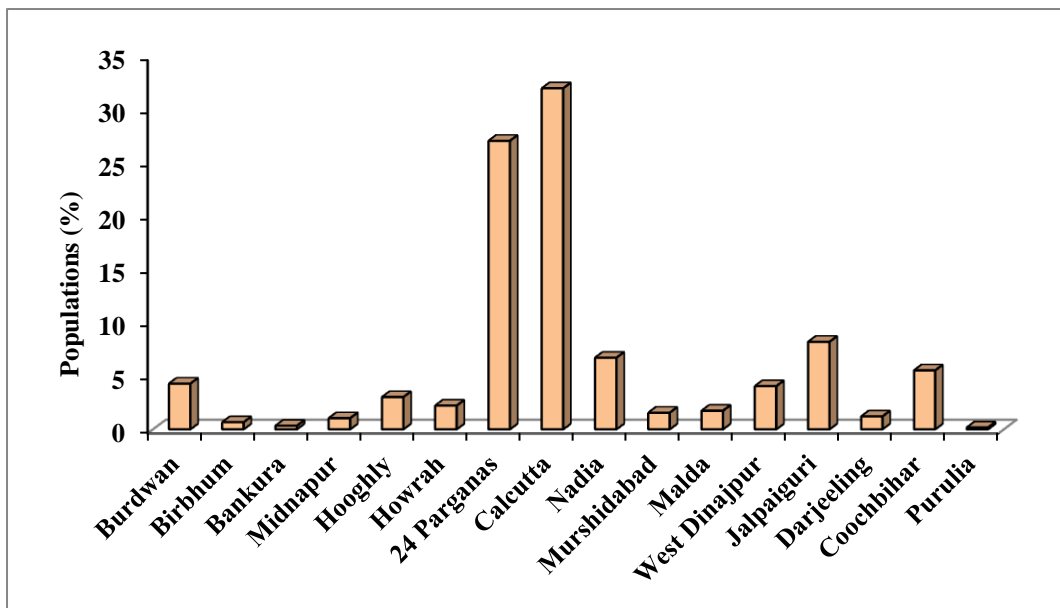


**Figure 6.23 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 11 to 15 Years, 1961**

## Immigration in West Bengal

According to Census 1961 around 9.27 million people resided in West Bengal (Table 6.15) from 6 to 10 years who born in Pakistan. Their concentration was highest in 24 Parganas which accounted for 25.53 percent of total immigrants residing 6 to 10 years in West Bengal. It was followed by Nadia and Calcutta with 18.82 percent and 14.50 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.22). These immigrants leave Pakistan after 1950 and were enumerated in different districts of West Bengal.

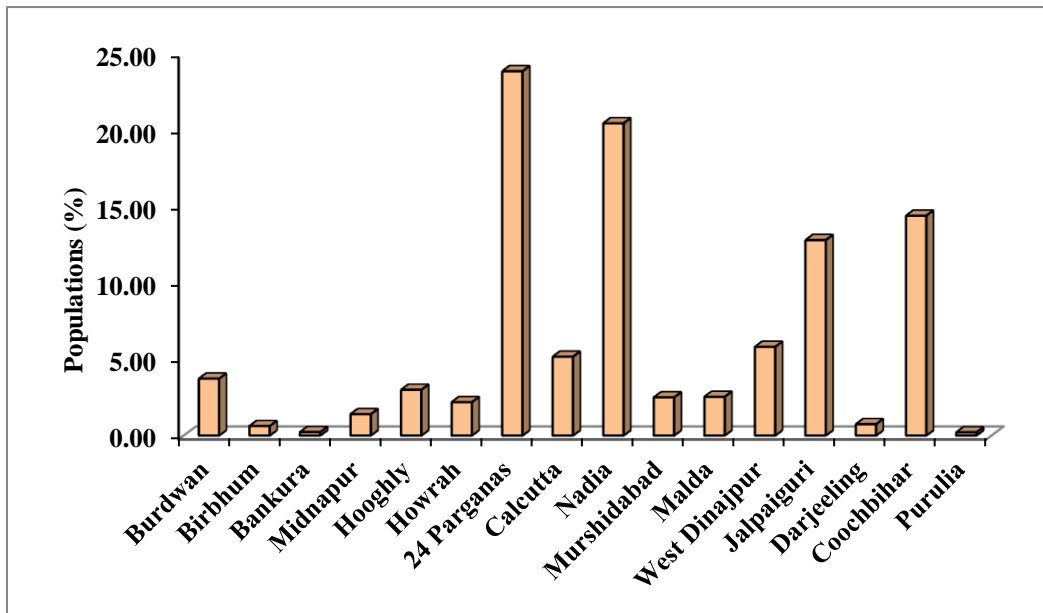
An estimated 9.23 million Pakistan-born immigrants were residing in West Bengal from 11 to 15 years (Table 6.15). The majority of them enumerated in 24 Parganas accounted for more than 22 percent of total immigrants residing at the place of enumeration from 11 to 15 years. It was followed by Nadia and Calcutta with 20.69 percent and 19.92 percent (Figure 6.23) of total Pakistani migrants residing from 11 to 15 years at the place of enumeration in West Bengal respectively.



**Figure 6.24 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for more than 16 years, 1961**

More than 3.5 lakhs of Pakistan-born immigrants had been residing in West Bengal for more than 16 years (Table 6.15). Census 1961 stated that they were not displaced persons or refugees as they shifted their place of residence two years before the formation of Pakistan. They were migrants and their movement occurred within the same administrative boundary. A large number of these immigrants settled in 24 Parganas and Calcutta which accounted for 31.99 percent and 27.08 percent of the total population (Figure 6.24) staying more than 16 years at the place of enumeration in West Bengal respectively.

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.25 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal but Period not Stated, 1961**

There were about 29 thousand Pakistan-born immigrants who did not specify their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.15). The majority of them were enumerated in 24 Parganas and Nadia districts with 23.86 percent and 20.47 percent of total Pakistani migrants (Figure 6.25) who did not state their duration of stay in West Bengal. Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri accounted for 14.44 percent and 12.85 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.25) who were born in Pakistan but without mentioning their period of residence in West Bengal.

### **6.4 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 1971**

Immigration in West Bengal was never stopped rather it amplified over time. The migration pattern of the population which increased before the introduction of the passport system declined after 1956. Later, Rajshahi riots and communal disturbances in several parts of East Pakistan further invigorated the migratory movement in West Bengal. Displacement also occurred outside states of India and they settled in different districts of West Bengal.

#### **6.4.1 Structure of Indian Administrative Regions, 1971**

According to the State Reorganisation Act, 1956 some regions of India were restructured according to their languages and the dominance of native people. Census 1971 highlighted 20 states and 8 union territories and 1 protectorate state in India

# Immigration in West Bengal

among them several states were newly constructed; few of the union territories were transformed into states. There was a single case in which a state also had changed its name.

The Old Madras Presidency after the partition of India became a state of **Madras** which was comprised of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, and part of Kerala. But due to agitation for a separate Andhra State, the Government of India divided the Madras state into two different entities. As per the state reorganisation act, 1956, Telegu-speaking areas were merged with Andhra State, and Tamil-speaking areas appeared as the new Madras State. On 14 January 1969 Madras state was renamed Tamil Nadu (Sundari, 2007).

**Himachal Pradesh** became a part of the union territory of India on 1 November 1956 (History of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh: The Official Website, 8 April 2002). According to Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 some parts of the Punjab state were incorporated with Himachal Pradesh on 1 November 1966 (History of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh: The Official Website, 8 April 2002; Verma, 1995). The State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed on 18 December 1970 by the parliament and the new state was founded on 25 January 1971 as the 18<sup>th</sup> state of the Indian union (History of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh: The Official Website, 8 April 2002).

**Manipur** was declared a union territory in 1956. According to the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, Manipur was converted into a full-fledged state in 1972 (The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Act, 2012, "Indiacode - Acts", 24 December 2012).

**Tripura**, a united territory of India had conferred statehood in 1971 according to the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971. Finally, on 21 January 1972 Tripura came into being as a state in Indian Union after Indo-Pakistan War, in 1971 (Wolpert, 2000).

**Meghalaya** was a new state in the Indian Territory, established on 21 January 1972. Previously it was under the administration of Assam. Later on, two districts were carved out from Assam; United Jaintia and Khasi Hills and Garo Hills, and

# Immigration in West Bengal

Meghalaya was formed according to the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 (Origin and Growth of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, 25 September 2007).

As per the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 **Haryana** came into existence as a state in the Indian Territory on 1 November 1966. On 23 April 1966, Shah Commission was set up by the Indian government to split the existing Punjab state and determine the boundary of Haryana. The division of Punjab and the inclusion of districts into the new state of Haryana were based on languages spoken by the individuals. On 31 May 1966 Commission submitted the reports after the inclusion of a few districts and tehsils to be a part of the new state (The Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966).

**Chandigarh** was also carved out from Punjab and located at the border of the Punjab and Haryana. Both the states tried to incorporate the city of Chandigarh into their territories. Finally, the city of Chandigarh was considered a union territory. It was under the control of the central government and served as the share capital of both Punjab and Haryana (Haryana Day: A New State is born, 1 April 2003).

**Nagaland** became a union territory in 1957 which was administered by the central government with a large degree of autonomy. This decision could not satisfy the tribes and again they started agitations regarding the decision. They attacked government institutions, and banks and also excluded themselves from paying taxes. Finally, '16 points agreement' was done between the central government and the head of the Naga People Convention (NPC) in July 1960, and Nagaland was recognized as a complete state within the Indian Territory (The 16 Point Agreement arrived at between the Government of India and the Naga people's convention, July 1960, 5 November 2001).

**Arunachal Pradesh** was formed as a union territory on 20 January 1972 from the erstwhile North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).

## 6.4.2 Population Enumeration in West Bengal, 1971

According to the 1971 Census, West Bengal had 16 districts, and all the districts experienced a massive scale of immigration flow from outside the state as well as outside the country. In 1971, the Indo-Pakistan war was responsible for a massive

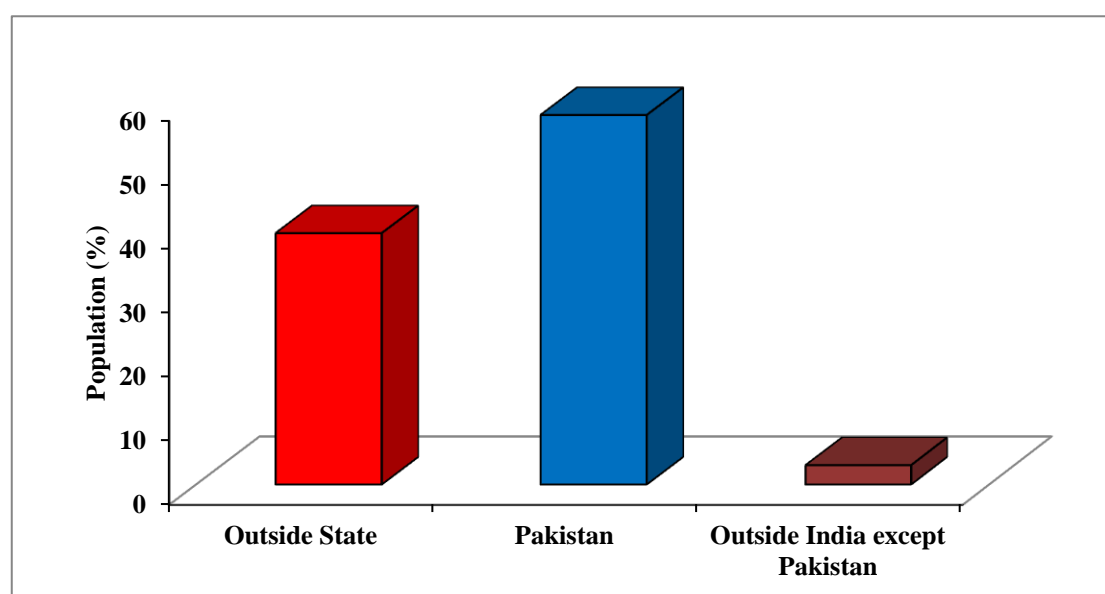
## Immigration in West Bengal

flow of migration from Pakistan and large numbers of immigrants crossed the border from East Pakistan and settled in West Bengal. Immigration from Nepal and other countries of the world continued during this phase.

**Table 6.16 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 1971**

Born	Total Population
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	44312011
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	38980494
<b>Born Outside State</b>	2093049
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	3078192
<b>Born Outside India except Pakistan</b>	160276

Source: Census of India 1971, Series 22, West Bengal, Part II-D (i)



**Figure 6.26 Population Influx in West Bengal, 1971**

There were around 44 million populations in West Bengal, among them 38.9 million, or 87.9 percent were born in the place of enumeration in West Bengal. Others were migrated to the place of enumeration either from different parts of the same districts,

## Immigration in West Bengal

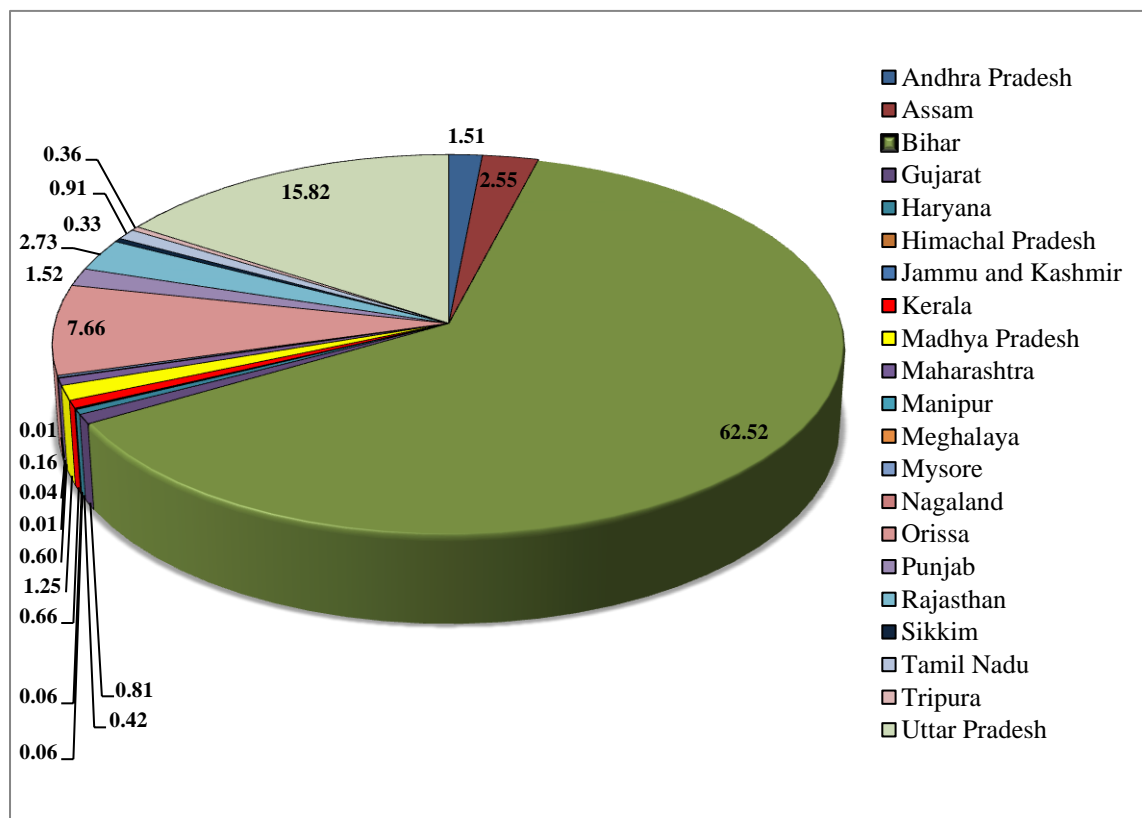
from other districts of West Bengal, from different states of India, or from outside India (Census 1971). The total number of immigrants who entered West Bengal was 5.3 million (Table 6.16). The majority of them were from Pakistan which denoted 3 million (Table 6.16) or 57.7 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal in 1971. Pakistani immigrants incorporated both the value of East and West Pakistan. There were 2.09 million (Table 6.16) immigrants from different states of India which constituted 39.25 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. The following table 6.17 denoted the number of immigrants who entered West Bengal in 1971

**Table 6.17 Enumerations in West Bengal from Outside State of India, 1971**

States (Born)	Population
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	31466
<b>Assam</b>	53084
<b>Bihar</b>	1303286
<b>Gujarat</b>	16880
<b>Haryana</b>	8710
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	1155
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	1320
<b>Kerala</b>	13706
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	26003
<b>Maharashtra</b>	12561
<b>Manipur</b>	250
<b>Meghalaya</b>	920
<b>Mysore</b>	3416
<b>Nagaland</b>	190
<b>Orissa</b>	159726
<b>Punjab</b>	31788
<b>Rajasthan</b>	56858
<b>Sikkim</b>	6914
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	19030
<b>Tripura</b>	7600
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	329796

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 2.08 million immigrants born in different states of India and enumerated in West Bengal in 1971 (Table 6.17). Among them, more than half of the migrants were born in Bihar which shared 62.52 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.27) born outside states of India. It was followed by Uttar Pradesh and Orissa with 15.82 percent and 7.66 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.27) from outside states of India respectively. They entered West Bengal due to economic and social reasons. Agriculturists had the aim to choose a fertile region for their cultivation, so they selected West Bengal as a destination due to its productive and abundant amount of alluvial tracts. Orissa was the third origin state of India from where around 8 percent of migrants entered West Bengal in 1971. It occurred due to its proximity to West Bengal as well as economic and social reasons.



**Figure 6.27 Immigration to West Bengal from Other States of India (1971)**

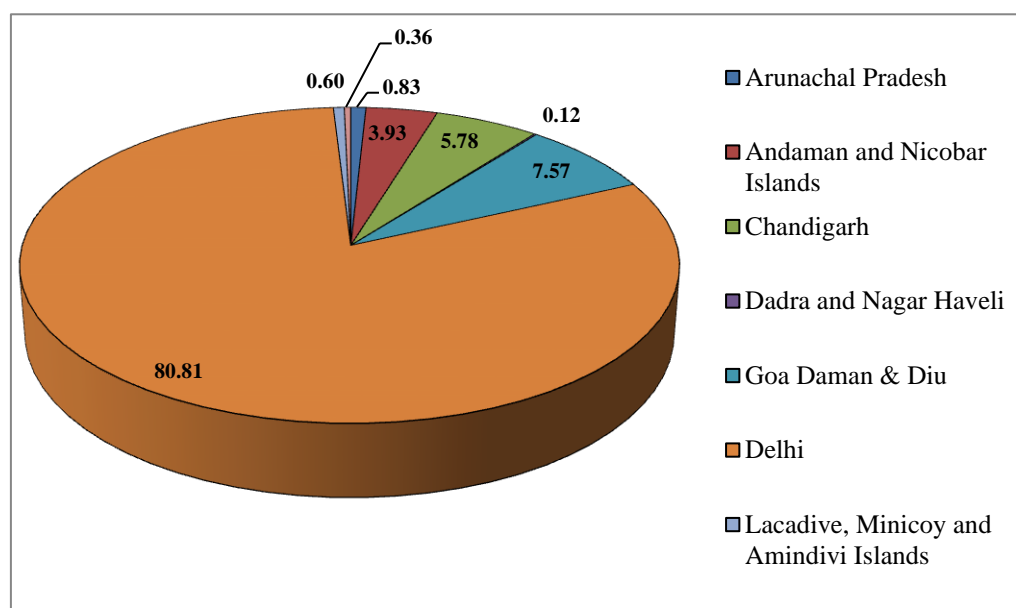


## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.18 Immigration to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (1971)**

Union Territories(Born)	Population
Arunachal Pradesh	70
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	330
Chandigarh	485
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10
Goa Daman & Diu	635
Delhi	6780
Lacadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	50
Pondicherry	30

Source: Census of India 1971, Series 22, West Bengal, Part II-D (i)



**Figure 6.28 Immigration to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (1971)**

Compare to the states, very small numbers of immigrants enumerated in West Bengal were born in different union territories of India. Census 1971 reflected that an estimated number of 8390 immigrants from different union territories (Table 6.18) entered West Bengal and among them, little more than 80 percent were from Delhi

## Immigration in West Bengal

(Figure 6.28) followed by Goa, Daman and Diu, and Chandigarh with 8 percent and 6 percent of total immigrants born within union territories of India (Figure 6.28). A very negligible number of migrants (10) from Dadra and Nagar Haveli was enumerated in West Bengal according to the 1971 census.

**Table 6.19 Migrants Origin from Outside India and Enumerated in West Bengal (1971)**

<b>Asia including U.S.S.R</b>			
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	605	<b>Pakistan</b>	3078202
<b>China</b>	1425	<b>U.S.SR</b>	130
<b>Malaysia</b>	341	<b>Ceylon</b>	150
<b>Burma</b>	8837	<b>Elsewhere</b>	7092
<b>Nepal</b>	100365		

<b>Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Americas</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>U.K including N. Ireland</b>	1210	<b>Canada</b>	40
<b>Ireland</b>	100	<b>USA</b>	205
<b>Elsewhere</b>	611	<b>Elsewhere</b>	25

## Immigration in West Bengal

Africa		Oceania	
Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants	Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants
Kenya	5	Australia	55
Union of Africa	10	Elsewhere	20
Elsewhere	165		

Source: Census of India 1971, Series 22, West Bengal, Part II-D (i)

In 1971, there were around 3.2 million immigrants in West Bengal who were born outside India (Table 6.19). The majority of them originated from Asia which constituted more than 98 percent of total immigrants from outside India. Pakistan secured a higher position in Asia as well as all over the world from where the majority numbers of immigrants entered West Bengal. It registered more than 3 million migrants (Table 6.19 and Table 6.16) which covered 96.27 percent of total Asia-born immigrants or 95 percent of total foreign-born migrants (Census 1971). Indo-Pakistan conflicts and the resultant Bangladesh Liberation War were the main reasons for this phase of migration. Nepal was the second-highest origin country in the world from where more than 1 lakh people entered West Bengal (Table 6.19) which constituted little more than 3 percent of total foreign-born immigrants.

Large numbers of Nepal-born persons were residing in India since 1891 when there were 234260 Nepali emigrants in India. This number rose to 526526 in 1971 (Table 6.20). However, up to 1951, the increasing numbers of Nepali emigrants were steady with a slight decline in 1921. It was attributed to the casualties during World War I and epidemics in 1917.

**Table 6.20 Nepal-Born Population in India (1891-1971)**

Year	Persons	Year	Persons
1891	234260	1951	278972
1901	239127	1961	498836
1911	274251	1971	526526
1921	260220		
1931*	303139		

Source: Census of India 1891-1971

\*The figures up to 1931 incorporate Nepal-born population in Berma, where the Nepal born populations in 1931 was 23889 persons

## Immigration in West Bengal

its resultant communal violence. There was a large-scale increase of Nepali-born people in India between 1951 and 1971 and it reached from 278972 people in 1951 to 526526 people in 1971 (Table 6.20). This increase was associated with the large-scale recruitment of Nepalese in the Indian Army and their relaxation of movement within and outside the country. Most of the Nepal-born people migrated to Sikkim, Darjeeling, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh.

Among the Non-Asiatic countries, the maximum numbers of emigrants were born in Europe and entered West Bengal and more than half of the European emigrants were from the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland with 56 percent of total European emigrants.

8826 foreign-born immigrants in West Bengal did not specify their country of origin and in the census of 1971, these were categorized as 'elsewhere' immigrants (Table 6.19).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.21 District-wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 1971 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

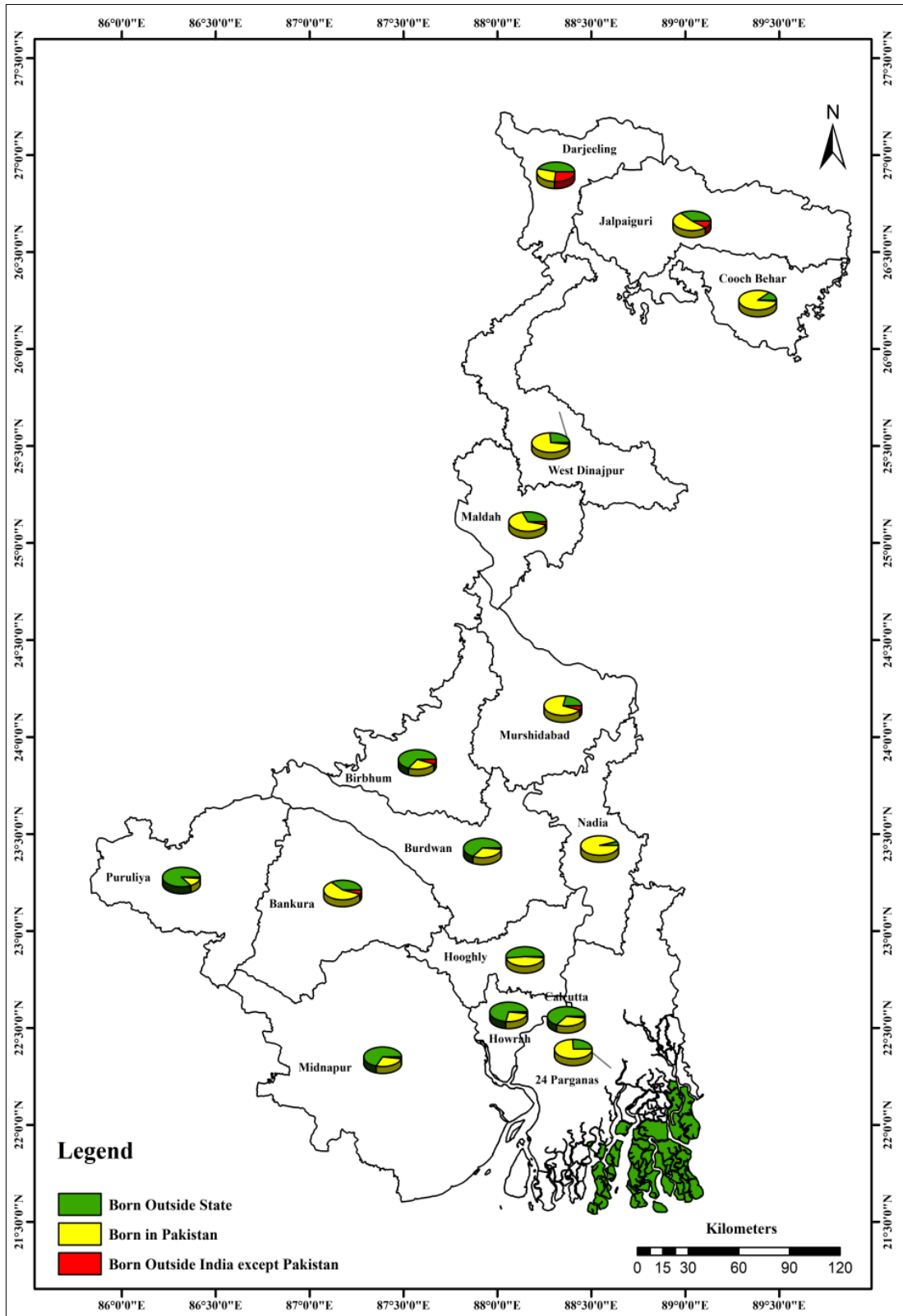
<b>Born</b>	<b>The other States of India</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Other Countries beyond India</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Americas</b>	<b>Oceania</b>	<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>Other Countries except Pakistan</b>
<b>Birbhum</b>	44944	20238	24343	20623	-	-	-	-	3720	4105
<b>Bankura</b>	10247	15314	16714	15534	-	-	-	-	1180	1400
<b>Midnapur</b>	92724	41686	44872	43201	5	5	-	-	1661	3186
<b>Hooghly</b>	146690	133800	137411	135455	35	10	10	-	1901	3611
<b>Howrah</b>	151404	56212	60133	58582	35	5	-	-	1511	3921
<b>24 Parganas</b>	317803	910223	920020	917619	120	5	20	5	2251	9797
<b>Calcutta</b>	534234	286740	301450	299975	1085	125	190	55	20	14710
<b>Nadia</b>	28381	534816	539139	535506	30	-	-	-	3603	4323
<b>Murshidabad</b>	21935	75308	81199	75583	5	-	-	-	5611	5891

## Immigration in West Bengal

<b>Born</b>	<b>The other States of India</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Other Countries beyond India</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>Americas</b>	<b>Oceania</b>	<b>Unclassified</b>	<b>Other Countries except Pakistan</b>
<b>Malda</b>	33608	69202	73362	69562	10	-	-	-	3790	4160
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	71143	197266	203002	198201	-	-	-	-	4801	5736
<b>Darjeeling</b>	74314	43831	86499	85204	251	10	40	10	984	42668
<b>Coochbihar</b>	39347	285299	289439	286319	-	-	10	-	3110	4140
<b>Purulia</b>	52318	7670	8620	8155	5	-	-	-	460	950
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	171815	237989	282230	280169	180	-	-	-	1881	44241
<b>Burdwan</b>	302142	162598	170035	167459	160	20	-	5	2391	7437

Source: Census of India 1971, Series 22, West Bengal, Part II-D (i)

# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.29 Influx of Population in West Bengal, 1971**

## Immigration in West Bengal

There was 5.33 million population registered in West Bengal in 1971 who were born outside West Bengal (Table 6.21) It included emigrants both outside states of West Bengal as well as foreign migrants from outside India. Among them, 2.09 million immigrants were born outside the state of West Bengal in India (Table 6.21), and in the 1971 census, they were enumerated in West Bengal. The majority of outside states immigrants in West Bengal were enumerated in Calcutta (Table 6.21) with 25.52 percent of total outside-born emigrants. It was followed by 24 Parganas and Burdwan (Table 6.21) with little more than 15 percent and 14 percent of total outside States-born emigrants respectively. In the northern part of West Bengal majority of the migrants from outside states were settled in the Jalpaiguri district which accounted for more than 8 percent of total outside states emigrants in 1971.

According to the census of 1971, there were 3.23 million people in West Bengal who were born outside India (Table 6.21) and registered in West Bengal. More than 98 percent of foreign-born emigrants were from Pakistan which included migrants from both East and West Pakistan. This group of emigrants was mainly concentrated in 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal with slightly less than 30 percent and little more than 17 percent of total Pakistan-born emigrants (Table 6.21) respectively.

Apart from Pakistan large numbers of the foreign-born population originated from Nepal (Table 6.19) and they settled in the northern part of West Bengal mainly in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

Figure 6.29 reflects the district-wise distribution of immigrants in West Bengal. Large numbers of migrants were enumerated in 24 Parganas, Nadia, and Calcutta (Table 6.19, Figure 6.29) with 23 percent, 11 percent, and 16 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. In 24 Parganas and Nadia, the majority of the migrants entered from Pakistan (Figure 6.29). A similar picture is also observed in Cooch Behar and Murshidabad where Pakistan-born migrants outnumbered the other migrants in West Bengal. In Calcutta maximum numbers of immigrants were coming from outside states of India. Purulia, Midnapur, Howrah, and Bankura also reflected the same (Figure 6.29). The northern part of West Bengal represents a majority of people from outside India mainly from Nepal and they are mainly enumerated in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts (Figure 6.29).



## Immigration in West Bengal

In 1971 there were around 3.2 million Pakistani people in West Bengal. It included immigrants from both regions of Pakistan. This phase of immigration was the result of the Indo-Pakistan war which displaced many people all over India. The majority of Pakistan-born migrants settled in 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal (Figure 6.31) with 27.37 percent and 16.67 percent of total Pakistan-born migrants respectively (Figure 6.30). Calcutta absorbed 8.94 percent of total immigrants born in Pakistan (Figure 6.30). In the northern region of West Bengal, Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri secured leading positions as destination districts for Pakistani migrants. It contained around 13 percent and 7 percent of total immigrants from Pakistan (Figure 6.30).

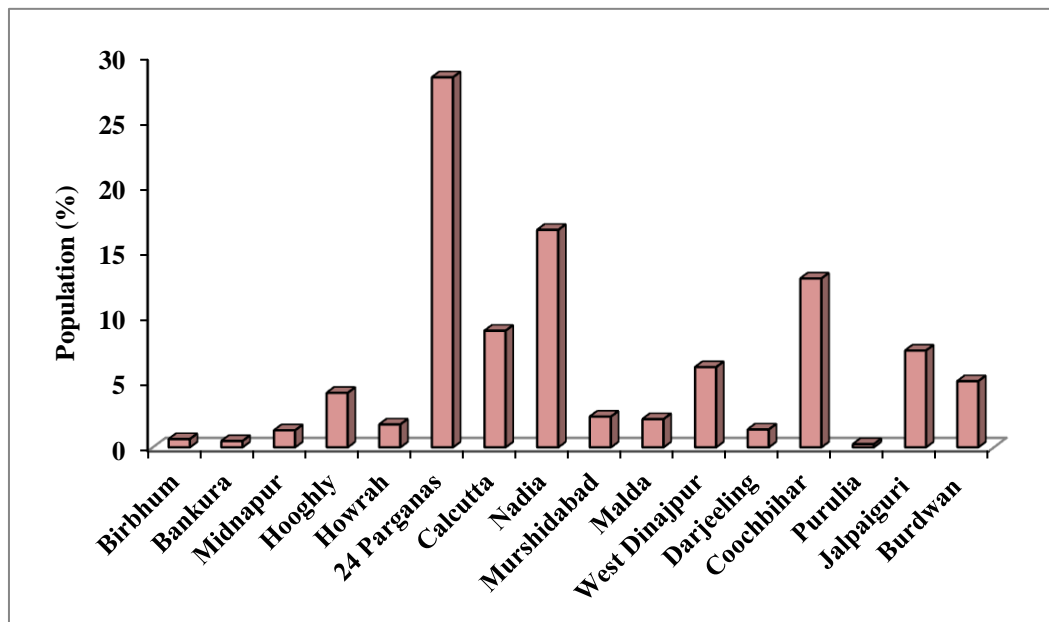


Figure 6.30 Immigrations from Pakistan 1971

# Immigration in West Bengal

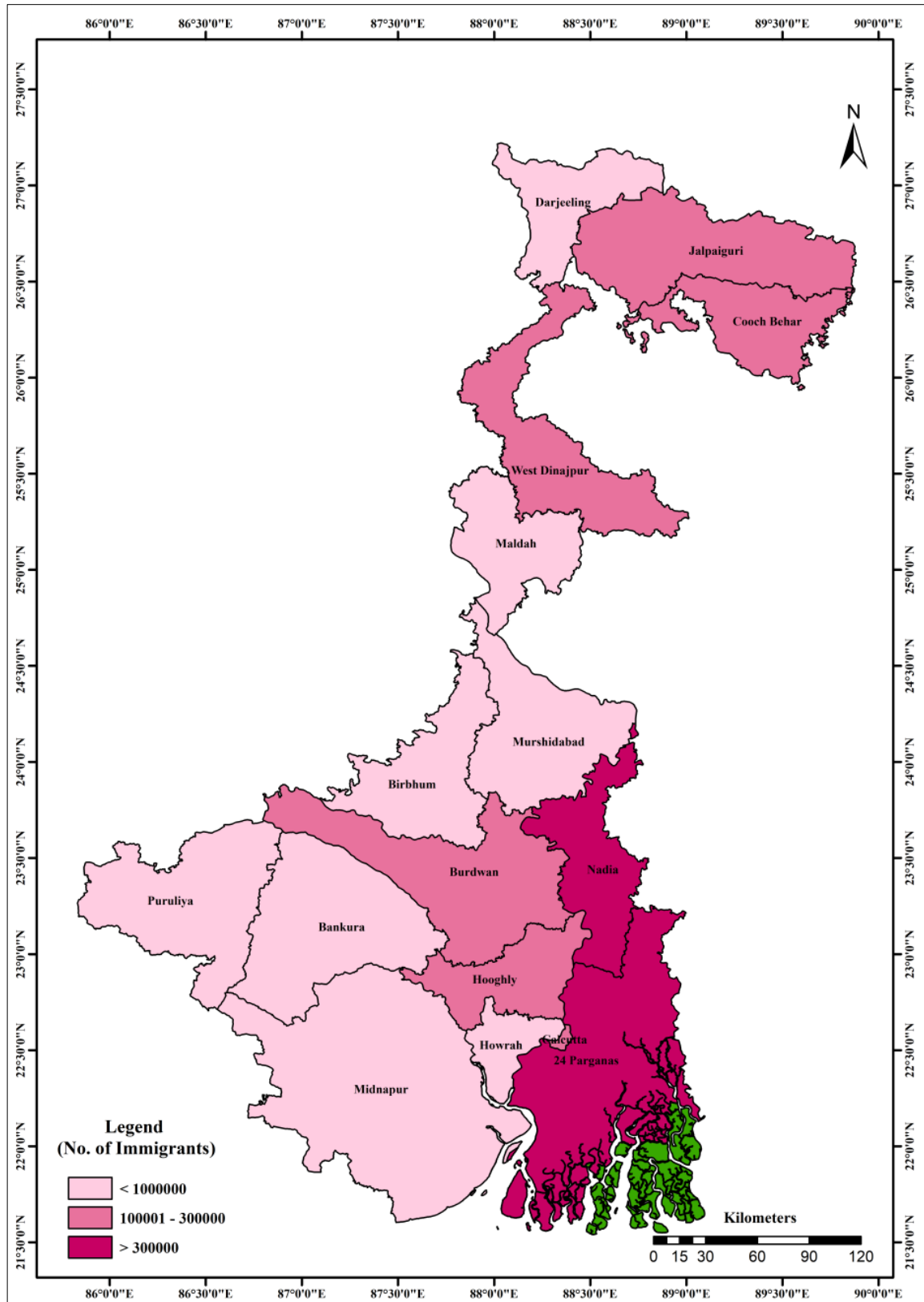


Figure 6.31 Concentrations of Pakistan Immigrants in West Bengal, 1971

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.22 Enumerations of Migrants in West Bengal 1971 (Based on Duration of Residence in West Bengal)**

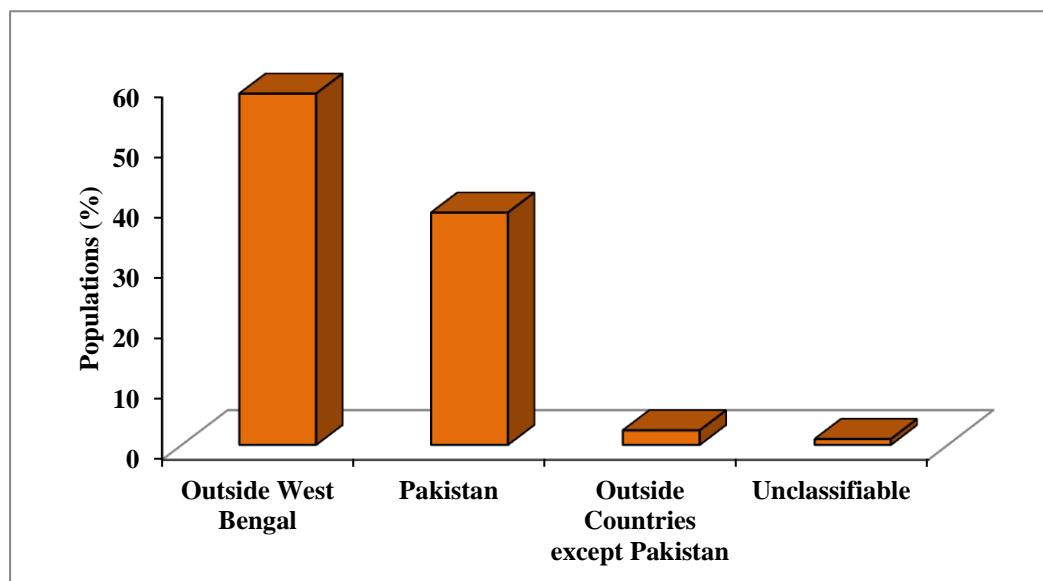
<b>Duration of Residence in West Bengal</b>	<b>&lt;1 year</b>	<b>1-4 years</b>	<b>5-9 years</b>	<b>10-19 years</b>	<b>&gt; 20 Years</b>	<b>Period not stated</b>
<b>POLR in Outside West Bengal</b>	62927	385679	358243	663975	501665	217821
<b>POLR in Pakistan</b>	41600	383915	490585	827110	963905	197950
<b>POLR in Outside Countries except Pakistan</b>	2600	19795	22910	32200	34520	7520
<b>Unclassifiable</b>	1050	4770	6510	8430	15040	2940

Source: Census of India 1971, Series 22, West Bengal, Part II-D (ii)

## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 1971 also published immigration data based on how long a migrant lived in West Bengal. The total number of immigrants was classified into 6 segments based on their duration of residence in West Bengal. Such as migrants staying in West Bengal for below 1 year, 1 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 19 years, and migrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years. A group of residents did not mention their time of arrival in West Bengal and they were enumerated in a specific table named Period not Stated. This group of migrants resided outside West Bengal and in Census 1971 they were categorized as immigrants by place of last residence (POLR).

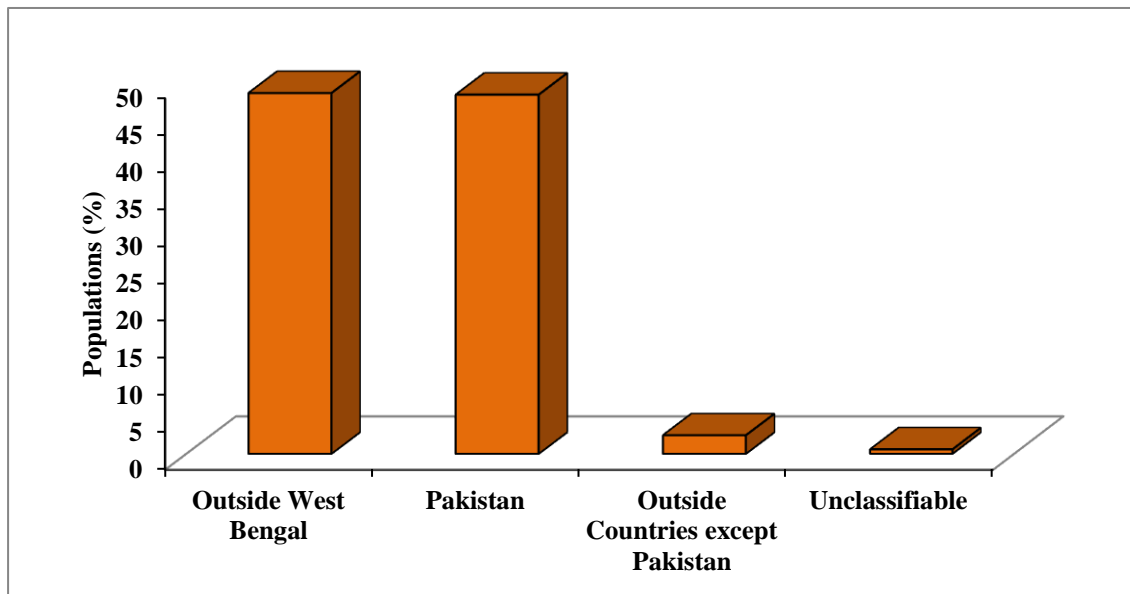
Table 6.22 reflects that 5.2 million immigrants were residing in West Bengal until 1971. More than half of the immigrants (57.49%) last resided outside India and enumerated in West Bengal. Among them, 96 percent were from Pakistan (Table 6.22). 41.77 percent of immigrants were registered from outside states of West Bengal in India (Table 6.22). A part of immigrants was termed as ‘unclassifiable’ due to insufficient information regarding their place of arrival.



**Figure 6.32 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal less than 1 Year, 1971**

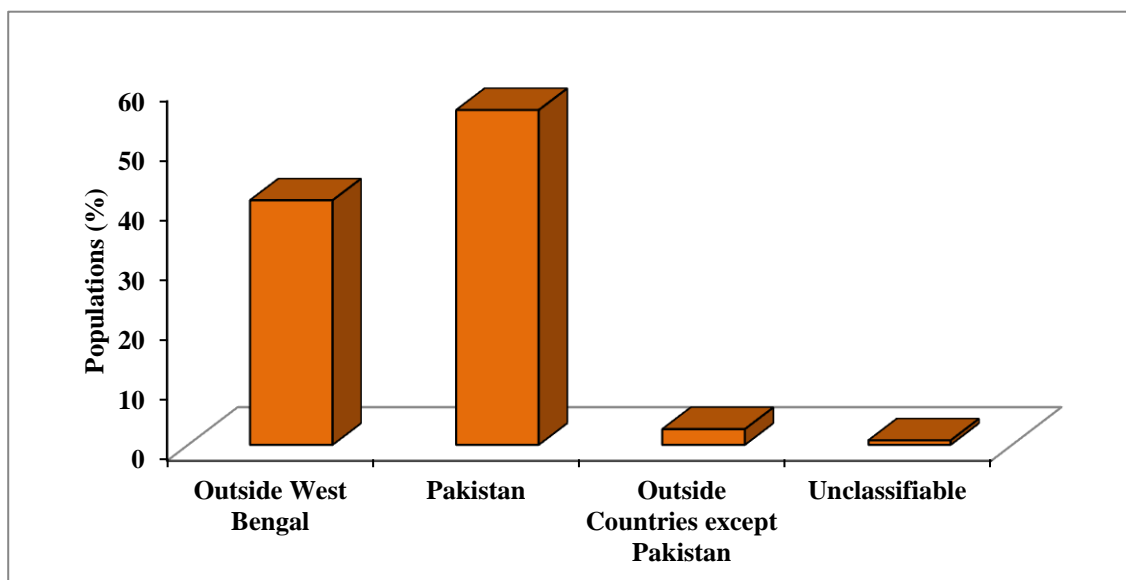
10 lakhs immigrants were residing in West Bengal for less than one year. Large numbers of immigrants were from outside states of West Bengal in India which contributed to 58 percent of total immigrants who resided in West Bengal for less than one year (Figure 6.32). It was followed by Pakistani migrants incorporated 38 percent of total immigrants staying in West Bengal (Figure 6.32) for below one year.

# Immigration in West Bengal



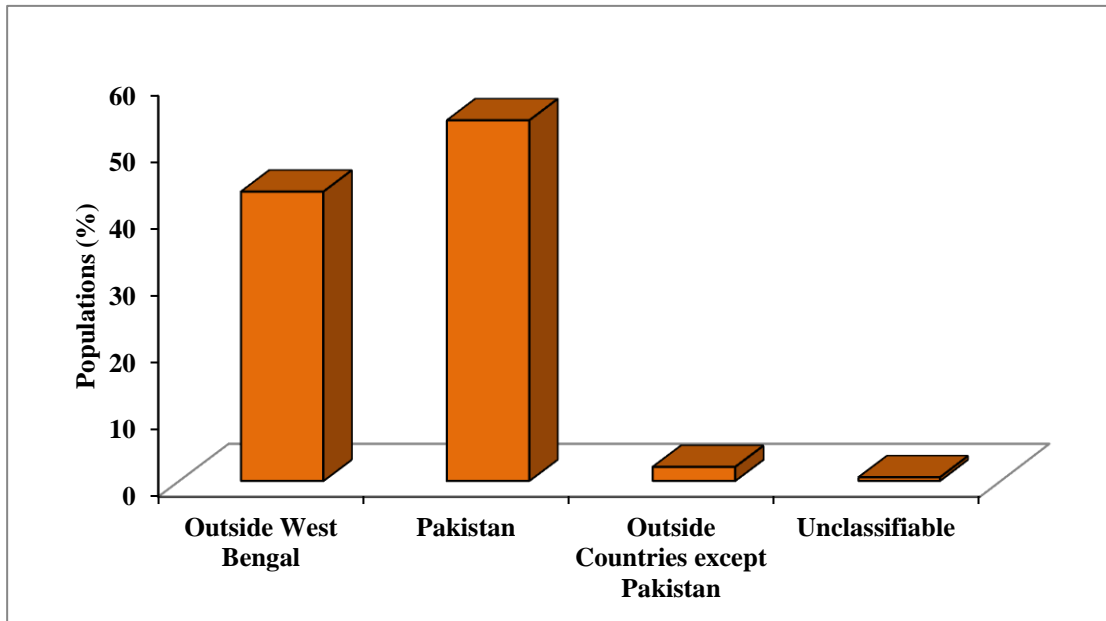
**Figure 6.33 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Years, 1971**

Within 1 to 4 years there were around 7.94 lakhs immigrants enumerated in West Bengal (Table 6.22). During this tenure, equal numbers of migrants entered West Bengal from outside states as well as Pakistan. Emigrants from different states of India and Pakistan contributed 48.56 percent and 48.34 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.33) residing in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years respectively.



**Figure 6.34 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years, 1971**

## Immigration in West Bengal

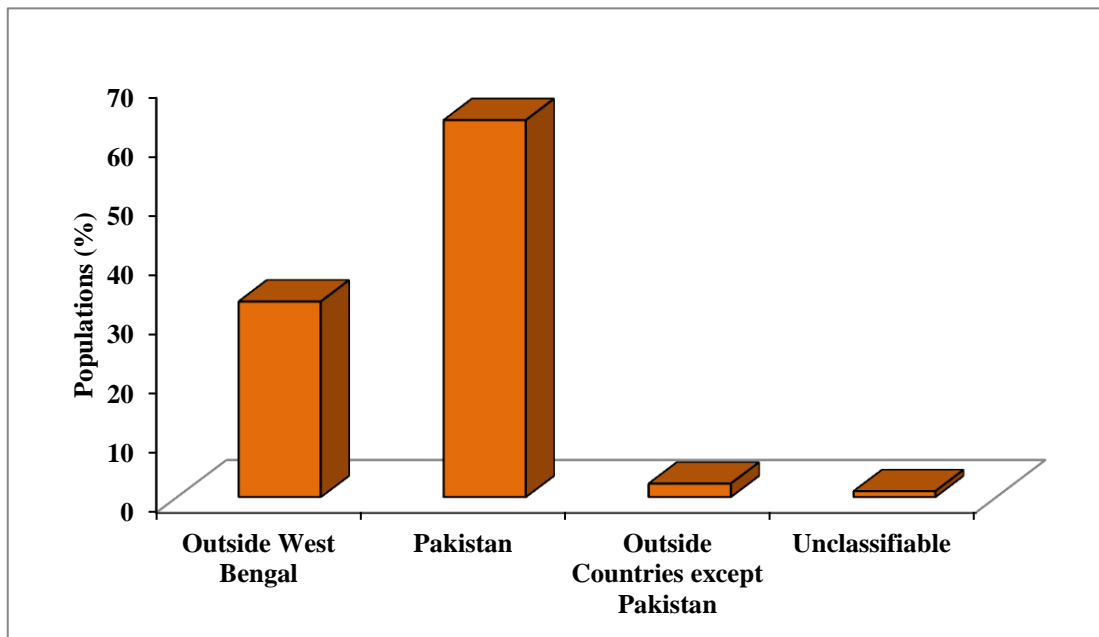


**Figure 6.35 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19 Years, 1971**

According to the 1971 Census, around 7.8 lakhs of migrants born outside West Bengal as well as outside India (Table 6.22) were enumerated in West Bengal within 5 to 9 years. Within this time interval majority of the immigrants entered from Pakistan and settled in West Bengal. It accounted for more than 55 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.34). It was followed by the outside state migrants contributing more than 40 percent of total immigration in West Bengal.

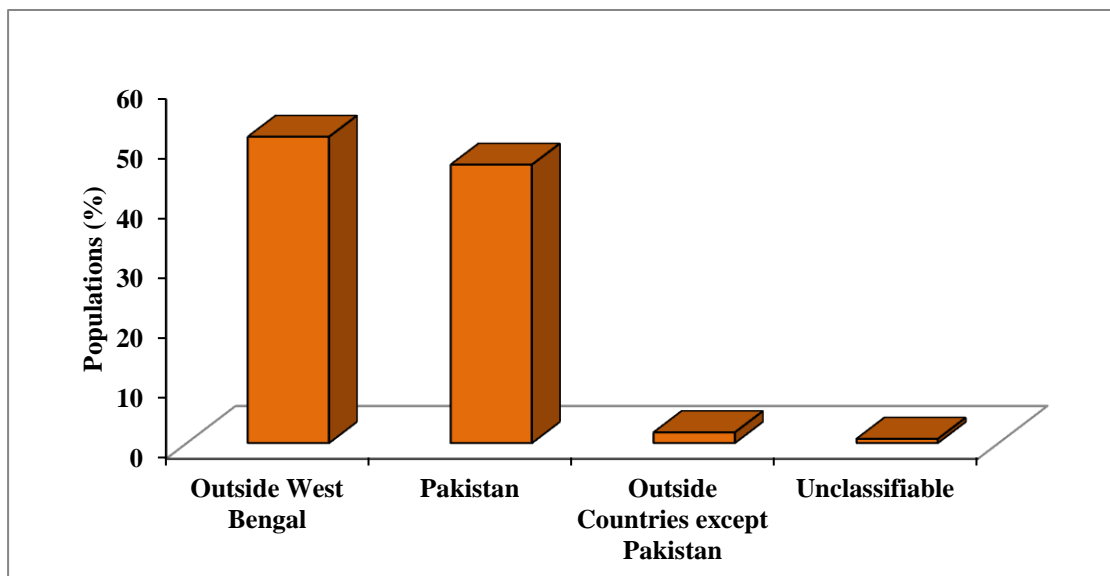
There were more than 15 lakhs migrants who registered in West Bengal before 10 to 19 years in 1971 (Table 6.22). This group of migrants entered West Bengal after the partition of India and during this time communal violence, the Nehru Pact, and the introduction of the passport system encouraged a rapid flow of migration from Pakistan. It accounted for 54 percent of total immigrants registered in West Bengal between 10 and 19 years. The remaining 43 percent of migrants originated from outside states of India, 2 percent of immigrants entered from outside India except for Pakistan and 1 percent of immigrants were not properly classified (Figure 6.35) in West Bengal.

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6. 36 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 20 Years, 1971**

Around 15 lakhs migrants resided in West Bengal for more than 20 years (Table 6.22). The majority of them resided in Pakistan and it accounted for 64 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.36) residing in West Bengal for more than 20 years. A little more than 33 percent of migrants originated from outside states of India (Figure 6.36). This group of Pakistani immigrants entered West Bengal before the independence of India and officially they were not foreigners rather they shifted their place of residence.



**Figure 6. 37 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal but Period not Stated, 1971**

# Immigration in West Bengal

There were 4.26 million registered migrants in West Bengal who did not specify their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.22). Large numbers of migrants resided outside West Bengal in India and it accounted for little more than 51 percent of total immigrants without mentioning the year of arrival in West Bengal (Figure 6.37). The second-largest immigrant entered West Bengal from outside states and it contributed around 46 percent of total immigrants enumerated in West Bengal who did not mention their time of arrival in West Bengal.

## 6.5 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 1981

The partition of Bengal and its resultant immigration flow was a major incident in West Bengal. The flow of immigration trickled down after several years which further intensified during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. This incident created a massive change in the world's political scenario in which former East Pakistan territory became an independent nation and was renamed Bangladesh. Again West Bengal witnessed large numbers of emigrants flow from Bangladesh. Migrants also entered West Bengal from different states of India, outside India which included Pakistan as well as other countries of the world.

### 6.5.1 Structure of Indian Administrative Regions, 1981

There were 21 states and 9 union territories in India in 1981. There were no significant changes in the Indian Administration structure, unlike the previous census. Between 1971 and 1981 the following changes were observed in Indian states and union territories.

On 1 November 1956, Kannada-speaking territories were unified and known as Mysore according to the state reorganisation act. Later on, Mysore had renamed **Karnataka** on 1 November 1973 after 17 years of unification (History in the making, 22 December 2015).

Previously Mizo hills were part of Assam which was carved out in 1971. The government also agreed to convert the Mizo Hills into union territory and appeared as **Mizoram** in 1972 (Stepan et al., 2011)



# Immigration in West Bengal

## 6.5.2 Population Enumeration in West Bengal, 1981

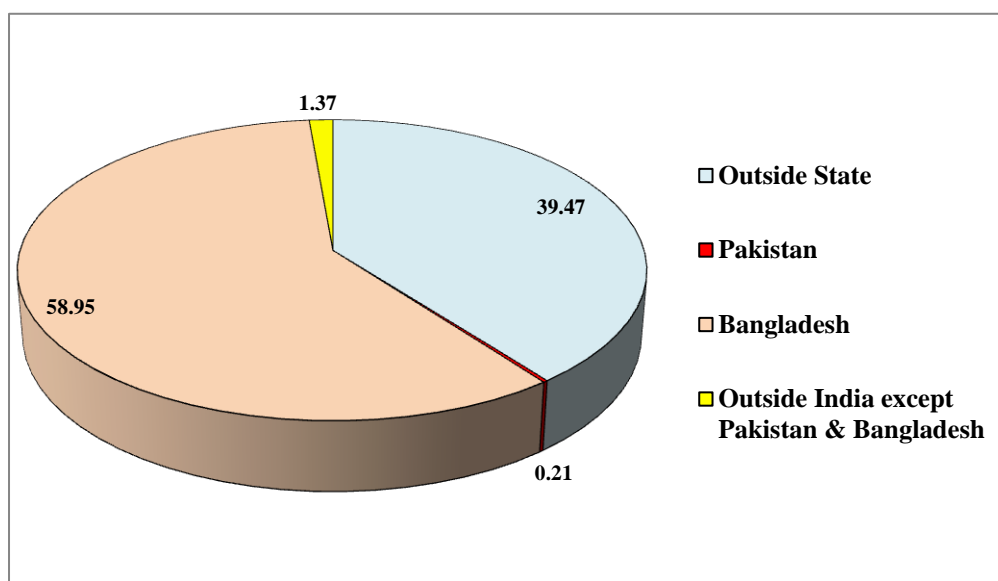
According to the 1981 Census, West Bengal had 16 districts and all of them witnessed a massive scale migration flow between 1971 and 1981. During this phase majority of the emigrants originated from newly formed Bangladesh. Indo-Pakistan conflicts and the Bangladesh Liberation war created a major dispersal of the population in West Bengal. This was the last phase when the people of West Bengal, as well as India, observed a large scale of human displacement after independence.

**Table 6.23 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 1971**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	54580647
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	48996340
<b>Born Outside State</b>	2204061
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	11737
<b>Born in Bangladesh</b>	3291773
<b>Born Outside India except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	76658

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.38 Immigrations in West Bengal, 1981**

There were 54.58 million people in West Bengal in 1981. Among them, 51.2 million were born in India (Table 6.23). This included both the people who were born in West Bengal and as well as other states in India. Little more than 2.20 million people were enumerated in West Bengal who was born within India beyond the state of enumeration. It covered 39.47 percent of total migrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.38). An estimated number of 3.38 million migrants entered West Bengal from outside India and they constituted the remaining 60.53 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. The majority of the foreign migrants were from Bangladesh and they enumerated in West Bengal during and after the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

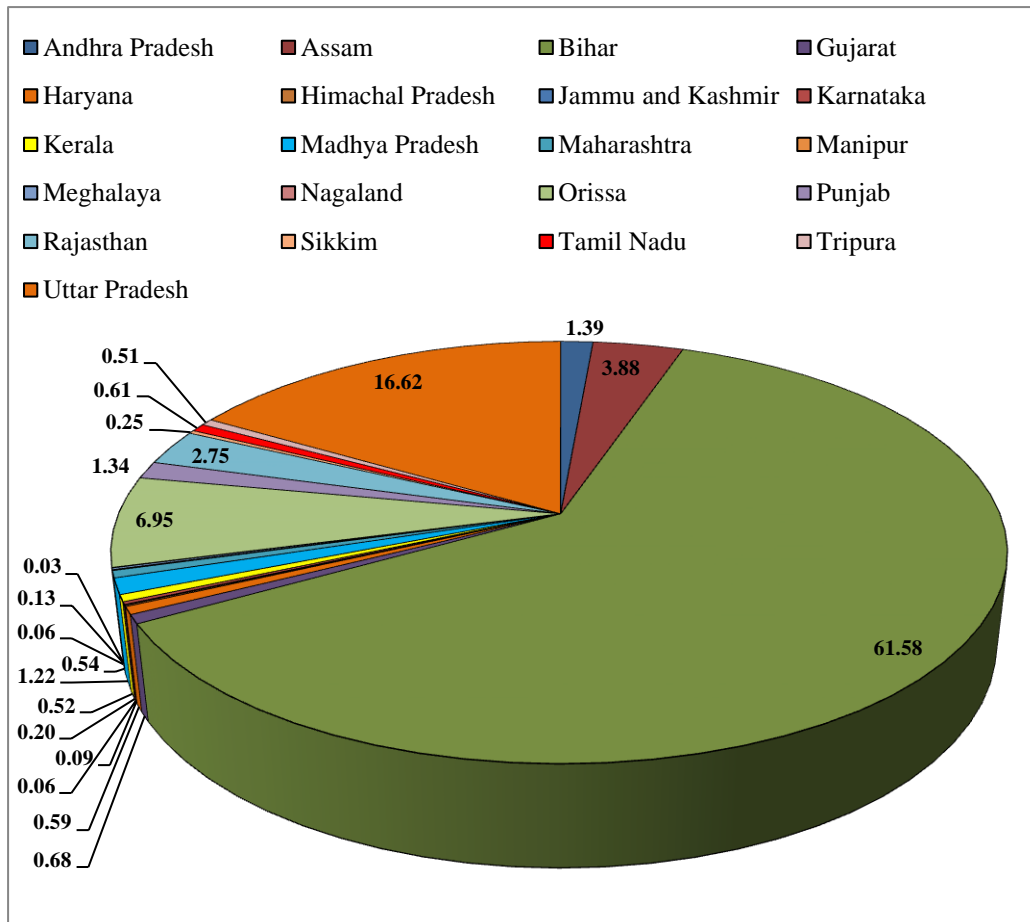
## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.24 Enumerations in West Bengal from Outside States of India, 1981**

<b>States (Born)</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	30367
<b>Assam</b>	84954
<b>Bihar</b>	1347934
<b>Gujarat</b>	14841
<b>Haryana</b>	12911
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	2019
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	1290
<b>Karnataka</b>	4347
<b>Kerala</b>	11333
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	26653
<b>Maharashtra</b>	11889
<b>Manipur</b>	1389
<b>Meghalaya</b>	2846
<b>Nagaland</b>	701
<b>Orissa</b>	152125
<b>Punjab</b>	29255
<b>Rajasthan</b>	60262
<b>Sikkim</b>	5492
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	13440
<b>Tripura</b>	11251
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	363754

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.39 Immigrations to West Bengal from Other States of India (1981)**

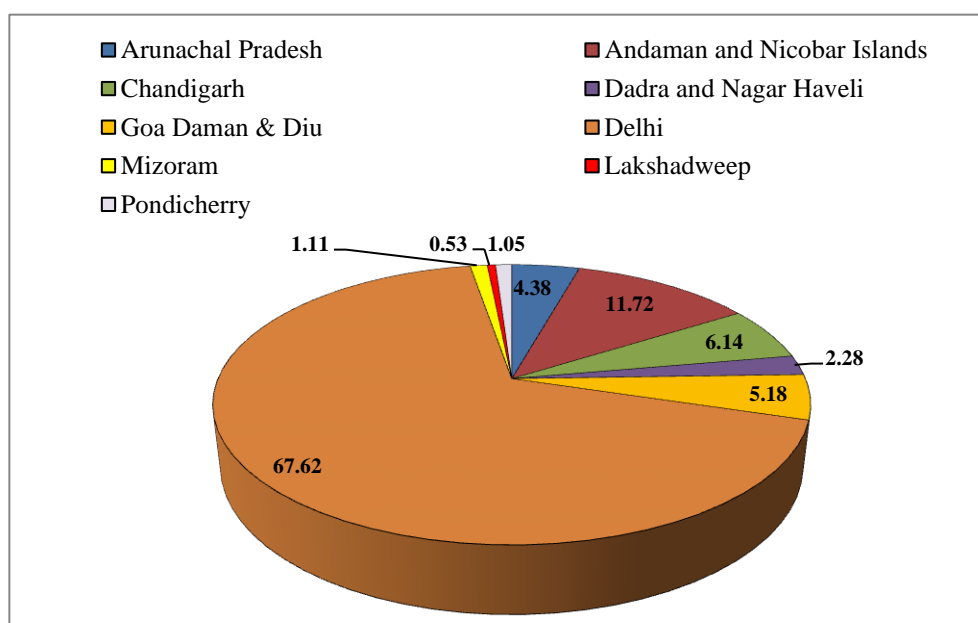
There were 2.1 lakhs, immigrants, in West Bengal who were born in different states of India in 1981 (Table 6.24). Large numbers of these migrants were initiated from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (Figure 6.24) which accounted for 61.58 percent and 16.62 percent of total immigrants born in different states in India beyond the state of enumeration (Figure 6.39). These migrants entered West Bengal due to better economic opportunities, and an abundant amount of fertile land which resulted in a large scale of agricultural activity in West Bengal. A large portion of migrants from outside states of West Bengal belong to the peasant community who were involved in cultivation and agricultural activities in their states of origin and also tried to maintain their previous occupation in a new region.

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.25 Immigration to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (1981)**

Union Territories (Born)	Population
Arunachal Pradesh	657
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1759
Chandigarh	922
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	342
Goa Daman & Diu	777
Delhi	10149
Mizoram	166
Lacadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	80
Pondicherry	157

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B



**Figure 6.40 Immigration to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (1981)**

## Immigration in West Bengal

Around 15 thousand migrants originated from different union territories of India and were enumerated in West Bengal in 1981 (Table 6.25). Among them, Delhi contributed the maximum number of emigrants in West Bengal. It accounted for more than 67 percent of total migrants originating from union territories of India in 1981. It was followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh with 11.72 percent and 6.14 percent of total immigration to West Bengal from union territories of India (Figure 6.40).

**Table 6.26 Migrants Origin from Outside India and Enumerated in West Bengal (1981)**

<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.S</b>		<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	444	<b>Myanmar</b>	0
<b>Bangladesh</b>	3291773	<b>Nepal</b>	57744
<b>Bhutan</b>	3085	<b>Pakistan</b>	11737
<b>Berma</b>	8546	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	227
<b>China</b>	3941	<b>Singapore</b>	173
<b>Indonesia</b>	49	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	70
<b>Iran</b>	35	<b>Turkey</b>	10
<b>Iraq</b>	35	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	19
<b>Japan</b>	86	<b>U.S.S.R</b>	21
<b>Kuwait</b>	30	<b>Vietnam</b>	25
<b>Malaysia</b>	332	<b>Elsewhere</b>	294
<b>Maldives</b>	10		
<b>Born in Europe excluding U.S.S.S</b>		<b>Born in Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>	
<b>France</b>	15	<b>Portugal</b>	0
<b>*F.R.G</b>	54	<b>U.K</b>	662
<b>*G.D.R</b>	19	<b>Elsewhere</b>	148

\*F.R.G= Federal Republic of Germany, \*G.D.R= German Democratic Republic

## Immigration in West Bengal

<b>Born in Africa</b>		<b>Born in Africa</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	43	<b>Uganda</b>	0
<b>Mauritius</b>	5	<b>Zambia</b>	5
<b>Nigeria</b>	30	<b>Elsewhere</b>	113

<b>Born in Americas</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Canada</b>	60
<b>USA</b>	181
<b>Elsewhere</b>	5
<b>Born in Oceania</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Australia</b>	53
<b>Fiji</b>	0
<b>Elsewhere</b>	20

<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Unclassifiable</b>	142

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 3.38 million foreign migrants in West Bengal in 1981 and the majority of them were born in Asia (Table 6.26). Among the Asiatic countries, large numbers of migrants entered from Bangladesh which contributed to more than 3.29 million immigrants. It was followed by Nepal and Pakistan with little more than 57 thousand and 11 thousand immigrants respectively (Table 6.26). As this phase was characterized by Bangladesh Liberation War, the majority of the immigrants from Asia originated from Bangladesh.

The contribution of non-Asiatic foreign immigration to West Bengal was only 1554; among them, European countries accounted for 897 immigrants, followed by American and African countries with 246 and 196 immigrants in West Bengal respectively (Table 6.26).



## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.27 District Wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 1981 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Outside State</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan &amp; Bangladesh</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	375722	911	164288	3277
<b>Birbhum</b>	49909	54	14615	394
<b>Bankura</b>	10528	45	11343	201
<b>Midnapur</b>	91753	141	27047	1416
<b>Hooghly</b>	163466	567	136280	1431
<b>Howrah</b>	150821	425	52953	1979
<b>24 Parganas</b>	418870	2364	1073735	8908
<b>Calcutta</b>	467613	6086	221126	8509
<b>Nadia</b>	29399	167	522014	650
<b>Murshidabad</b>	22683	50	76679	244
<b>Malda</b>	37923	21	103481	308
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	73075	346	256019	839
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	125274	160	279186	20438
<b>Darjeeling</b>	79060	232	52414	27495
<b>Coochbihar</b>	29272	127	296680	275
<b>Purulia</b>	78696	41	3913	294

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B

# Immigration in West Bengal

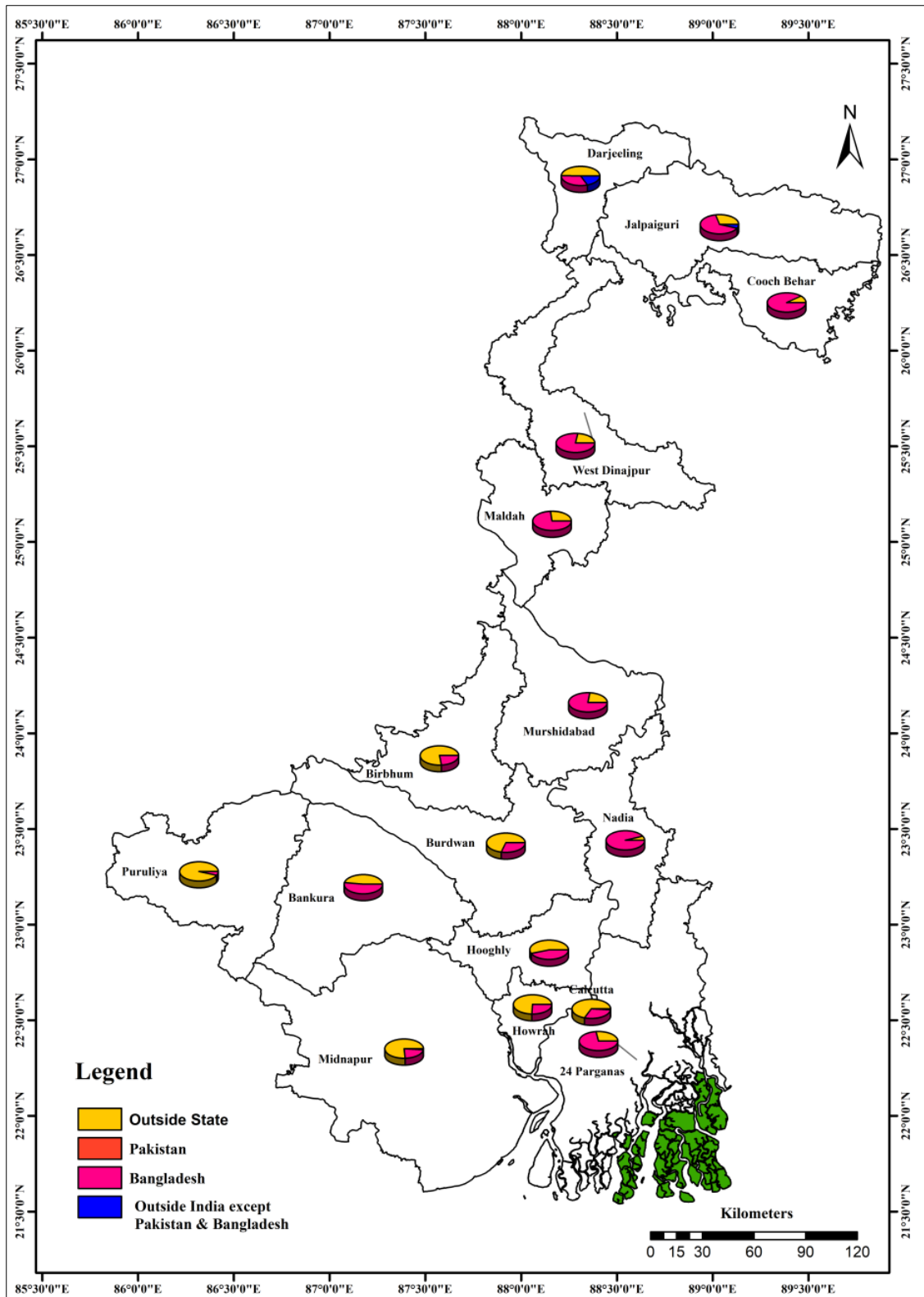


Figure 6.41 Influx of Population in West Bengal, 1981

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 5.6 lakhs, migrants, in West Bengal in 1981 (Table 6.27). Among them, more than half of the immigrants were born outside India which accounted for around 59 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.26). The remaining migrants were born outside the state of West Bengal in India.

Estimated numbers of 2.20 million immigrants were enumerated in West Bengal who was born outside the states of West Bengal (Table 6.27). The majority of them settled in the southern portion of West Bengal especially 24 Parganas and Calcutta with 21 percent and 19 percent of total emigrants from different states of India. Burdwan accounted for 17 percent of total immigrants outside West Bengal and secured the third position of total outside state emigrants. Very fewer numbers of migrants entered the northern districts of West Bengal among them Jalpaiguri secured a higher position with 5.68 percent of total outside states migrants in India (Table 6.27).

According to the census of 1981, there were 3.38 million foreign migrants in West Bengal and a majority of them entered from Bangladesh. A large number of emigrants from Bangladesh were enumerated in West Bengal during the Bangladesh Liberation War 1971 and it accounted for little more than 97 percent of total foreign-born migrants. The remaining 3 percent of migrants originated from different parts of the country.

Figure 6.41 reflects the district-wise distribution of immigrants in West Bengal. Large numbers of migrants enumerated in 24 Parganas, Calcutta, Nadia, and Burdwan (Table 6.27, Figure 6.41) with 27 percent, 13 percent, 9.8 percent, and 9.7 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. In 24 Parganas and Nadia, the majority of the migrants entered from Bangladesh (Figure 6.41). A similar picture is also observed in Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Maldah, and Murshidabad where Bangladesh-born migrants outnumbered the other migrants in West Bengal. In Calcutta maximum numbers of immigrants were coming from outside states of India. Purulia, Midnapur, Howrah, and Bankura also reflected the same (Figure 6.41). The northern part of West Bengal represented a majority of people from outside India mainly from Nepal and they mainly enumerated in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts (Figure 6.41).

## Immigration in West Bengal

More than 11 thousand populations in West Bengal originated from Pakistan according to the census 1981 (Table 6.27). Indo-Pakistan war and resultant migration flow from Pakistan was not significant compared to Bangladesh. Pakistan-born immigrants were mainly concentrated in Calcutta and 24 Parganas (Figure 6.43) which covered 51.85 percent and 20.14 percent of total Pakistan-born immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.42). Burdwan was the third major destination district of West Bengal which constituted 8 percent of total migrants born in Pakistan (Figure 6.42).

Pakistan-born immigrants concentrated in the southern regions of West Bengal mainly 24 Parganas and Calcutta (Figure 6.43). In the northern part, the majority of them were enumerated in the Darjeeling and West Dinajpur districts of West Bengal where their concentration was confined to 1000 populations. Very fewer numbers of migrants (less than 200 people) entered into remaining nine districts of West Bengal in 1981 (Figure 6.43).

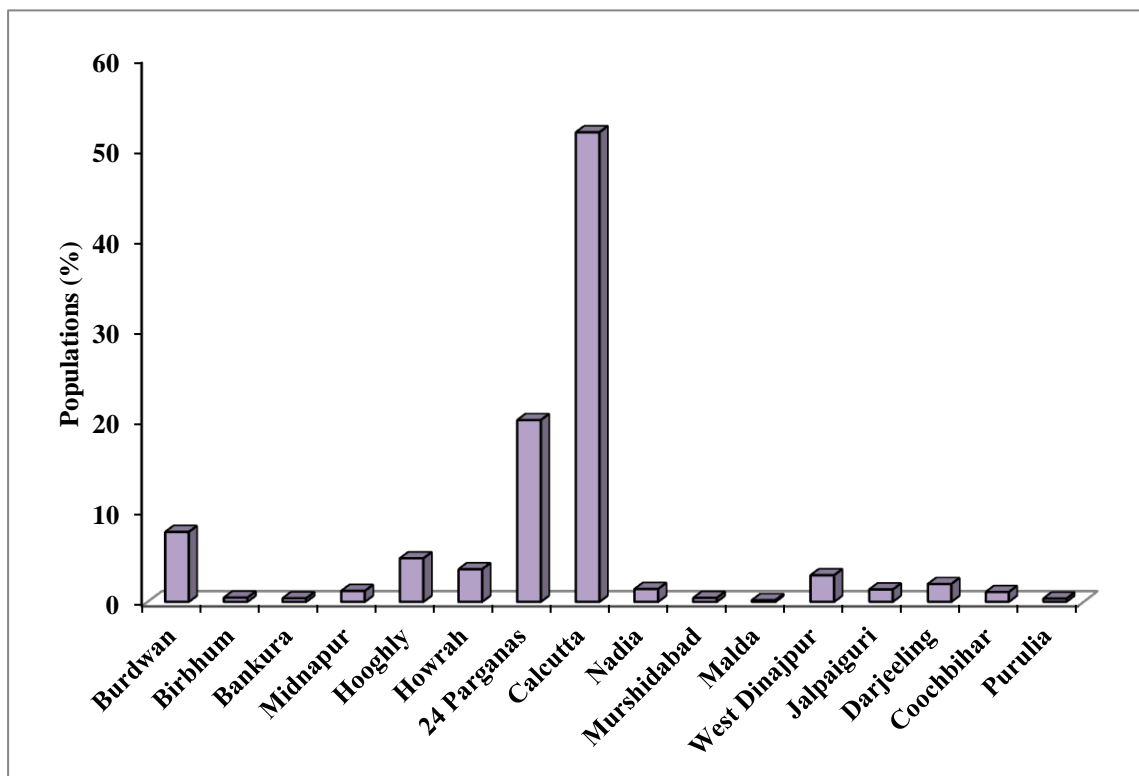


Figure 6.42 Immigrations from Pakistan 1981

# Immigration in West Bengal

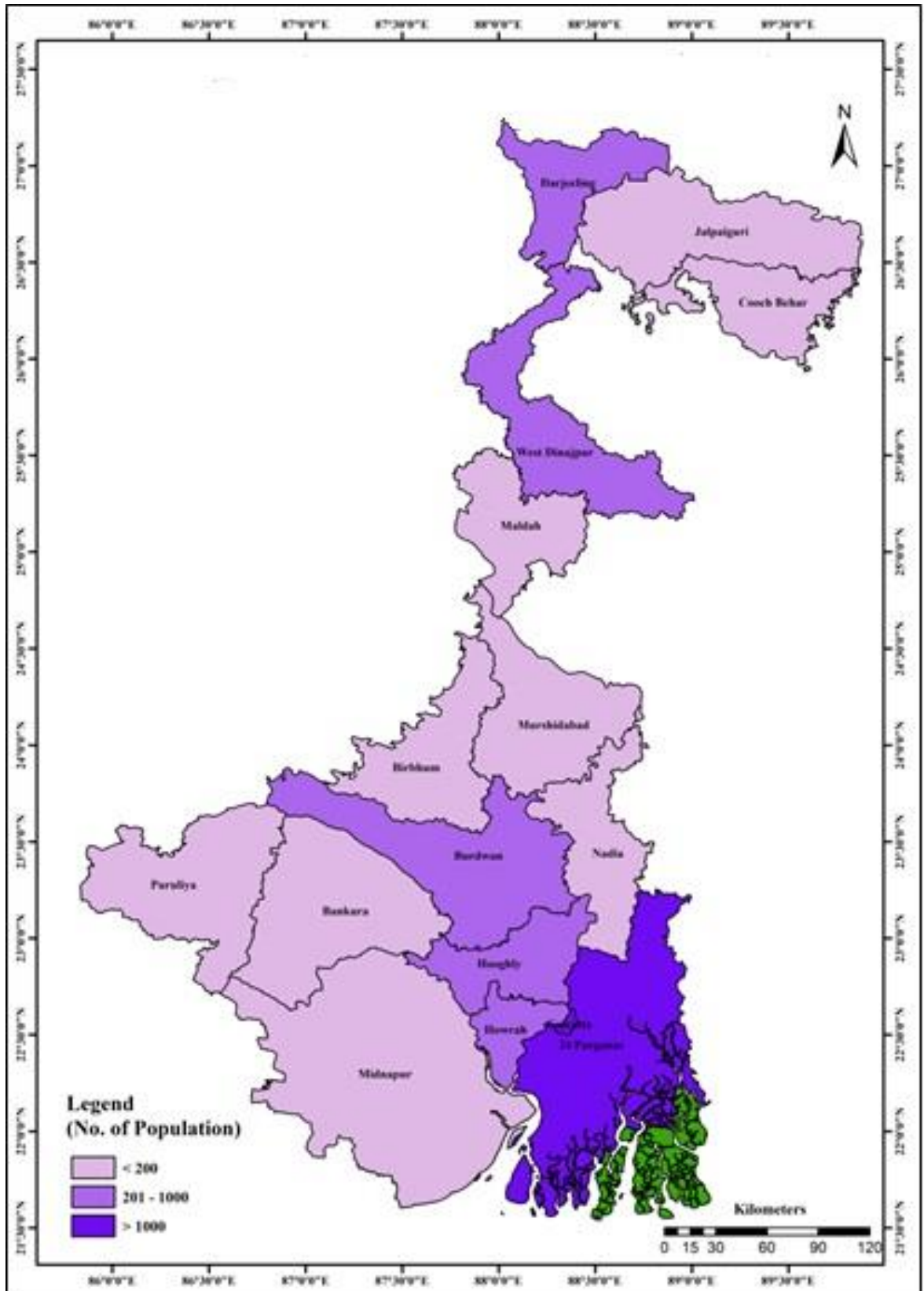


Figure 6.43 Concentrations of Pakistan Immigrants in West Bengal, 1981

## Immigration in West Bengal

After the independence of India, the newly formed Pakistan region was divided into two wings. The eastern wing, known as East Pakistan being a part of Pakistan territory faced several issues regarding their cultures. Their ideology, political power, and languages created a major difference from the western wings. In 1970, along with these differences, a distinct change occurred in the political sector in which the Bangladesh Awami League, the largest East Pakistani political party led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman won the national election. There were 169 seats for East Pakistan in which the Awami League won by 167 seats and form the government. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party refused Rahaman to be the next prime minister of Pakistan and proposed two different governments for both regions. This proposal outraged the East Pakistani people for violating the 'one unit' scheme and Mujibar called for a strike. A meeting was held with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and it was decided that a coalition government would be formed with Mujibar Rahman and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. They became Premier and President respectively (Hasan, 2000). On 7 March 1971 Rahman delivered a speech among the people of East Pakistan and concluded it by addressing 'our struggle is for our freedom. Our struggle is for our independence'. It motivated the people of East Pakistan and started a nationalist movement for their independence. West Pakistani military base known as 'Junta' introduced a plan named 'operation searchlight' to curb the freedom movement on 25 March 1971 (Bose, 2005). On 25-26 March at 1:30 am Rahaman was arrested by the Pakistani military. On 26 March 1971, M.A. Hannan, leader of the Awami League in the Chittagong district of East Pakistan gave a first speech on the announcement of the independence over the radio (Bangladesh History, An Overview). The day was considered the official Independence Day of East Pakistan and the name of the country was also changed from East Pakistan to Bangladesh. The war was finally ended on 16 December 1971 (Srinivasaraju, 'The Bangladeshi liberation has lessons for India today', 21 December 2021).

There were around 3.2 million migrants in West Bengal who were born in Bangladesh and crossed the border during the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 and settled in West Bengal (Table 6.27). Initially, they elected border districts of Bangladesh for their movement and concentrated there (Figure 6.45).

## Immigration in West Bengal

These displaced people were mainly concentrated in the southern part of West Bengal, especially in the 24 Parganas and Nadia districts which accounted for more than 32 percent and 16 percent of total Bangladesh-born migrants respectively (Figure 6.44). Apart from its' position near the border, available fertile lands, vacant places, and its' location near Calcutta encouraged migrants to settle in these districts. Comparatively fewer numbers of migrants entered Calcutta (6.72 %) during this phase of migration as Calcutta was saturated with numbers of displaced people from previous migrations and there were no vacant places available for newly displaced persons.

In the northern part of West Bengal Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and West Dinajpur absorbed large numbers of emigrants from Bangladesh which enumerated 9.01 percent, 8.48 percent, and 7.78 percent of total migrants from Bangladesh (Figure 6.44).

There were some districts of West Bengal which covered very fewer numbers of Bangladeshi migrants (less than 1 lakh) such as Purulia, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapur, Howrah, and Darjeeling during this phase of immigration (Figure 6.45).

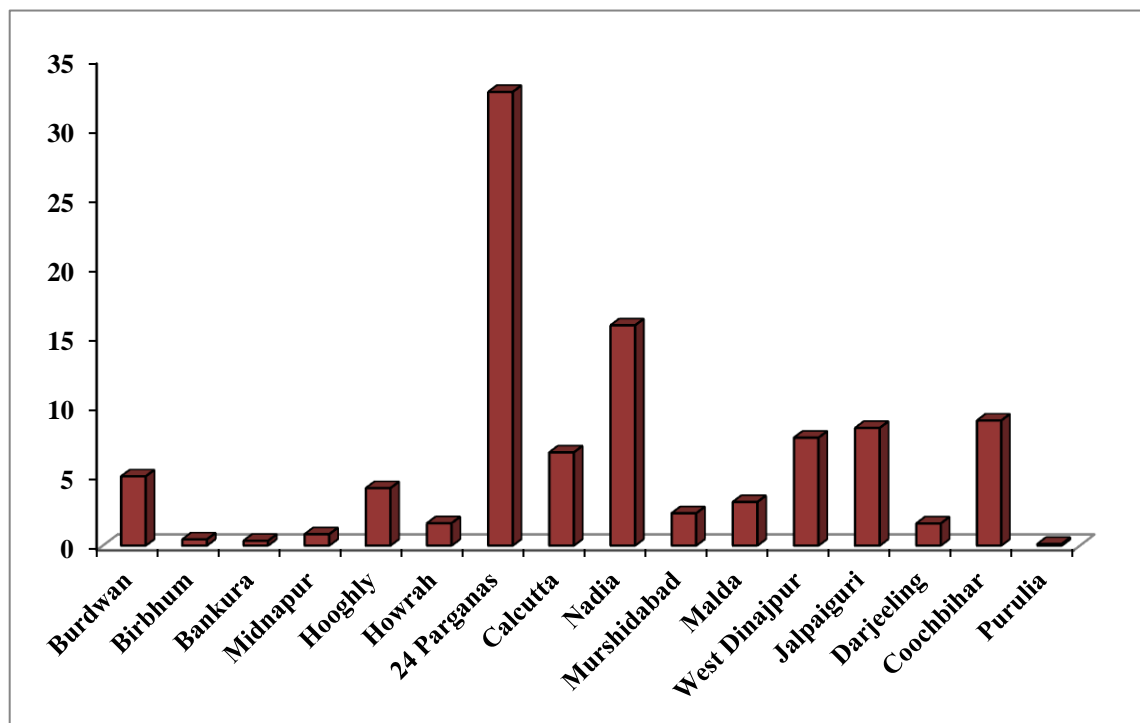


Figure 6.44 Immigrations from Bangladesh 1981



# Immigration in West Bengal

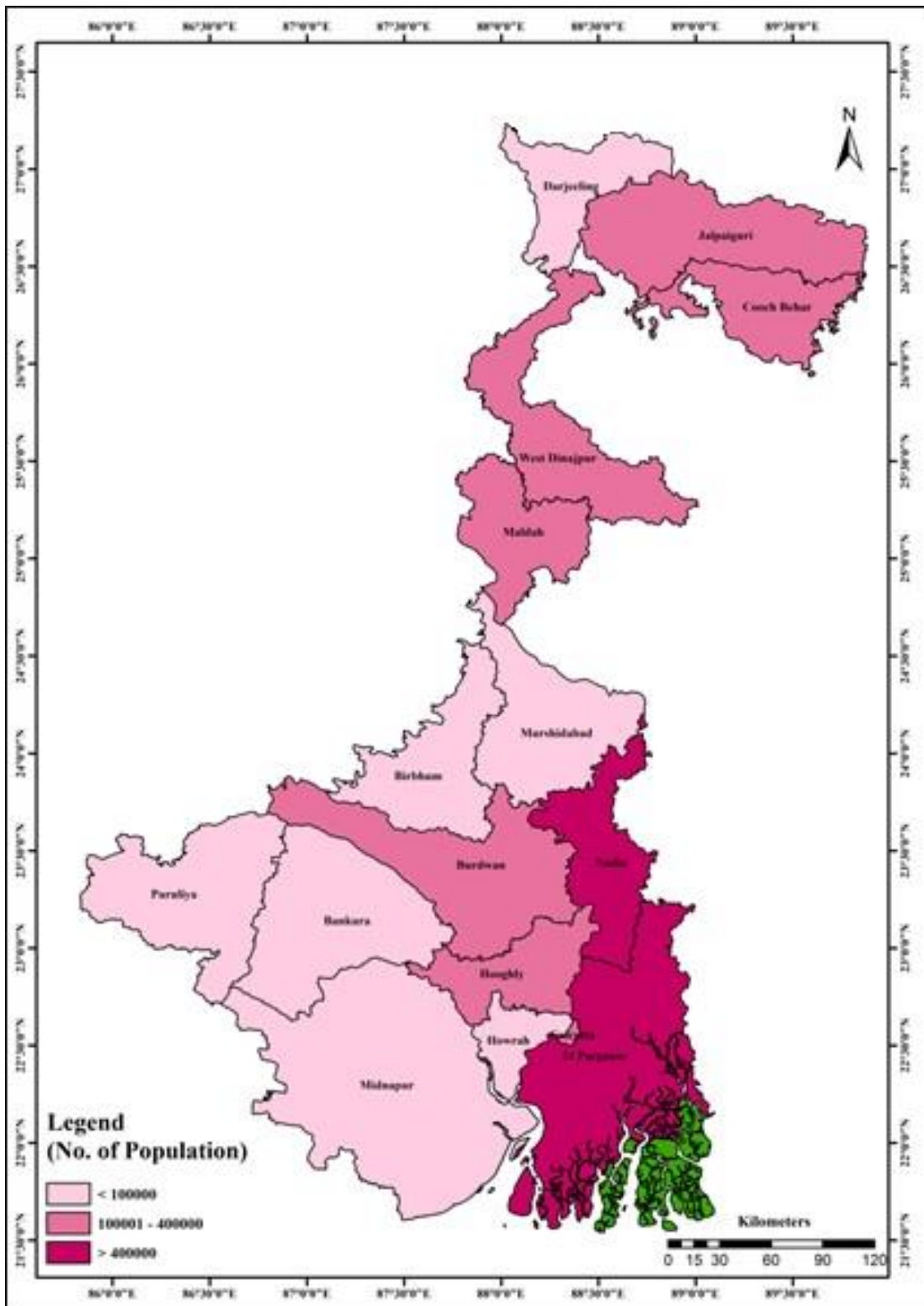


Figure 6.45 Concentrations of Bangladeshi Immigrants in West Bengal, 1981



## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.28 Enumerations of Migrants in West Bengal 1981 (Based on Duration of Residence in West Bengal)**

<b>Duration of Residence in West Bengal</b>	<b>&lt;1 year</b>	<b>1-4 years</b>	<b>5-9 years</b>	<b>10-19 years</b>	<b>&gt; 20 Years</b>	<b>Period not stated</b>
<b>POLR in Outside West Bengal</b>	74182	328660	322975	615902	681738	172298
<b>POLR in Bangladesh</b>	28731	221974	250888	783924	1257063	136448
<b>POLR in Pakistan</b>	40	413	610	1843	6047	1210
<b>POLR in Outside Country except Pakistan &amp; Bangladesh</b>	1684	9301	7329	17290	29377	4059
<b>POLR Unclassifiable</b>	50	25	30	36	74	25

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.29 Enumeration of Migrants based on Purposes of Movements, 1981**

Duration of Residence	Place of Origin	Total Migrants	Reasons of Migration				
			Employment	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Others
All durations	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	2195757	845686	54165	454300	421531	420076
	Last residence outside India	2758473	145756	23522	1009089	235830	1344274
less than 1 year	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	74184	33763	1349	19633	3292	16147
	Last residence outside India	30506	2139	370	10617	1570	15810
1-4 years	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	328658	102988	17415	100552	51105	56598
	Last residence outside India	231713	17298	3097	97049	20608	93661
5-9 Years	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	322975	113916	13767	82879	64210	48203
	Last residence outside India	258856	15625	2467	102369	26969	111426
10 years and above	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	1297642	568136	19927	233723	296084	179772
	Last residence outside India	2095651	107381	16820	773036	183317	1015097
Period not Stated	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	172298	26883	1707	17513	6840	119356
	Last residence outside India	141747	3313	768	26018	3366	108280

Source: Census of India, 1981, Series 23, West Bengal, Part V-A & B

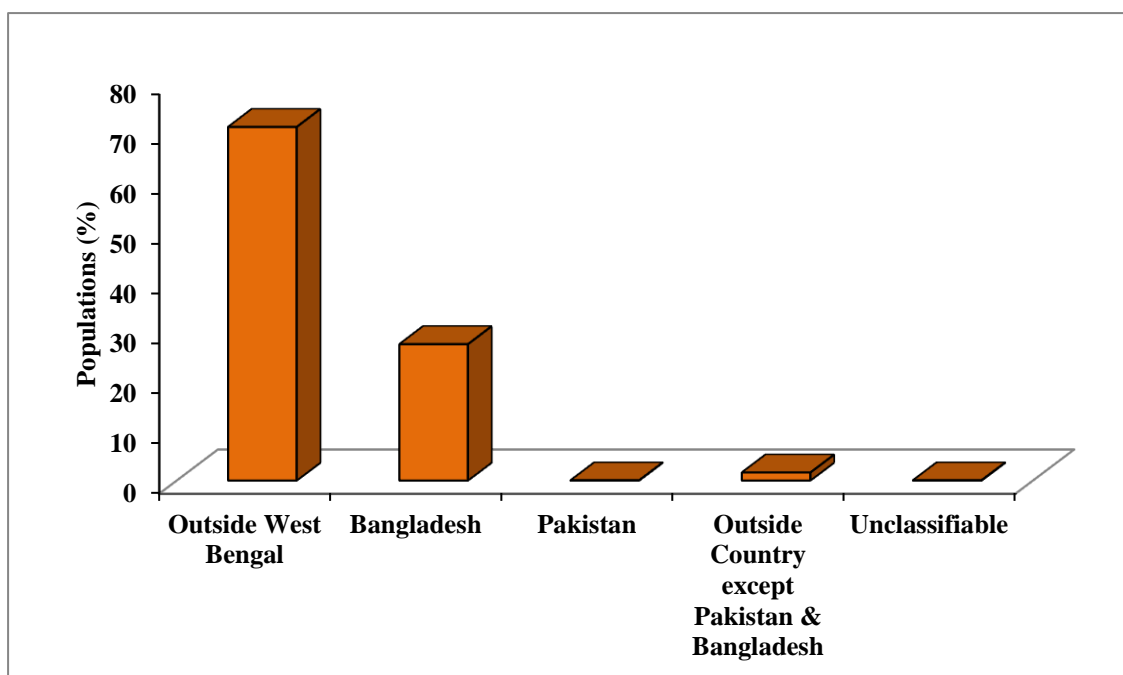
## Immigration in West Bengal

Since the 1971 Census, the immigration data were categorised into two segments; immigrants by birth and immigrants by Place of Last Residence (POLR).

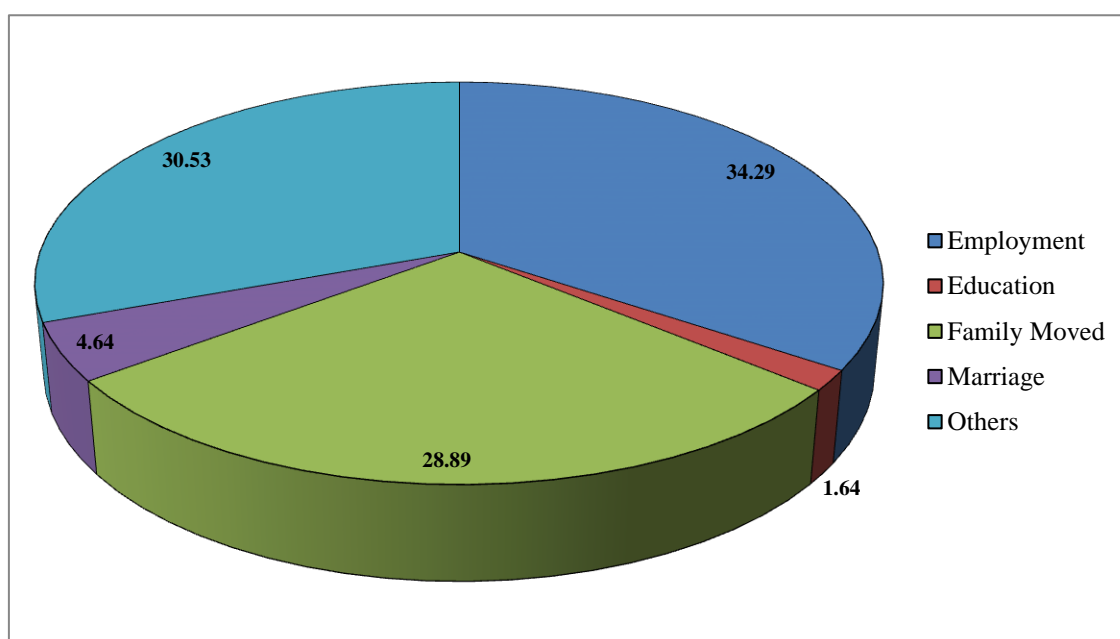
There were around 5 million migrants in West Bengal who last resided outside West Bengal (Table 6.28). The majority of them entered from outside India and it covered 54.08 percent of total immigrants by POLR (Table 6.28). The remaining little more than 44 percent were enumerated from Outside states of India. Among the foreign migrants, more than 97 percent stayed in Bangladesh and the remaining migrants were enumerated in West Bengal from other countries of the world. Around 2.50 percent of immigrants last resided outside Bangladesh and Pakistan (Table 6.28). It was also observed from table 6.28 that more than 19 lakhs immigrants stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years irrespective of their place of last residence (POLR) in 1981.

Until the 1971 partition of Bengal, resultant violence and political conflicts and finally Indo-Pakistan war created a massive flow of migration in West Bengal. After that, no specific incidents happened in West Bengal which led to a rapid flow of immigration. In 1981, Census started to enumerate the migration data based on their purposes of displacement. According to Census 1981, around 5 million immigrants stayed in West Bengal who last resided outside states of West Bengal as well as Outside India (Table 6.28 and 6.29). Among them, a large number of migrants entered West Bengal but did not specify their reasons for displacement and in the census, they were enumerated as 'others' (Table 6.29). It covered more than 35 percent of total migrants classified based on POLR. The next major group of migrants entered West Bengal due to their 'family movement' purpose and it contained around 30 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Employment and marriage purposes covered 20 percent and 13 percent of total migrants and the remaining 1.6 percent of migrants enumerated in West Bengal due to academic reasons.

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.46 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal less than 1 Year, 1981**



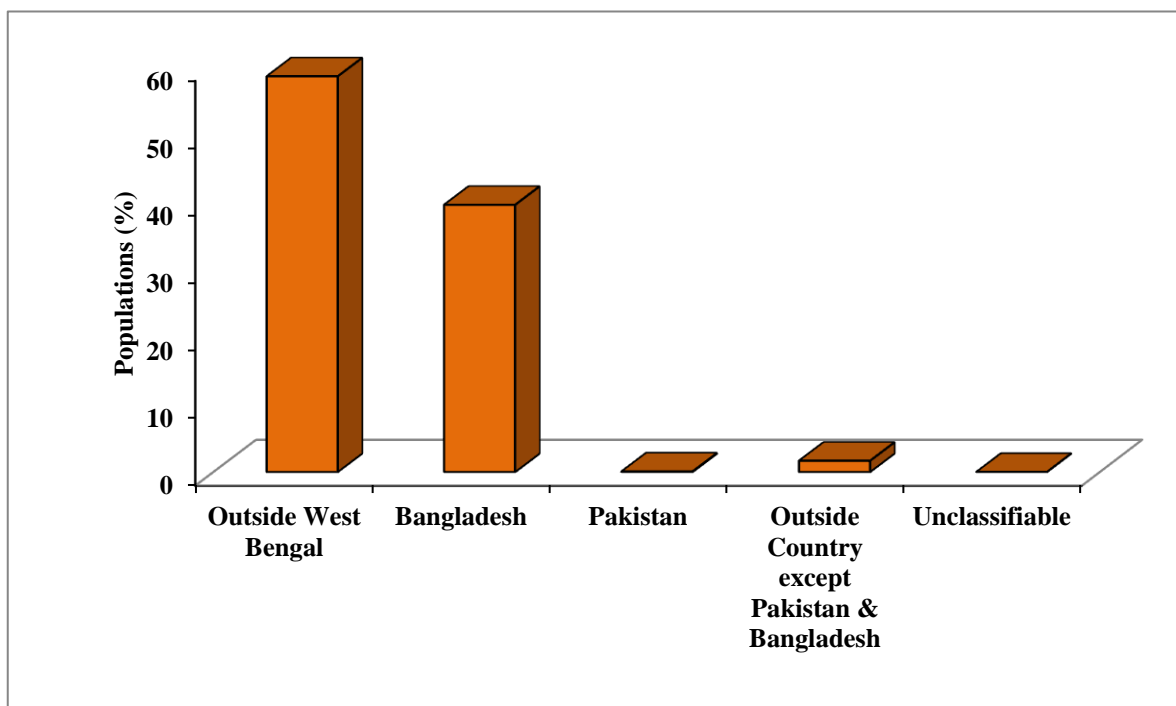
**Figure 6.47 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal less than 1 Year and the Reasons of their Migration, 1981**

More than 1 lakhs immigrants entered West Bengal within one year from their respective place of last residence (POLR) outside the state. Among them, 70.86 percent of immigrants were outside West Bengal in India and 27.44 percent were from Bangladesh (Figure 6.46). The remaining 1.61 percent enumerated from

## Immigration in West Bengal

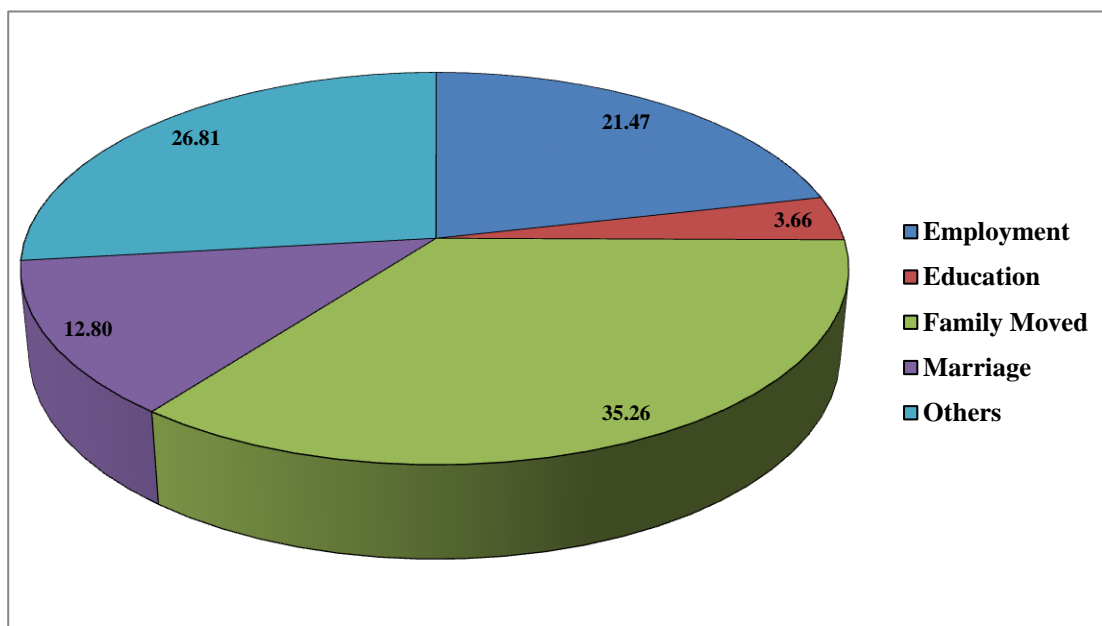
Pakistan and a very less number (50) of immigrants were categorised as unclassified due to insufficient information regarding their place of last residence (POLR). This group of immigrants crossed the border from 1979-1980.

The majority of the migrants, who entered West Bengal within 1 year, were for employment purposes which accounted for 34 percent of total immigrants registered in West Bengal for less than 1 year (Figure 6.47). The next group of migrants enumerated in West Bengal for 'others' reasons and covered more than 30 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Family reasons and marriage purposes accounted for around 29 percent and 5 percent of total migrants stayed in West Bengal for less than 1 year (Figure 6.47). Large numbers of migrants who entered West Bengal for marriage were more females than males (Census 1981). The remaining 1.64 percent of immigrants of West Bengal registered for education purposes (Figure 6.47).



**Figure 6.48 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Years, 1981**

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.49 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Year and the Reasons of their Migration, 1981**

There were more than 5.6 lakhs migrants in West Bengal who stayed for 1 to 4 years (Tables 6.28 and 6.29). This group of immigrants either last resided in different states of India or different countries of the world. Among them, around 60 percent of migrants originated from different states of India (Figure 6.48) and entered Bengal and the remaining resided outside India. Bangladeshi emigrants constituted 40 percent of total migrants who stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years which was followed by Pakistani emigrants and emigrants from other countries of the World with 0.1 percent and 1.26 percent of total immigrants respectively (Figure 6.48).

Among these 5.6 lakhs immigrants, more than 35 percent entered West Bengal due to family movement (Figure 6.49). There should be different reasons for this kind of movement but it was not properly mentioned in the census. The next higher group of migrants entered West Bengal for 'others' reasons which covered around 27 percent of total immigrants who lived in West Bengal for 1-4 years (Figure 6.49). The migrants, enumerated for employment and marriage purposes accounted for 21 percent and 13 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years respectively.

## Immigration in West Bengal

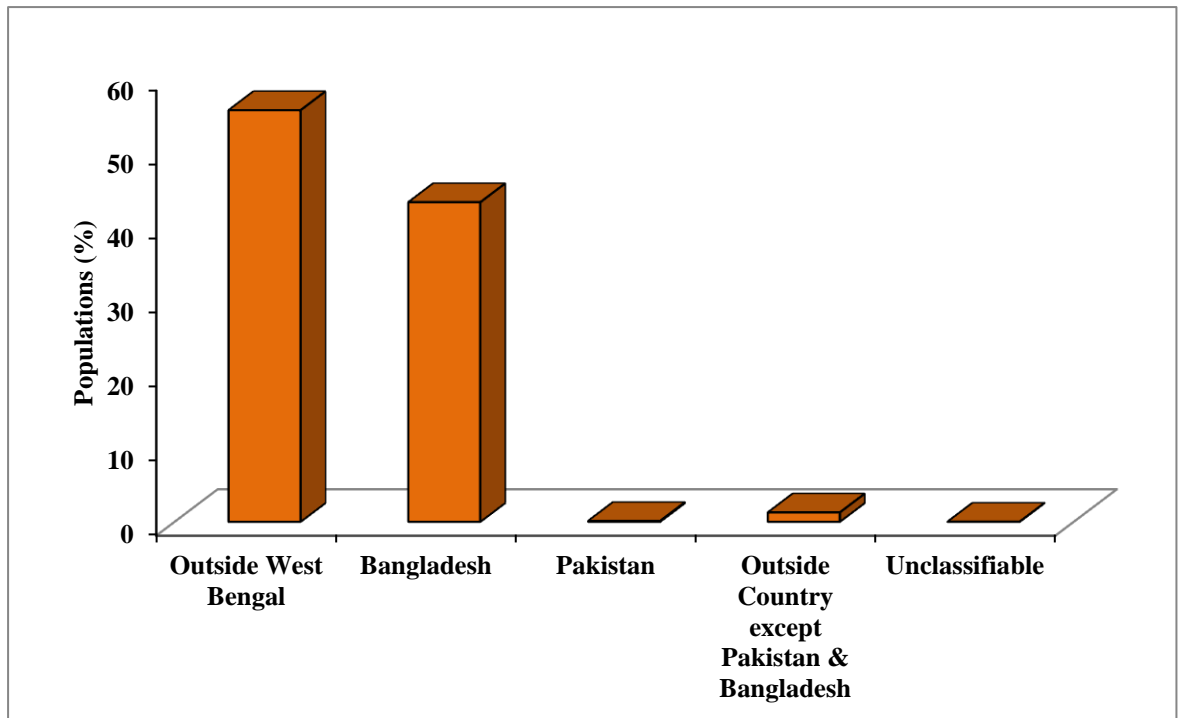


Figure 6.50 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years, 1981

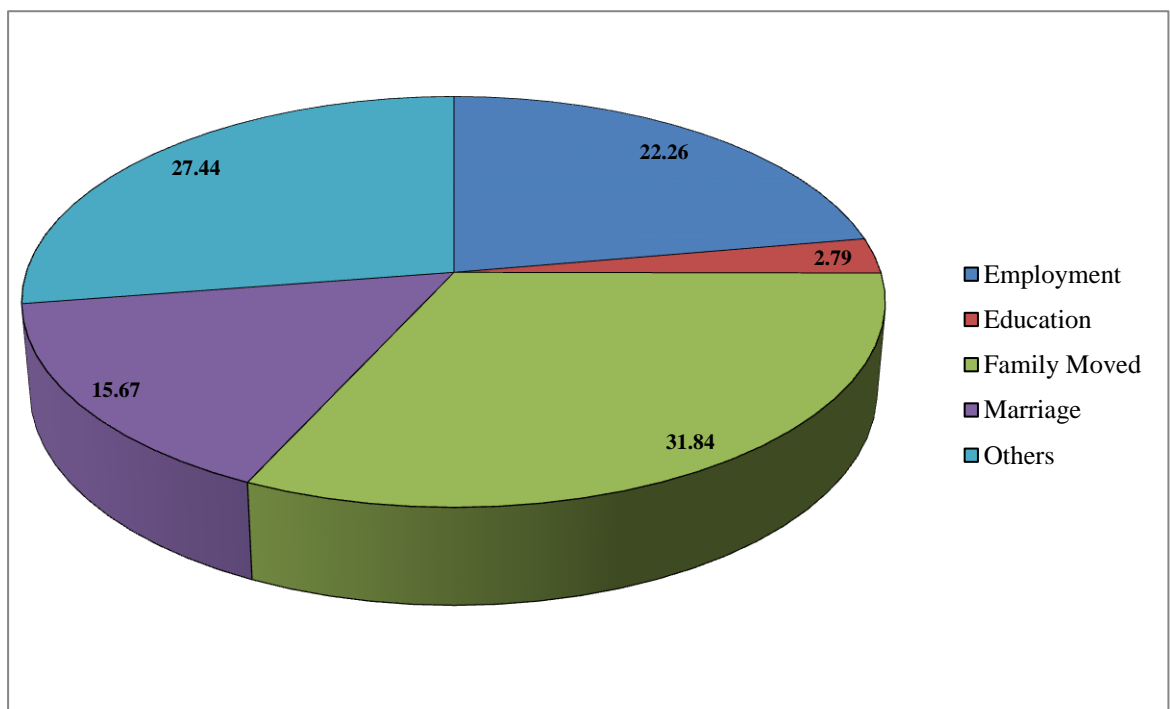


Figure 6.51 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Year and the Reasons of their Migration, 1981

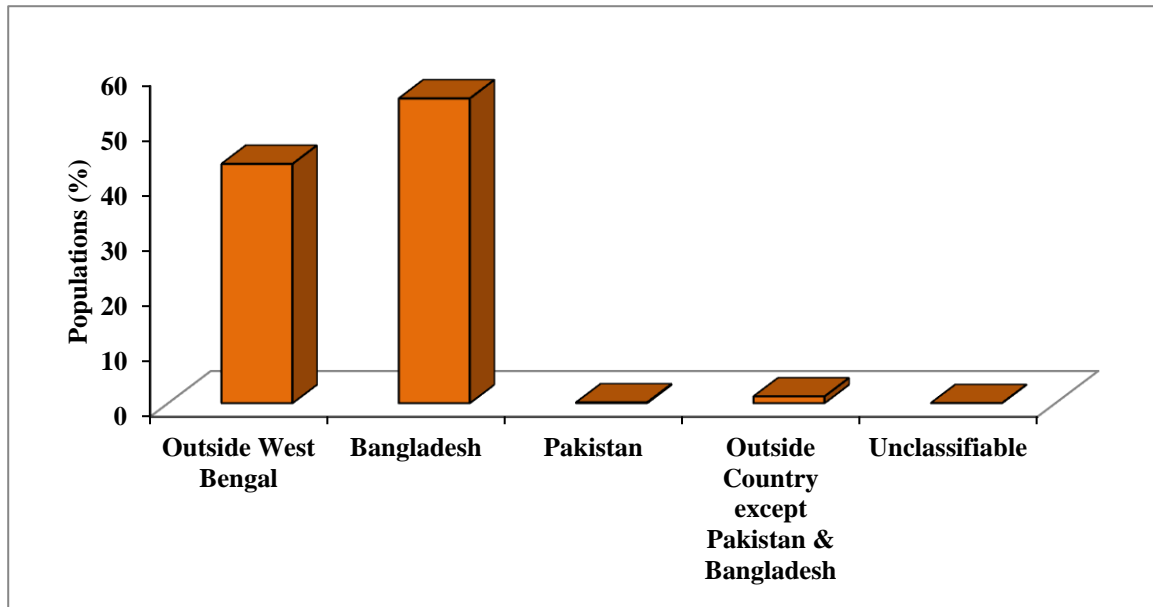
## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 1981 enumerated the immigration pattern of West Bengal in which it was recorded that more than 5.8 lakhs people were residing in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years (Table 6.28 and 6.29). Most of them previously resided outside the state of West Bengal and accounted for 56 percent of total immigrants who resided for 5 to 9 years (Figure 6.50). The remaining 44 percent of migrants entered from outside India with which the largest numbers of emigrants originated from Bangladesh. It accounted for 43 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years (Figure 6.50). The contribution of Pakistani emigrants was very less and covered only 0.1 percent of total immigrants and the remaining 1.3 percent of immigrants originated from other countries of the World (Figure 6.50).

Several factors determined these 5.8 lakhs, migrants, to enumerate in West Bengal and stayed there for 5 to 9 years (Table 6.28 and 6.29). This group of migrants entered West Bengal after Bangladesh Liberation War. This incident forced them to leave their previous residences with family. Around 32 percent of immigrants entered West Bengal for family purposes (Figure 6.51). Around 27 percent of migrants did not mention the reasons for their dispersal and in the census, they were referred to as 'others'. Immigrants registered in West Bengal for employment and marriage purposes and denoted 22 percent and 16 percent of total migrants stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years respectively (Figure 6.51). The remaining 3 percent of migrants entered West Bengal for academic reasons and had stayed for 5 to 9 years (Figure 6.51).



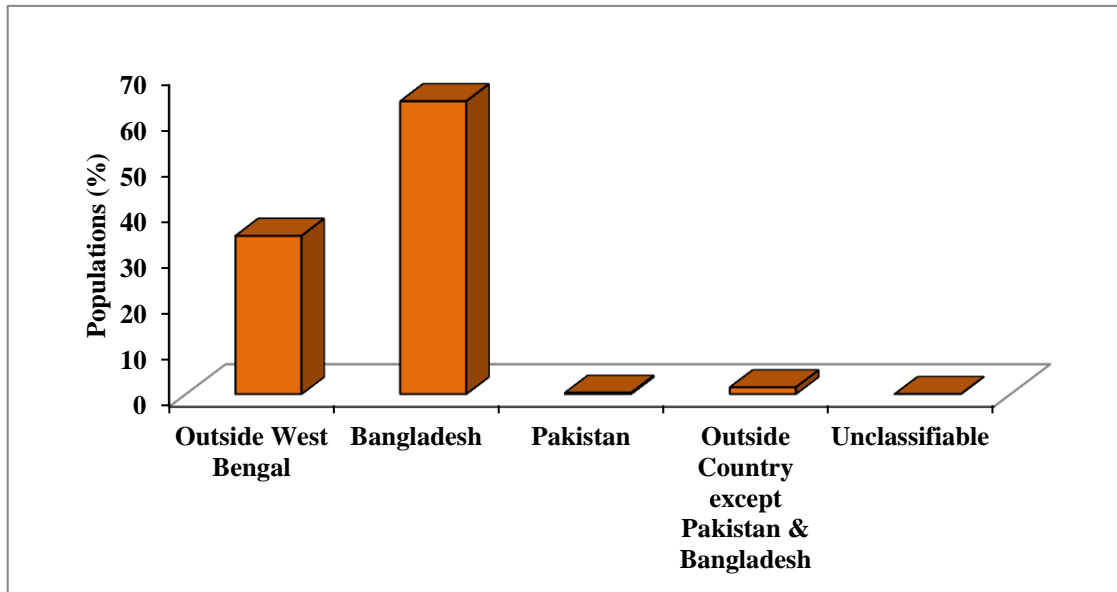
## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.52 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19 Years, 1981**

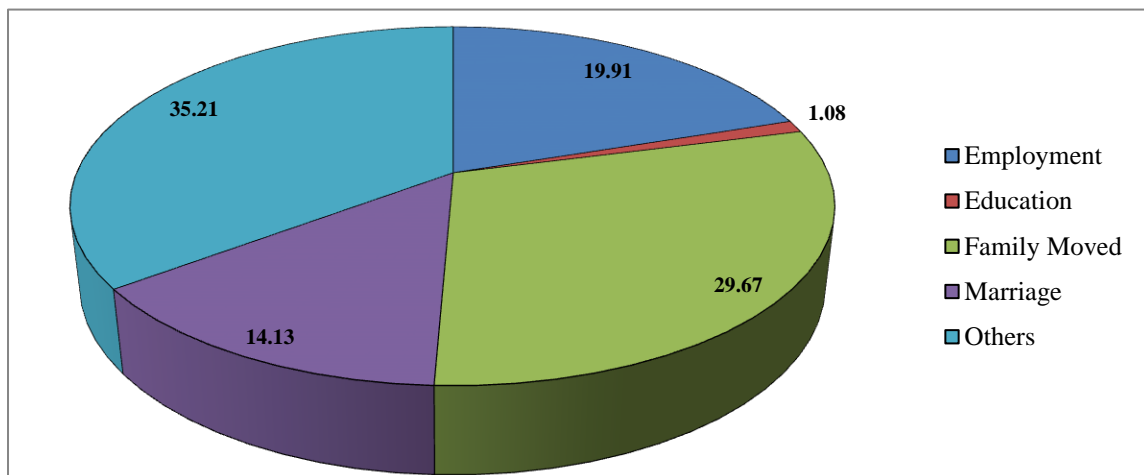
There were 14 lakhs immigrants who stayed for 10 to 19 years in West Bengal (Table 6.28). The majority of these migrants last resided outside India and among them, Bangladesh secured a higher position. More than half of the total immigrants who stayed for 10 to 19 years in West Bengal previously resided in Bangladesh and it accounted for 55 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.52). Bangladesh Liberation War and resultant violence and conflicts initiated this scale of immigration in West Bengal. The remaining 45 percent of immigrants last resided outside the state of West Bengal (Figure 6.52) and this inter-state immigration occurred mainly due to the Indo-Pakistan war. Apart from the war and resultant conflicts and violence, social and economic factors were also responsible for inter-state population movement.

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.53 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 20 Years, 1981**

Around 19.74 lakhs migrants were residing in West Bengal for more than 20 years i.e. they entered West Bengal during or after the Partition of India (Table 6.28). As large numbers of migrant dispersed from East Pakistan (renamed Bangladesh in 1971) and enumerated at their neighbouring country, so the majority of the immigrants in West Bengal originated from Bangladesh. Little more than 63 percent of migrants previously resided in Bangladesh (Figure 6.53). It was followed by emigrants from other states of India and as well as Pakistan which covered 35 percent and 0.31 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years respectively (Figure 6.53).

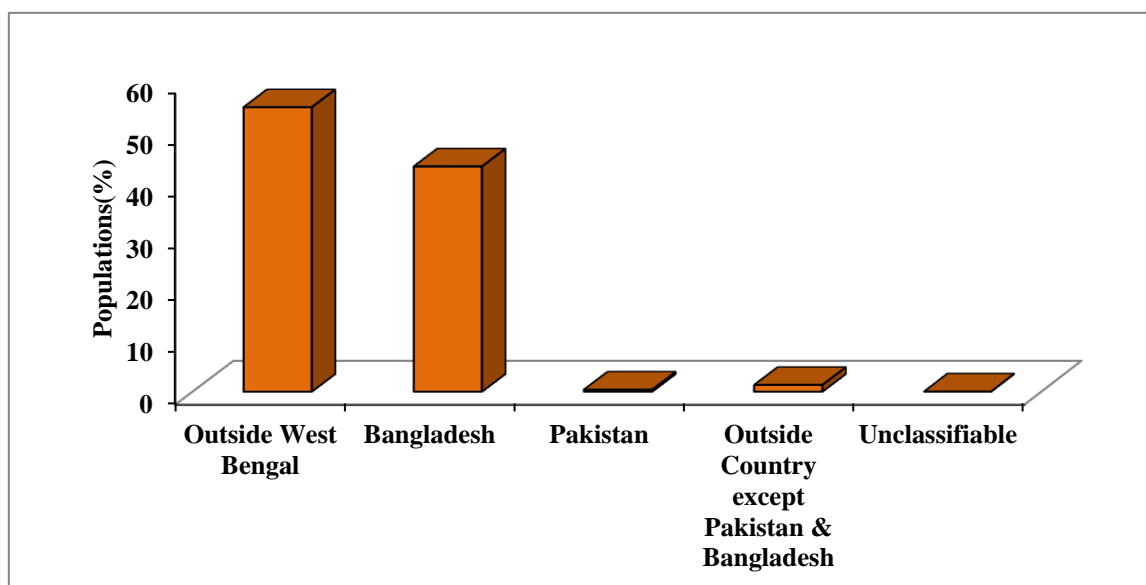


**Figure 6.54 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 10 Years and the Reasons of their Migration, 1981**

## Immigration in West Bengal

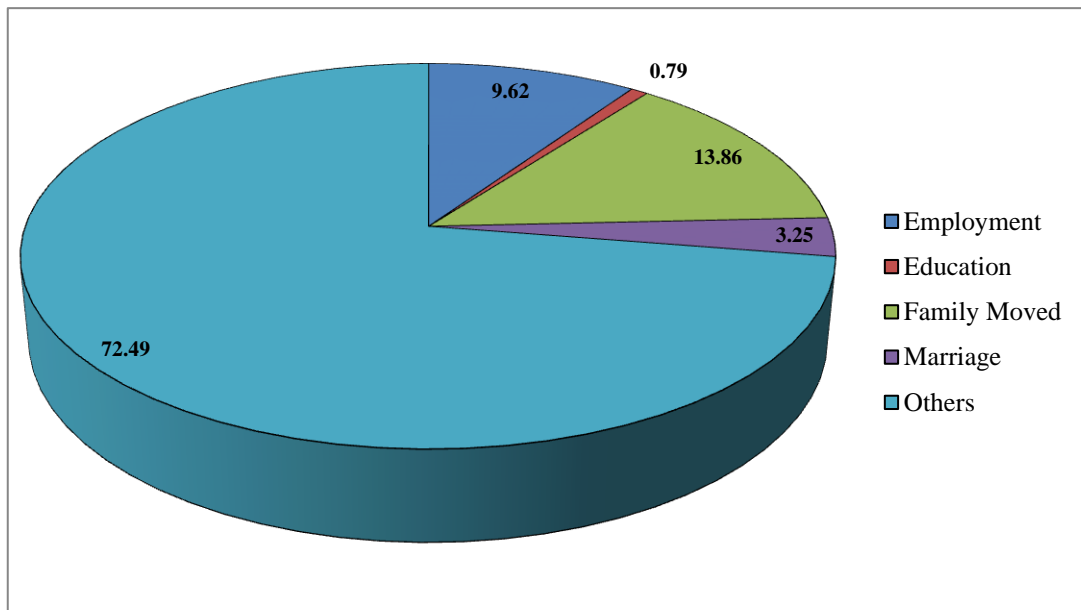
Around 3.4 million immigrants stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years (Table 6.29). They left their place of last residence before Bangladesh Liberation War and most of them entered West Bengal without specifying proper reasons for their movement. Census 1981 categorised these migrants as ‘others’. It accounted for little more than 35 percent of total migrants who stayed for more than 10 years in West Bengal (Figure 6.54). The next group of immigrants entered West Bengal for family movement and it contained around 30 percent of total immigrants residing in West Bengal for more than 10 years (Figure 6.54). For employment and marriage purposes around 20 percent and 14 percent of immigrants enumerated in West Bengal respectively (Figure 6.54) who resided for more than 20 years.

A group of migrants did not disclose their time of arrival in West Bengal and the census, they were categorised as ‘period not stated’. The majority of these immigrants last resided in different states of West Bengal and accounted for 55 percent of total immigrants concealed their time of dispersal in West Bengal (Figure 6.55). It was followed by immigrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and outside countries except for Pakistan and Bangladesh which covered 43 percent, 0.4 percent, and 1.3 percent of total immigrants in this category respectively (Figure 6.55). An estimated number of 25 immigrants did not mention their place of arrival in West Bengal and they categorised as ‘unclassifiable’ in the census (Table 6.28).



**Figure 6.55 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal but Period not Stated, 1981**

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.56 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for undefined periods and the Reasons of their Migration, 1981**

There were more than 3.14 lakhs migrants in West Bengal who did not specify their time of arrival and in the census 1981 they were categorised as ‘unclassifiable (Table 6.28, 6.29)’. The majority of this group of migrants entered West Bengal for different reasons which were not specified categorically, all together it was termed as ‘others’. This category accounted for more than 72 percent of total immigrants in the ‘unclassified’ category (Table 6.29, Figure 6.56). It was assumed that they mainly changed their place of last residence for the consequences of the Bengal partition and Bangladesh Liberation War. This group of immigrants mainly entered West Bengal from different states of India (Table 6.29). The next major group of migrants arrived in West Bengal with their families and they registered around 14 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for undefined periods (Table 6.29, Figure 6.56). This group of migrants was largely generated from outside India (Table 6.29). The employment purposes generated around 10 percent of immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.29, Figure 6.56). The remaining 3.25 percent of immigrants arrived in West Bengal for marriages and the rest 0.79 percent entered for education (Table 6.29, Figure 6.56).

# Immigration in West Bengal

## 6.6 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 1991

According to the 1991 census West Bengal had 17 districts. 24 Parganas district which was under the Presidency division of West Bengal territory was divided into two districts; North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas in 1983. Dr. Ashok Mitra, a chairman of an administrative reform committee split the district. The newly formed North 24 Pargana was established with 5 sub-divisions of 24 Parganas such as Barrackpore, Basirhat, Bongaon, Barasat, and Bidhannagar (History, North 24 Parganas). On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1986, South 24 Pargana was founded with 2 sub-divisions such as Diamond Harbour and Alipore, and 30 blocks (Historical background, Egiye Bangla, South 24 Parganas).

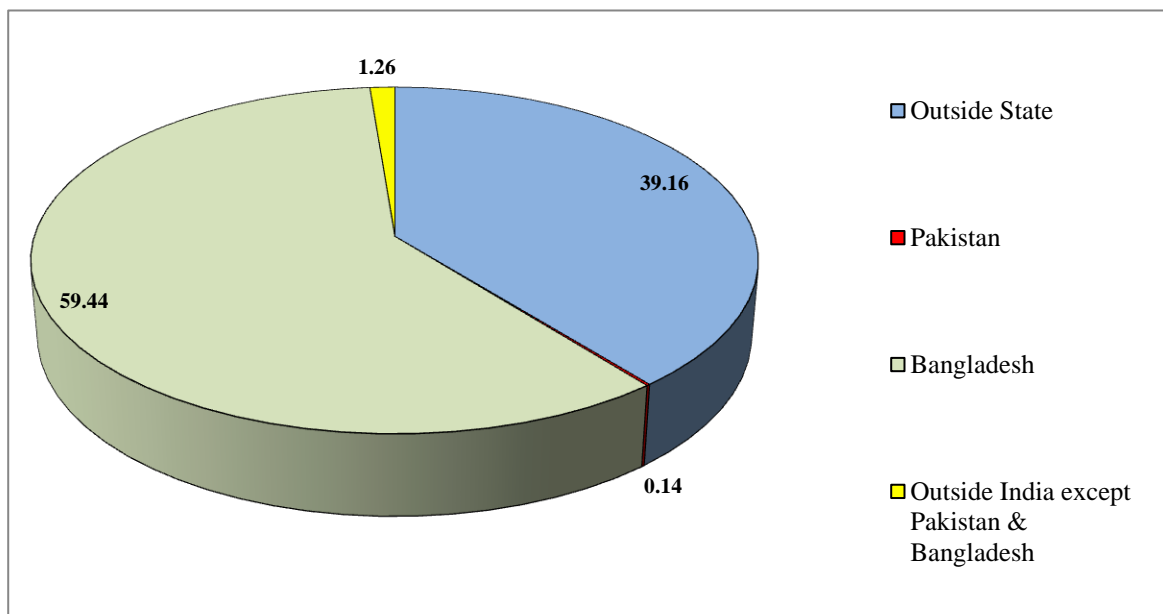
West Bengal witnessed a major population influx even after Bangladesh Liberation War and there were several factors that influenced the large scale of migration flow from outside West Bengal as well as outside India.

**Table 6.30 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 1991**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	68077965
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	62893538
<b>Born Outside State</b>	2024165
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	7120
<b>Born in Bangladesh</b>	3072530
<b>Born Outside India except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	65312

Source: Census of India, 1991

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.57 Immigrations in West Bengal, 1991**

In 1991 there were more than 68 million people in West Bengal. Among them 62 million or 92 percent population born in West Bengal (Table 6.30). The remaining more than 5 million people (Table 6.30) were born outside West Bengal which included migrants from outside states of India as well as from different countries. Among the 5 million migrants, more than 2 million or 39 percent of total migrants (Figure 6.57) originated from outside states of West Bengal. Bangladesh contributed more than 3 million migrants which covered 59 percent of the total immigrants enumerated in West Bengal (Figure 6.57). Very small numbers of migrants were born in Pakistan and denoted less than 1 percent of total migrants stayed in West Bengal (Figure 6.57).

## Immigration in West Bengal

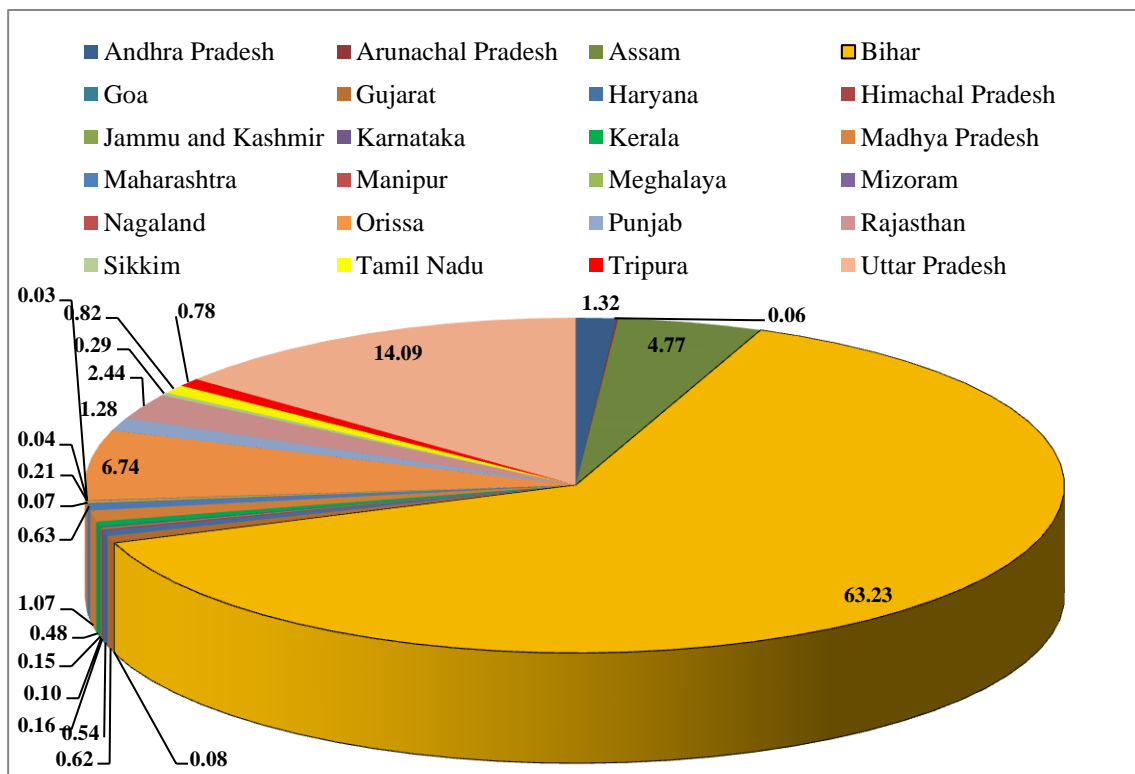
**Table 6.31 Enumerations in West Bengal from Outside States of India, 1991**

<b>States (Born)</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	26613
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	1260
<b>Assam</b>	95950
<b>Bihar</b>	1271710
<b>Goa</b>	1630
<b>Gujarat</b>	12380
<b>Haryana</b>	10790
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	3130
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	2090
<b>Karnataka</b>	3020
<b>Kerala</b>	9710
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	21603
<b>Maharashtra</b>	12740
<b>Manipur</b>	1310
<b>Meghalaya</b>	4190
<b>Mizoram</b>	520
<b>Nagaland</b>	740
<b>Orissa</b>	135541
<b>Punjab</b>	25646
<b>Rajasthan</b>	49065
<b>Sikkim</b>	5810
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	16500
<b>Tripura</b>	15750
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	283397

Source: Census of India, 1991

## Immigration in West Bengal

More than 2 million migrants were enumerated in West Bengal who was born outside states in India beyond the state of enumeration (Table 6.31) in 1991. The majority of the outside states migrants originated from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh with 63.23 percent and 14.09 percent of total migrants born outside West Bengal respectively (Figure 6.58). They entered West Bengal due to economic and social reasons. Agriculturists had the aim to choose a fertile region for their cultivation, so they selected West Bengal as a destination due to its productive and abundant amount of alluvial tracts. Orrisa was the third origin state of India from were around 6.74 percent of migrants entered West Bengal in 1991 (Figure 6.58). It occurred due to its proximity to West Bengal as well as economic and social reasons.



**Figure 6.58 Immigrations to West Bengal from Other States of India (1991)**



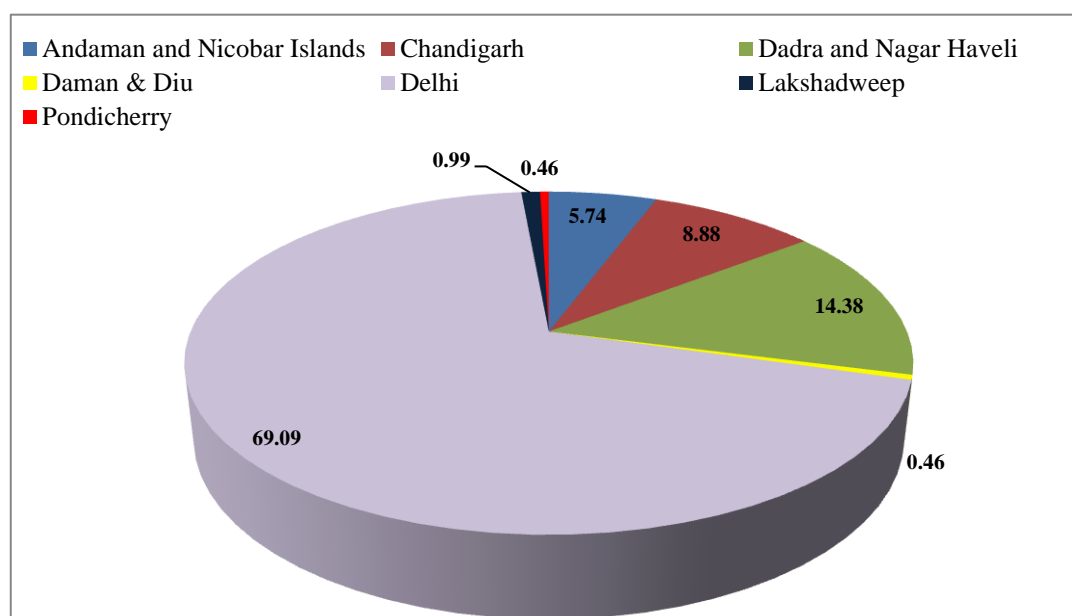
## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.32 Immigrations in West Bengal from Union Territories of India, 1991**

Union Territories (Born)	Population
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	750
Chandigarh	1160
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1880
Daman & Diu	60
Delhi	9030
Lakshadweep	130
Pondicherry	60

Source: Census of India, 1991

There were around 1 lakh immigrants registered in West Bengal (Table 6.32) who were born in different union territories of India in 1991. Among them, the highest numbers of migrants originated from Delhi which covered more than 69 percent of total migrants from union territories (Figure 6.59). It was followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh with 14.38 percent and 8.88 percent of total union territories-born immigrants respectively (Figure 6.59).



**Figure 6.59 Immigrations to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (1991)**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.33 Migrants Origin from Outside India and Enumerated in West Bengal (1991)**

<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	670	<b>Myanmar</b>	5786
<b>Bangladesh</b>	3072530	<b>Nepal</b>	41736
<b>Bhutan</b>	3910	<b>Pakistan</b>	7120
<b>China</b>	5370	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	40
<b>Indonesia</b>	410	<b>Singapore</b>	240
<b>Iran</b>	80	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	50
<b>Iraq</b>	40	<b>Turkey</b>	0
<b>Japan</b>	30	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	50
<b>Kuwait</b>	80	<b>U.S.S.R</b>	350
<b>Malaysia</b>	210	<b>Vietnam</b>	0
<b>Maldives</b>	36	<b>Elsewhere</b>	1164

<b>Born in Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Born in Africa</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>France</b>	70	<b>Kenya</b>	20
<b>F.R.G</b>	150	<b>Mauritius</b>	20
<b>Portugal</b>	20	<b>Nigeria</b>	40
<b>U.K</b>	430	<b>Uganda</b>	10
<b>Elsewhere</b>	3720	<b>Zambia</b>	20
		<b>Elsewhere</b>	50

## Immigration in West Bengal

Born in America		Born in Oceania	
Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants	Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants
Canada	70	Australia	40
U.S.A	120	Fiji	20
Elsewhere		Elsewhere	160

Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants
Unclassifiable	15300

Source: Census of India, 1991

According to Census 1991, there were 3.14 million foreign-born immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.33). The majority of immigrants originated from Asia including U.S.S.R with 3.13 million estimated immigrants. It was followed by a group of immigrants who originated as 'unclassifiable' as they were not mentioned their place of origin. It represented a total of 15300 immigrants which covered 0.5 percent of total foreign emigrants (Table 6.33). Europe secured the third position of immigrants originating outside India and their estimated numbers were around 4 thousand (Table 6.33).

Among the Asia-born emigrants, large numbers of people who entered West Bengal were from Bangladesh which denoted more than 3 million (Table 6.33) or around 98 percent of total Asia-born migrants. It was followed by Nepal with 4.17 lakhs emigrants (Table 6.33) enumerated in West Bengal in 1991.

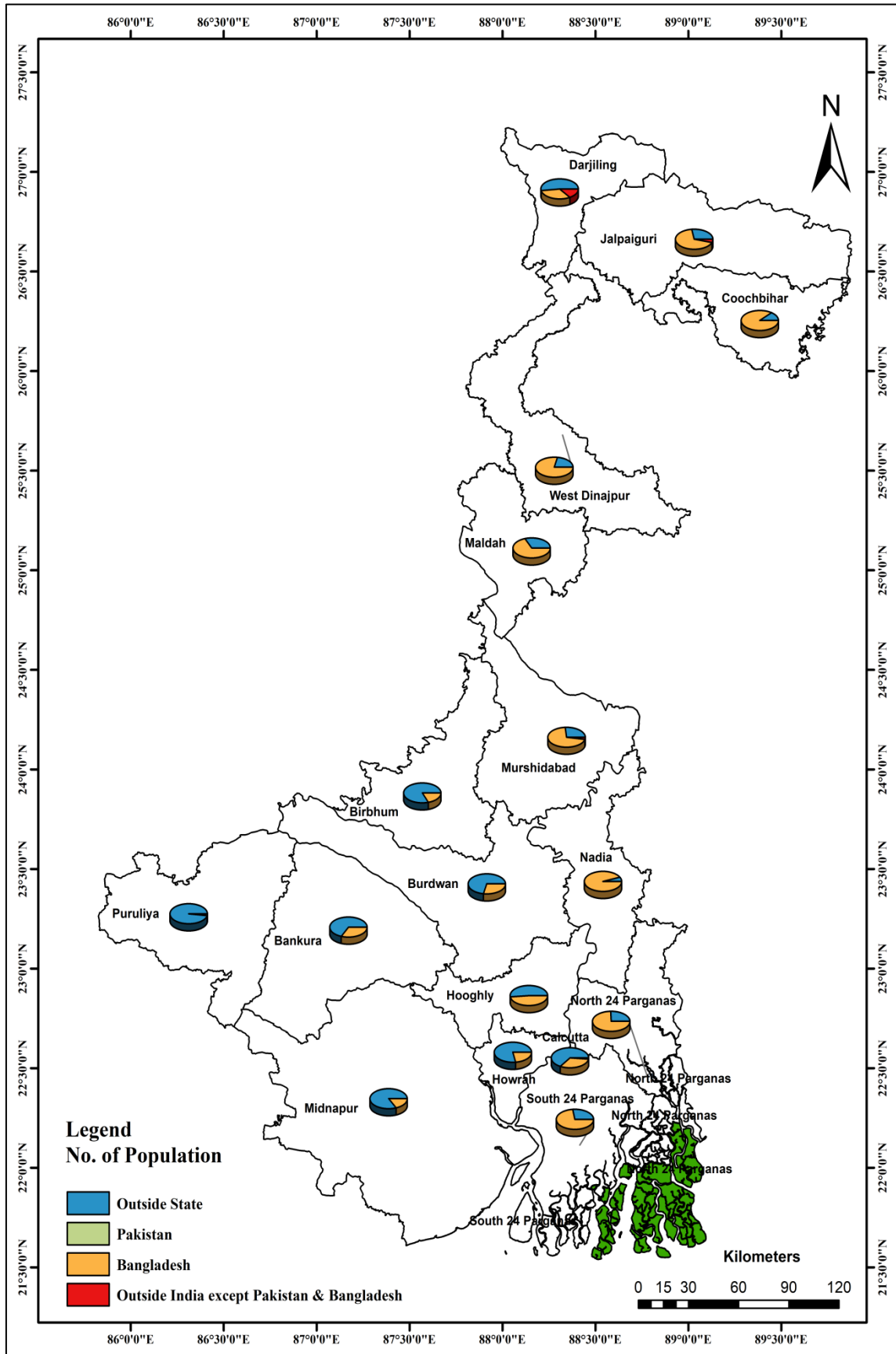
## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.34 District-wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 1991 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Outside State</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan &amp; Bangladesh</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	388551	780	158672	4030
<b>Birbhum</b>	50470	60	10990	440
<b>Bankura</b>	16630	50	8370	220
<b>Midnapur</b>	112717	170	21620	1130
<b>Hooghly</b>	139633	180	131409	1411
<b>Howrah</b>	158353	240	43898	1270
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	308767	690	898786	6600
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	39758	140	103566	1220
<b>Calcutta</b>	325663	2070	178781	6990
<b>Nadia</b>	30551	510	566352	1210
<b>Murshidabad</b>	25130	60	67079	2260
<b>Malda</b>	50126	30	102198	840
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	66635	1100	246477	1100
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	102385	310	249424	14073
<b>Darjeeling</b>	81746	330	55263	20698
<b>Cooch Bihar</b>	29220	350	227515	1220
<b>Purulia</b>	97830	50	2130	600

Source: Census of India, 1991

# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.60 District-wise Population Influx in West Bengal, 1991**

## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 1991 registered 5.2 million immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.30, 6.34). Among them, more than 3 million migrants were born outside India, and the remaining little more than 2 million were born in different states of India (Table 6.30) and enumerated in West Bengal.

After entering West Bengal, the emigrants from different states of India distributed different parts of West Bengal. Burdwan, Calcutta, and North 24 Pargana were their initial choices of destination which absorbed around 19 percent, 16 percent, and little more than 15 percent of total immigrants respectively who were born outside states of West Bengal (Table 6.34). Plenty amount of agricultural land was the prime reason to choose Burdwan for displacements.

The majority of foreign-born emigrants originated from Bangladesh and entered West Bengal. They mainly concentrated in the North 24 Pargana and Nadia districts of West Bengal with 29.25 percent and 18.43 percent of total Bangladesh-born emigrants respectively (Table 6.34). During this time Calcutta became saturated in population and vacant lands were available outside of Calcutta which encouraged the immigrants to settle there.

Emigrants born in Pakistan mainly choose Calcutta and West Dinajpur which accounted for little more than 29 percent and 15 percent of total immigrants originated from Pakistan (Table 6.34).

Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, emigrants from other parts of the world entered the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal and covered 22 percent and 32 percent of total outside India people except for Bangladesh and Pakistan. This group of migrants mainly originated from Nepal and settled in West Bengal (Table 6.33) due to the presence of their co-religionists in those districts.

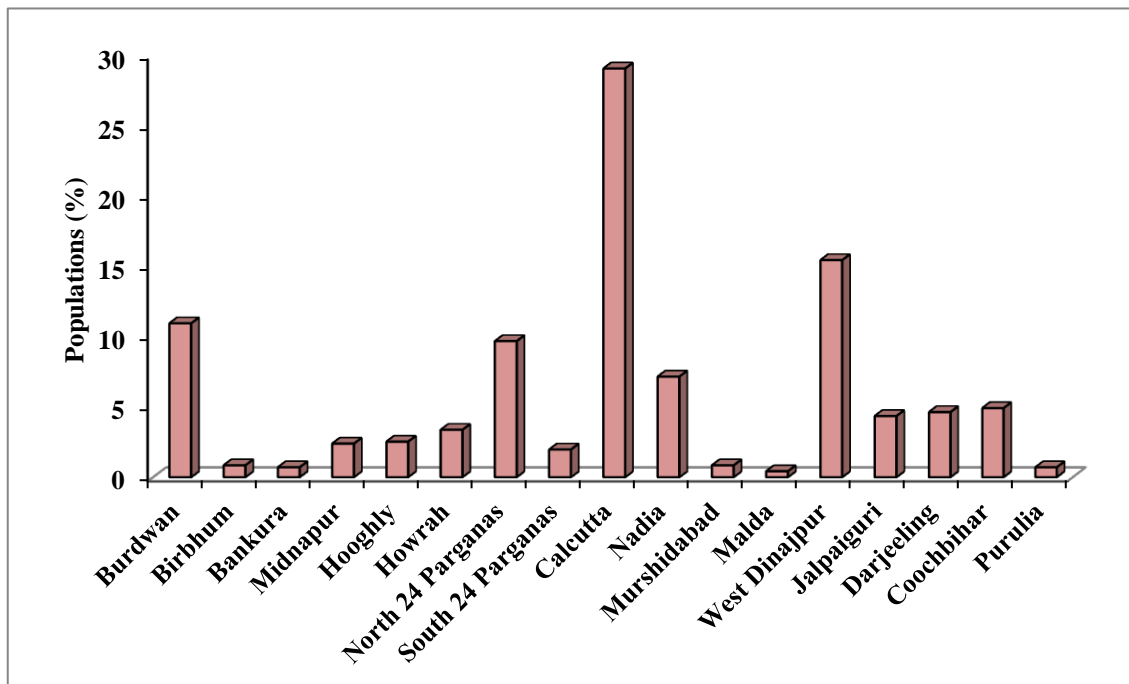
The highest numbers of migrants were enumerated in North 24 Pargana district in which the majority of the immigrants were from Bangladesh. It was followed by Nadia, Burdwan, and Calcutta. They experienced large-scale in-migrants from outside states of India. In Nadia out of 6 lakhs, 5.7 lakhs immigrants were foreign-born; only 30 thousand were enumerated from different states in India (Table 6.34). In Purulia, large numbers of out-migrants were from outside states in India (Figure 6.60). Out of 98 thousand emigrants, Bangladeshi-born migrants only covered a little more than 2

## Immigration in West Bengal

thousand, and Pakistan and other countries covered only 650 emigrants. The remaining migrants were from different states of India (Table 6.34)

Concerning the total immigrants, the numbers of Bangladeshi migrants were highest in northern districts of West Bengal which out-numbered the other immigrants (Figure 6.60) except Darjeeling where specific numbers of immigrants were also entered from Pakistan and Bangladesh (Table 6.34, Figure 6.60). The central and western parts of West Bengal witnessed a majority of migrants from different states in India (Figure 6.60). Hooghly district of West Bengal represented an equal share of migrants from Bangladesh as well as from outside states of West Bengal (Table 6.34, Figure 6.60).

Around 7 thousand emigrants from Pakistan were enumerated in different districts of West Bengal and the majority of them were concentrated in Calcutta and West Dinajpur (Figure 6.62) which accounted for 29 percent and 15 percent of total migrants born in Pakistan (Figure 6.61). The next major districts of West Bengal were Burdwan, North 24 Parganas, and Nadia (Figure 6.62) which observed migratory flow from Pakistan. It covered 11 percent, 10 percent, and 7 percent of total emigrants from Pakistan (Figure 6.61).



**Figure 6.61 Immigrations from Pakistan, 1991**

# Immigration in West Bengal

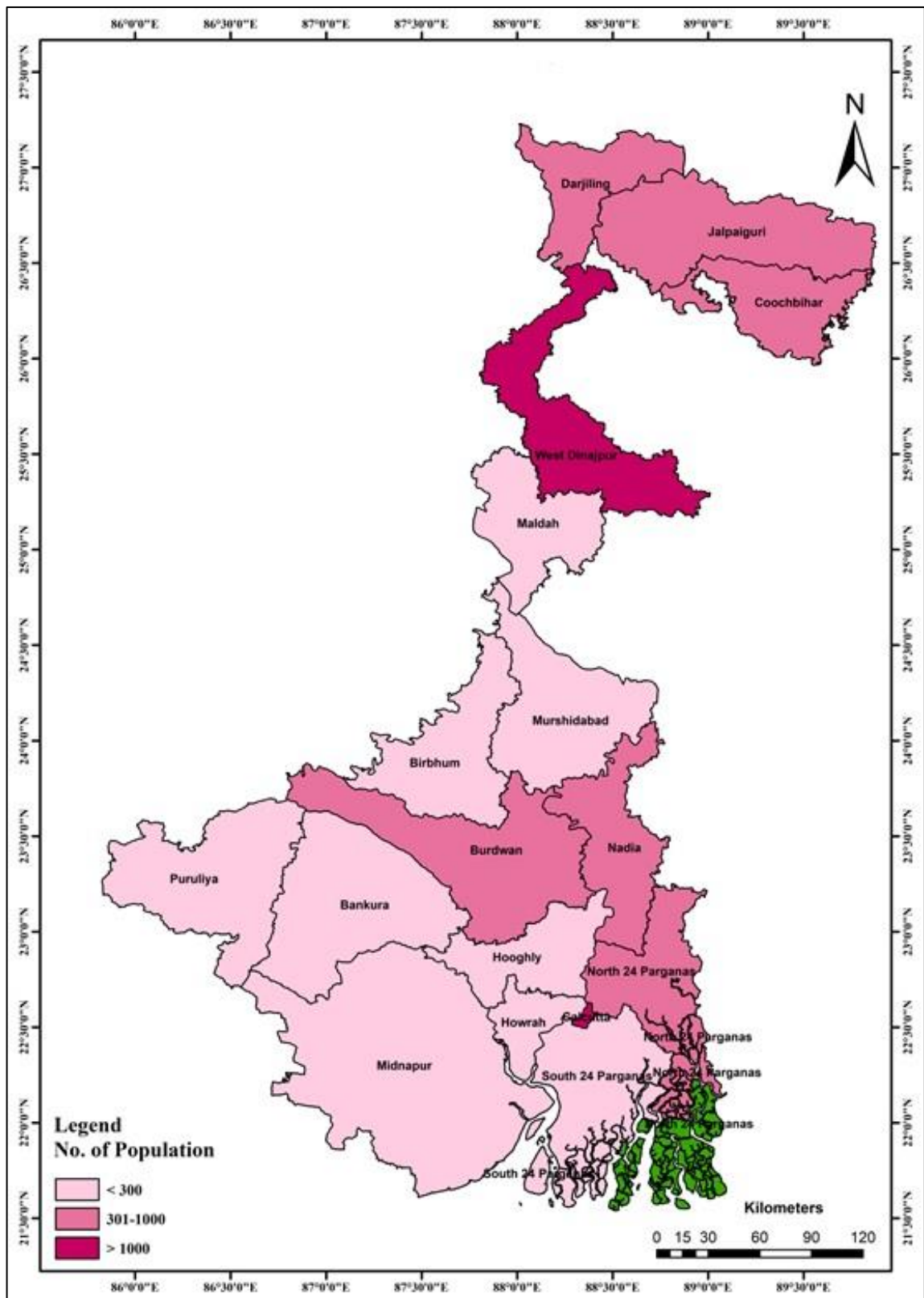
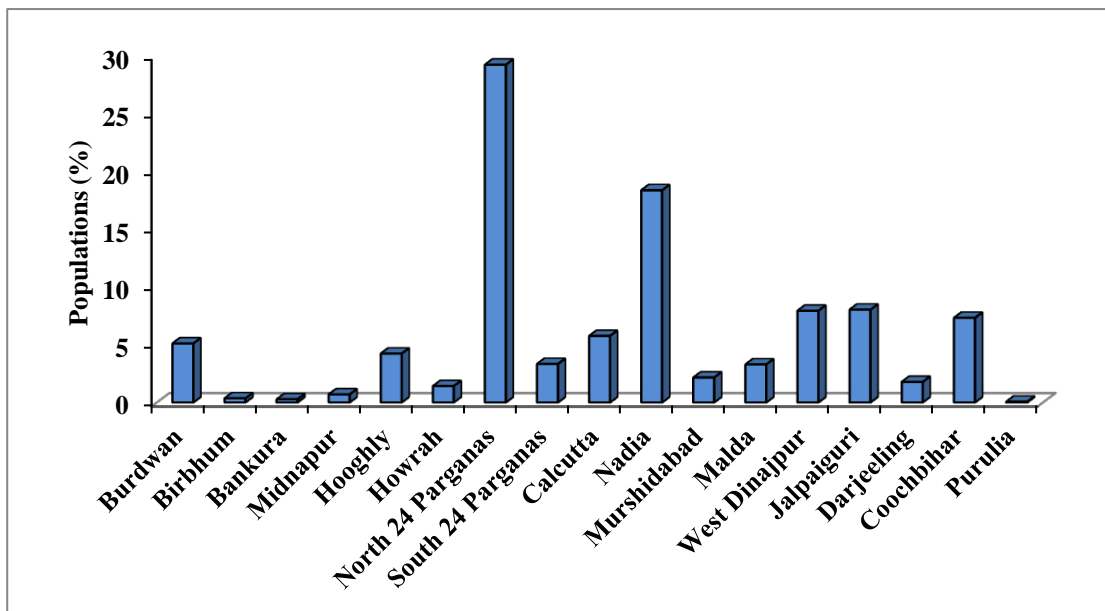


Figure 6.62 Concentration of Pakistani Immigrants in West Bengal, 1991



## Immigration in West Bengal

According to the 1991 census, there were more than 3 million migrants in West Bengal who were born in Bangladesh. They started to live in different parts of West Bengal. The majority of them were concentrated in south-eastern regions of West Bengal mainly Nadia and North 24 Pargana (Figure 6.64) and accounted for 29 percent and 18 percent of total emigrants from Bangladesh respectively (Figure 6.63). It was followed by Jalpaiguri, West Dinajpur, and Cooch Bihar with 8.12 percent, 8 percent, and 7.40 percent of total Bangladesh-born emigrants respectively (Figure 6.63). Figure 6.64 reflected that very small numbers of Bangladeshi immigrants (less than 1 percent) enumerated in the western part of West Bengal.



**Figure 6.63 Immigrations from Bangladesh, 1991**

# Immigration in West Bengal

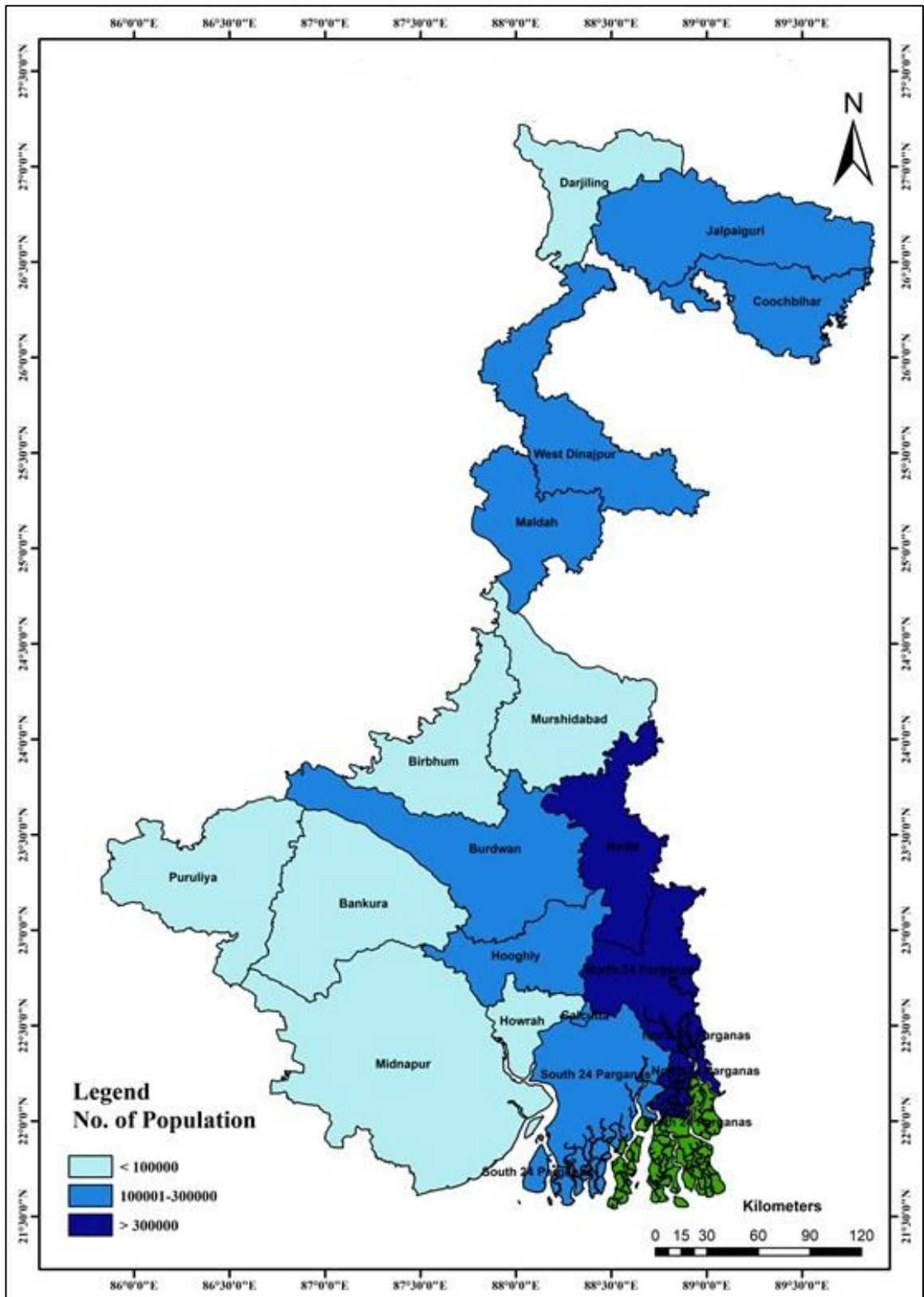


Figure 6.64 Concentration of Bangladeshi Immigrants in West Bengal, 1991

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.35 Enumerations of Migrants in West Bengal 1991 (Based on Duration of Residence in West Bengal)**

<b>Duration of Residence in West Bengal</b>	<b>&lt;1 year</b>	<b>1-4 years</b>	<b>5-9 years</b>	<b>10-19 years</b>	<b>&gt; 20 Years</b>	<b>Period not stated</b>
<b>POLR in Outside West Bengal</b>	55850	274372	266906	542953	732137	133113
<b>POLR in Bangladesh</b>	28910	209458	239238	520208	1506563	132211
<b>POLR in Pakistan</b>	110	220	340	660	4370	320
<b>POLR in Outside Country except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	1630	7970	6908	13360	25666	7618
<b>POLR Unclassifiable</b>	170	2010	2060	3070	4730	3200

Source: Census of India, 1991

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.36 Enumeration of Migrants based on Purposes of Movements, 1991**

Duration of Residence		Total Migrants	Reasons of Movements						
			Employment	Business	Education	Family Moved	Marriage	Natural calamities like drought, floods, etc.	Others
All durations	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	2005331	599614	99922	43169	414799	572119	10340	265368
	Last residence outside India	2705760	117870	24860	13215	863162	315606	0	1371047
	Unclassifiable	15240	780	160	230	1230	7900	50	4890
less than 1 year	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	55850	21580	1120	880	16180	4610	180	11300
	Last residence outside India	30650	1610	320	50	10630	1560	0	16480
	Unclassifiable	170	20	10	30	20	40	0	50
1-4 years	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	274372	66550	8391	13253	85303	68135	890	31850
	Last residence outside India	217648	14210	2670	2330	81753	23540	0	93145
	Unclassifiable	2010	150	20	130	290	1090	10	320
5-9 Years	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	266906	63664	11995	10720	67607	82370	1480	29070
	Last residence outside India	246486	11915	2470	1640	88872	32670	0	108919
	Unclassifiable	2060	110	0	20	200	1340	10	380
10 years and above	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	1275090	428398	75576	16746	226439	403844	6100	117987
	Last residence outside India	2070827	86529	18120	8835	657214	249018	0	105111
	Unclassifiable	7800	430	120	50	520	5270	30	1380
Period Not Stated	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	133113	19422	2840	1570	19270	13160	1690	75161
	Last residence outside India	140149	3606	1280	360	24693	8818	0	101392
	Unclassifiable	3200	70	10	0	200	160	0	2760

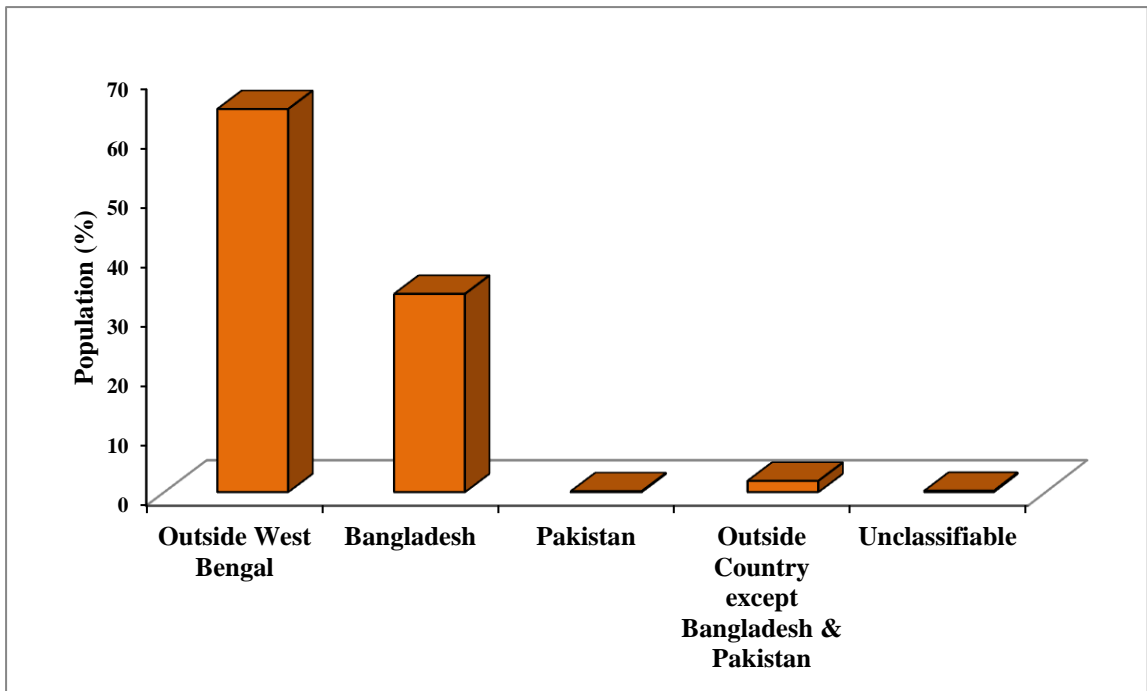
Source: Census of India, 1991

## Immigration in West Bengal

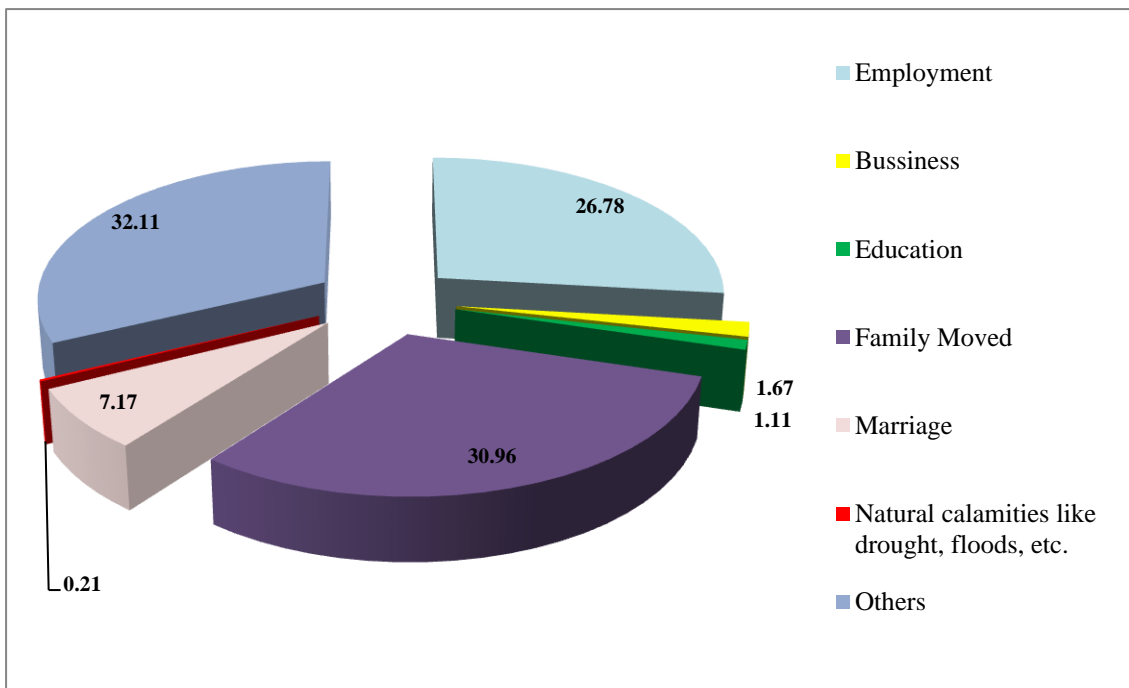
Census 1991 also categorised the migration data based on the place of last residence (POLR) of immigrants of West Bengal. There were 4.7 million POLR immigrants in West Bengal who were classified into 6 segments based on the duration of their residence in West Bengal (Table 6.35). It was reflected that among these 4.7 million migrants, the majority stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years (Table 6.35) and it accounted for more than 48 percent of total POLR immigrants in West Bengal. Large numbers of immigrants originated from Bangladesh and it covered half of the total POLR immigrants (55.78%) in West Bengal. The next higher group of immigrants were staying in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years and covered 23 percent of total immigrants who last resided outside West Bengal (Table 6.35). There were around 42 percent of immigrants in West Bengal who previously stayed in different states of India and enumerated in West Bengal (Table 6.35) and they contributed the second larger number of immigrants after Bangladesh in West Bengal.

Census 1991 also categorised the reasons for the migration of these 4.7 million POLR immigrants in West Bengal into 7 segments; migration due to employment opportunities, the movement for business purposes, migration for education, migration due to natural calamities, movement with families, displacement due to marriage and others reasons. Table 6.36 reflected that among these 4.7 million POLR immigrants majority of them left their place of residence due to some 'others' reasons which were not specified by census enumerators. It contributed more than 34 percent of total immigrants and the majority of them were from Bangladesh (Table 6.36). The next group of immigrants arrived in West Bengal due to their family movement and it accounted for little more than 27 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Marriage was an important part of human migration which contributed to 19 percent of total migrants in 1991 and the majority of them were women (Census 1991). For employment and business purposes around 15 percent and 3 percent of migrants leave their place of last residence and entered West Bengal. The remaining 1.44 percent of immigrants arrived in West Bengal for educational purposes as well as due to natural disasters (Table 6.36).

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.65 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for less than 1 Year, 1991**

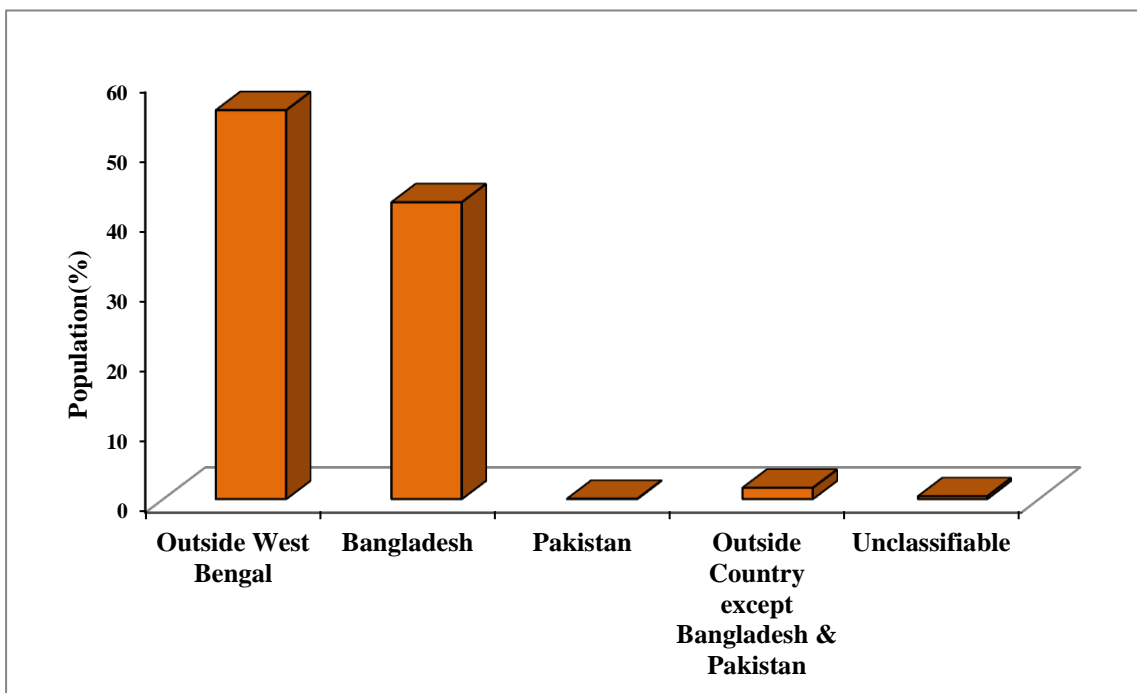


**Figure 6.66 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for less than 1 Year and the Reasons of their Migration, 1991**

## Immigration in West Bengal

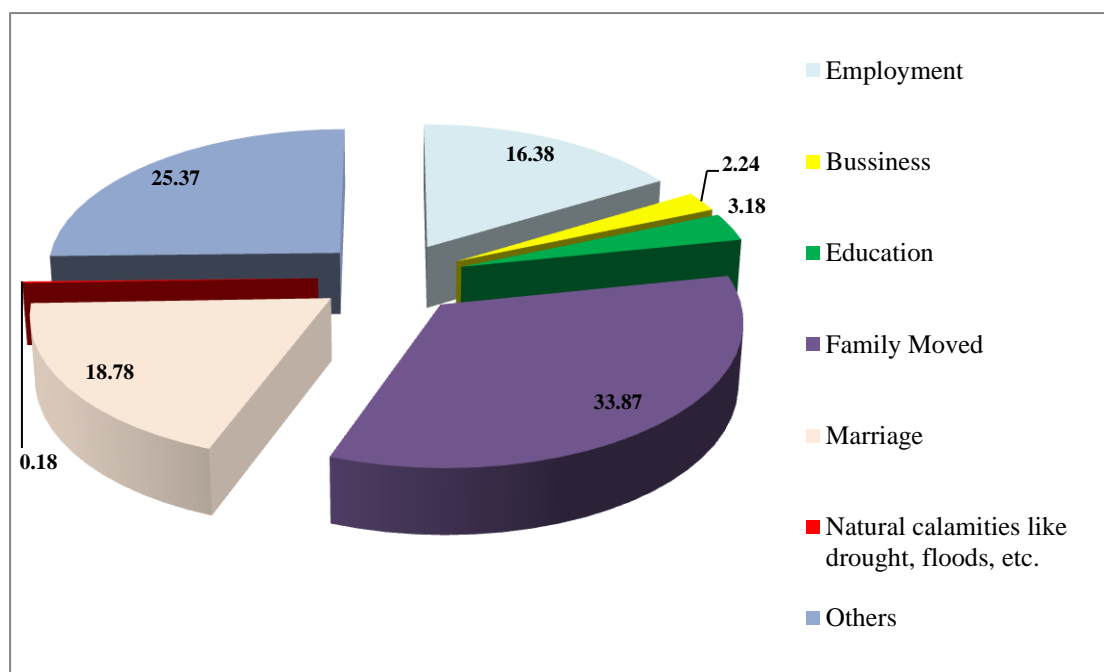
There were around 86 thousand migrants in West Bengal who last resided in other parts of India as well as outside India and arrived here within 1 year (Table 6.35, 6.36). The majority of them previously stayed outside different states of West Bengal and accounted for 64.44 percent of total migrants who stayed in West Bengal within 1 year (Figure 6.65). The next higher group of immigrants last existed in Bangladesh and arrived in West Bengal and contributed more than 33 percent of total immigrants. The remaining 3 percent were incorporated among the migrants from Pakistan as well as other countries of the world (Figure 6.65).

The majority of these immigrants entered West Bengal but did not specify the exact reasons for their movement and in the census of 1991 they were referred to as 'others' and it occupied 32 percent of total immigrants who arrived in West Bengal within 1 year (Figure 6.66). It was followed by family movement and employment opportunities for which around 31 percent and 27 percent of people left their last place of residence and entered West Bengal within 1 year (Figure 6.66). The remaining immigrants arrived in West Bengal for marriage, business, and educational purposes and due to natural disasters which accounted for 7 percent, 1.67 percent, 1.11 percent, and 0.21 percent respectively (Figure 6.66) of total immigrants enumerated within 1 year i.e. between 1989 and 1990.



**Figure 6.67 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Years, 1991**

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.68 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Years and the Reasons of their Migration, 1991**

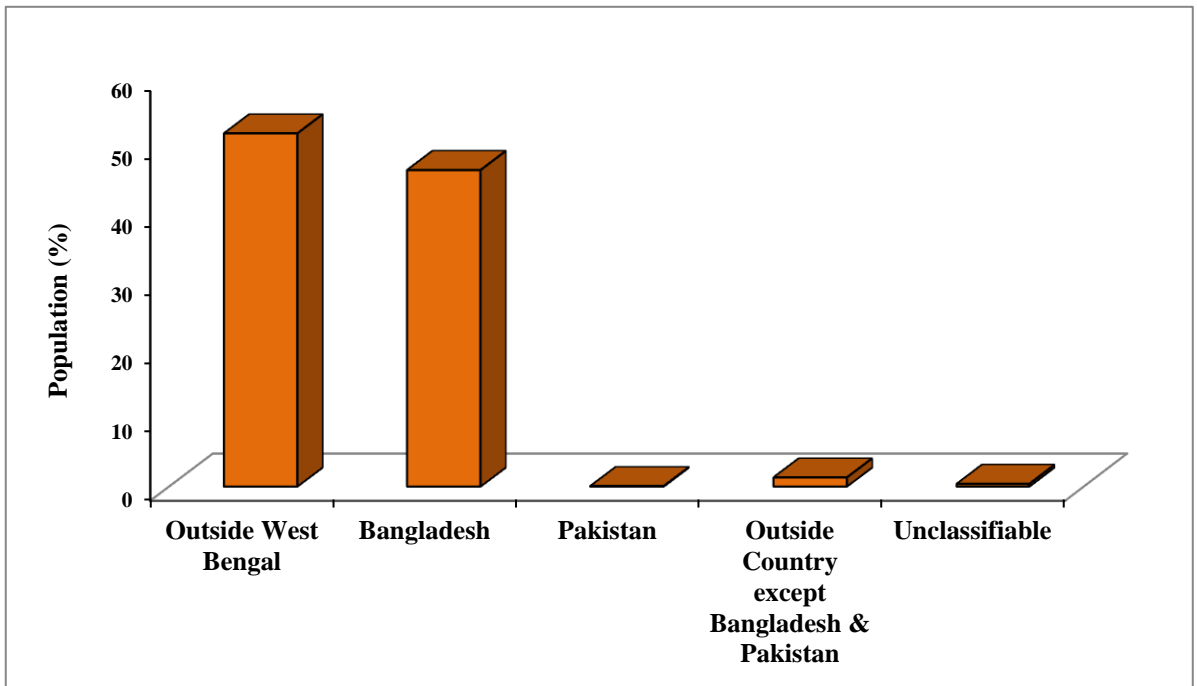
There were 4.94 lakhs migrants who arrived from their respective place of last residence (POLR) and stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Table 6.35, 6.36). Among them, more than half of the migrants originated from different states of India and contributed to 56 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Figure 6.67). It was followed by emigrants from Bangladesh and other countries except for Bangladesh and Pakistan which accounted for 42 percent and 1.6 percent of total immigrants who lived in West Bengal for 4 years (Figure 6.67). Estimated numbers of 2 thousand migrants did not specify their place of the last residence and were termed as ‘unclassified’ (Table 6.35, 6.36) and covered only 0.41 percent of total immigrants within this period. Very fewer numbers of emigrants (220) entered from Pakistan and it contained only 0.04 percent of total migrants (Figure 6.67).

This phase of migrants mainly arrived with their families and they were categorised as ‘family moved’ in the census and contributed 34 percent of total immigrants who stayed 1 to 4 years in West Bengal. It was followed by ‘other reasons’ and marriage purposes which covered 25 percent and 19 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.68). Migrants who arrived in West Bengal for an employment opportunity and also for educational purposes accounted for 16 percent and 3 percent of total immigrants respectively (Figure 6.68). Very small numbers of migrants arrived in West Bengal

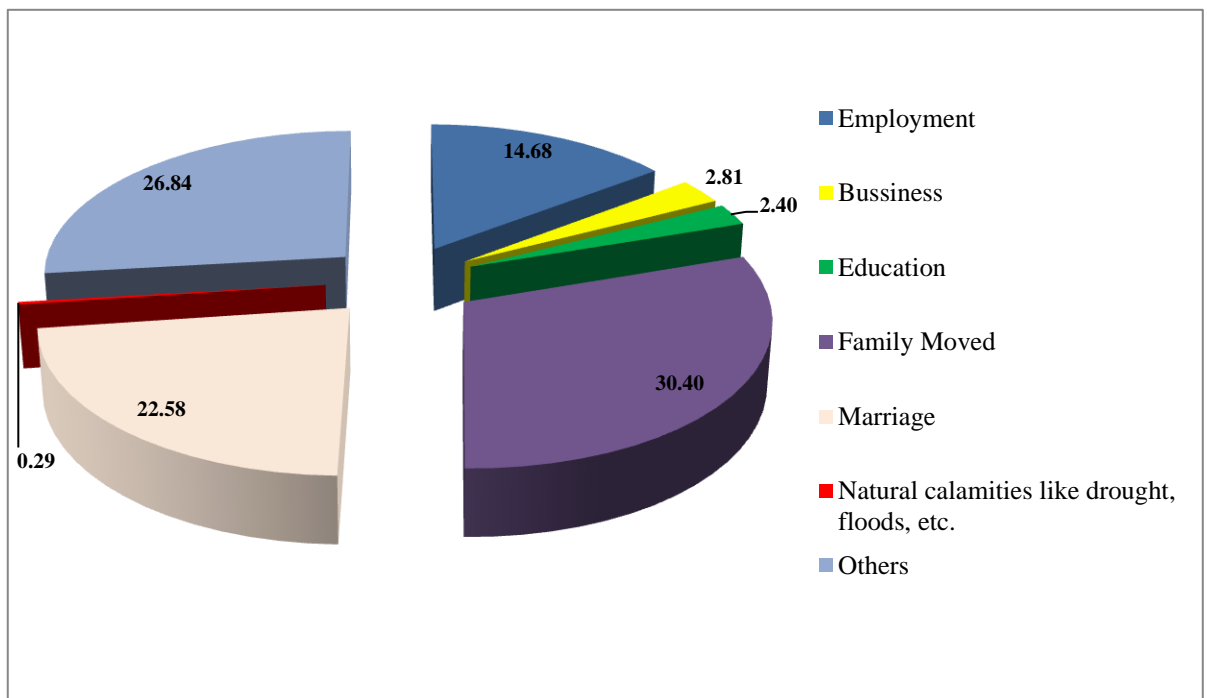


## Immigration in West Bengal

for Business purposes (3.18%) and natural calamities drove 0.18 percent of people from their respective last place of residence (Figure 6.68).



**Figure 6.69 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years, 1991**



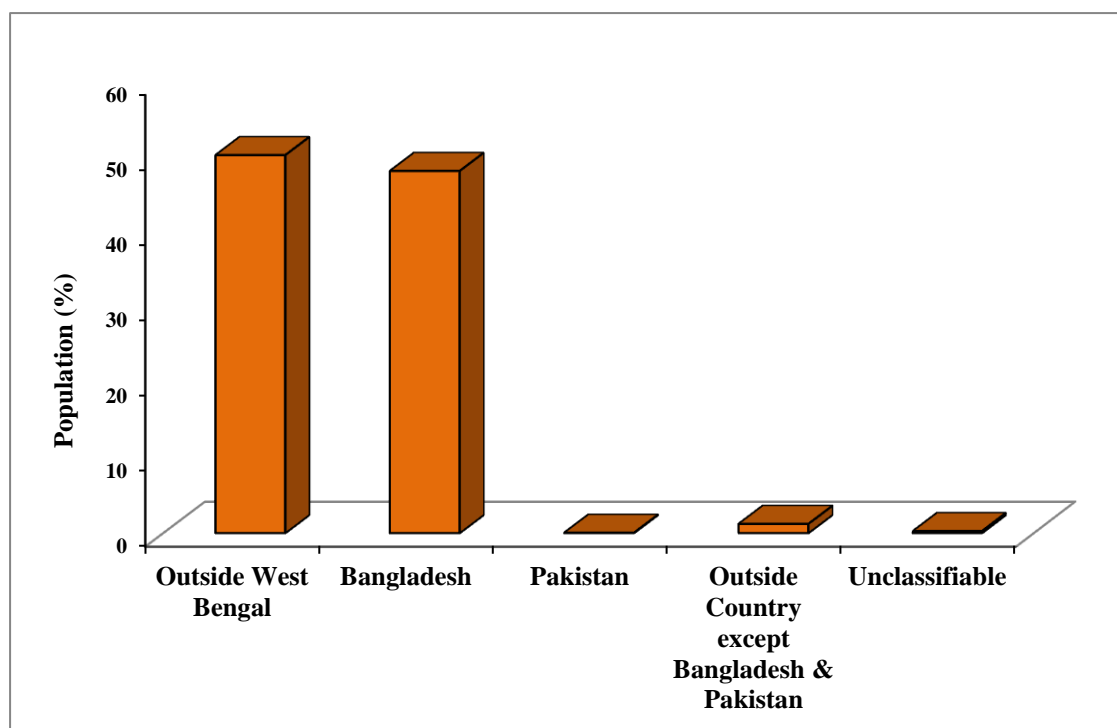
**Figure 6.70 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years and the Reasons of their Migration**

## Immigration in West Bengal

More than 5 lakhs migrants lived in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years who entered from different parts of India as well as from outside India (Table 6.35, 6.36). Among them, 52 percent of total immigrants who stayed for 5 to 9 years arrived in West Bengal from other states of India outside West Bengal (Figure 6.69). More or less 46 percent of immigrants previously stayed in Bangladesh and enumerated West Bengal and had spent 5 to 9 years. Around 1 percent of migrants, enumerated in West Bengal were from outside India except for Bangladesh and Pakistan (Figure 6.69). Estimated numbers of 2 thousand immigrants were categorised as 'unclassified' due to their undefined place of last residence (Table 6.35, 6.36).

Large numbers of immigrants who resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years originated from outside states of West Bengal and among them, a majority of the migrants were moved to West Bengal for marriage (Table 6.36). In this case number of female migrants was higher than the number of males (Census 1991). It was followed by family movement and employment opportunities in West Bengal. Overall, the majority of the migrants who resided for 5 to 9 years in West Bengal arrived due to family movement which covered more than 30 percent of total immigrants of this time frame. It was followed by other reasons and marriage purposes with 27 percent and 23 percent of total immigrants staying in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years respectively (Figure 6.70). Residents arrived in West Bengal from outside India mainly for family dispersal and marriage purposes (Table 6.36). Employment prospects, business opportunities, and educational sectors attracted 15 percent, 2.8 percent, and 2.4 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for this time frame (Figure 6.70). Natural calamities like floods and droughts pushed around 1500 emigrants mainly from different states of India (Table 6.36) and they entered West Bengal and stayed here for 5 to 9 years.

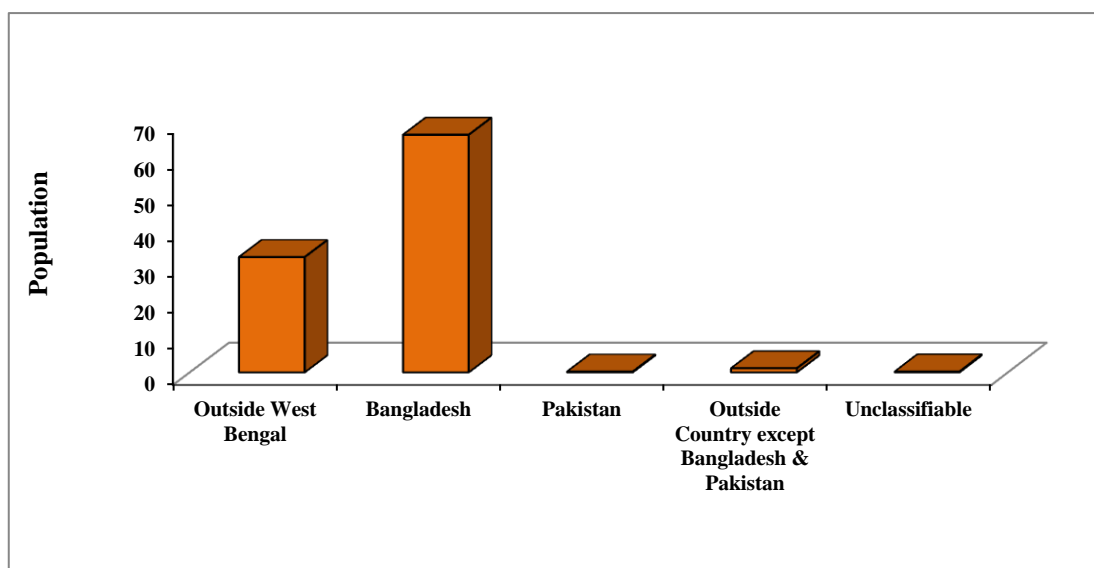
## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.71 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19 Years, 1991**

There were more than 10 lakhs migrants who lived in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years. All of them earlier resided outside West Bengal as well as outside India (Table 6.35). More than 50 million immigrants previously stayed in various states of India and enumerated in West Bengal which accounted for more than 50 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years (Figure 6.71). The remaining numbers of migrants originated outside India and among them, emigrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan contributed little more than 48 percent and 0.06 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal during this time frame (Figure 6.71). Apart from these two countries the residual numbers of migrants were previously stayed in other countries of the world as well as at unspecified locations and contributed only 1.24 percent and 0.28 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.71). This group of migrants arrived in West Bengal during and after the Bangladesh Liberation War, so the majority of their dispersal mainly occurred due to resulting conflicts and violence in East Pakistan.

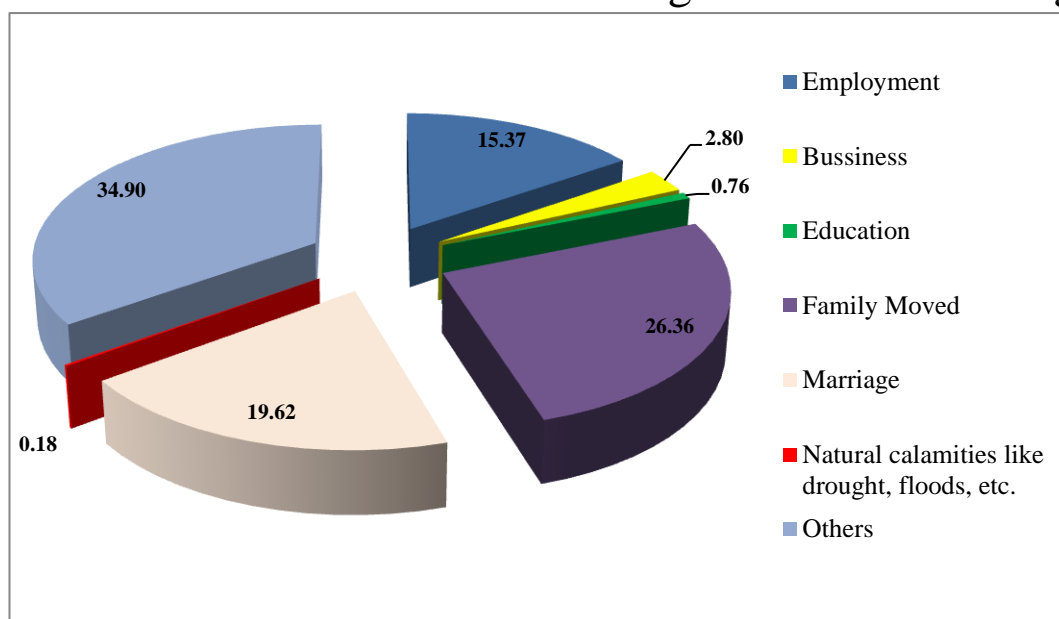
## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.72 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 20 Years, 1991**

More than 22 lakhs immigrants registered in West Bengal around 20 years ago from their place of residence which was located either within India or outside India (Table 6.35). As this phase of movement occurred before 1971, most of the migrants originated due to the consequences of the Bengal partition. The majority of these immigrants previously lived in undivided Pakistan but the census 1991 fragmented their numbers into two different regions and as per the census 1991 more than 66 percent of immigrants entered from Bangladesh (Figure 6.72) which was followed by migrants from outside states of India with 32 percent of total immigrants lived in West Bengal for more than 20 years. Around 0.2 percent of emigrants entered from Pakistan and other countries of the world contributed little more than 1 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal during this time (Figure 6.72). Around 4 thousand migrants were categorised as ‘unclassified’ due to their unspecified place of last residence (Table 6.35).

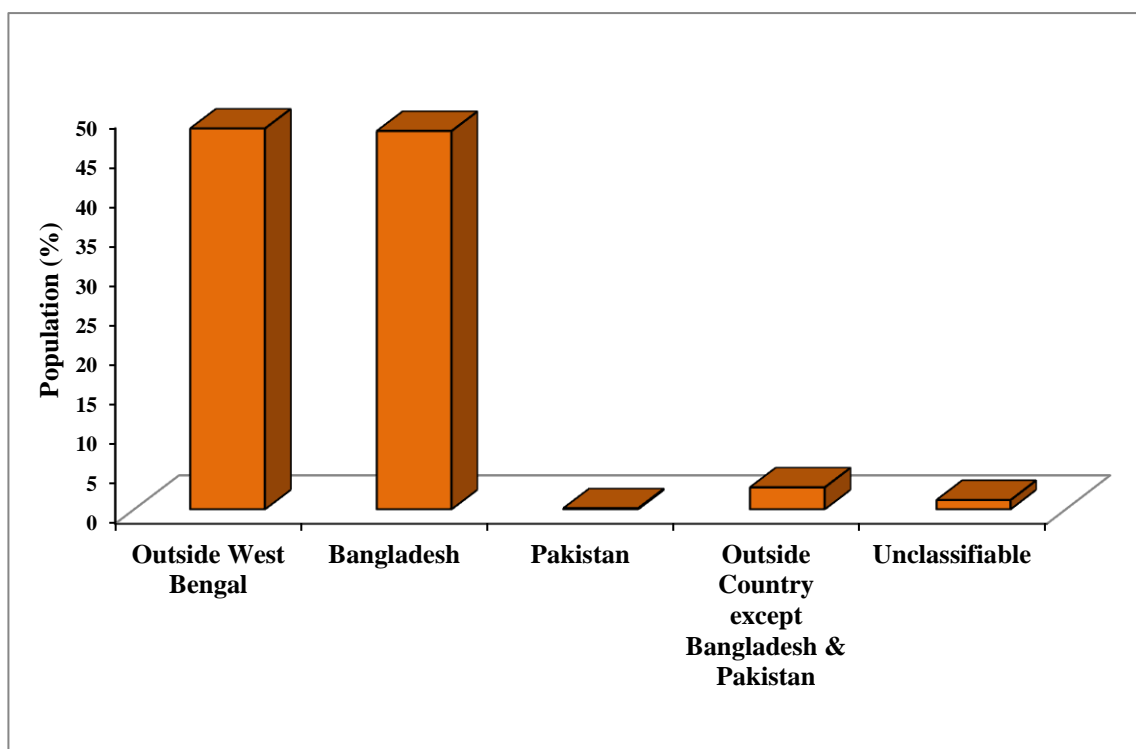
## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.73 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 10 Years and the Reasons of their Migration, 1991**

Figure 6.73 represented that there were more than 33 lakhs migrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years (Table 6.36). Among them, more than 20 lakhs originated from outside India and 12.75 lakhs were from different states of India and enumerated in West Bengal 10 years ago (Table 6.36). As this group of people entered West Bengal before 1981 so the majority of them were displaced due to the post-independence effects of Bangladesh in 1971. It contained more than 34 percent of total immigrants which was followed by family movement and marriage purposes with 26 percent and 20 percent of total immigrants staying in West Bengal for more than 10 years (Figure 6.73). A similar picture was also observed for the foreign migrants where the movement for family reasons outnumbered the movement for marriage purposes (Table 6.36). In the case of inter-state immigrants, the employment opportunity was the prime reason for the displacement in West Bengal. It was followed by marriage and family movements (Table 6.36) in which the former were mainly confined among the women migrants (Census 1991). Most of the unclassified migrants entered West Bengal also for marriage (Table 6.36). Employment and business purposes incorporated more than 15 percent and 3 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years and remaining 0.8 percent of emigrants arrived in West Bengal for education purposes (Figure 6.73).

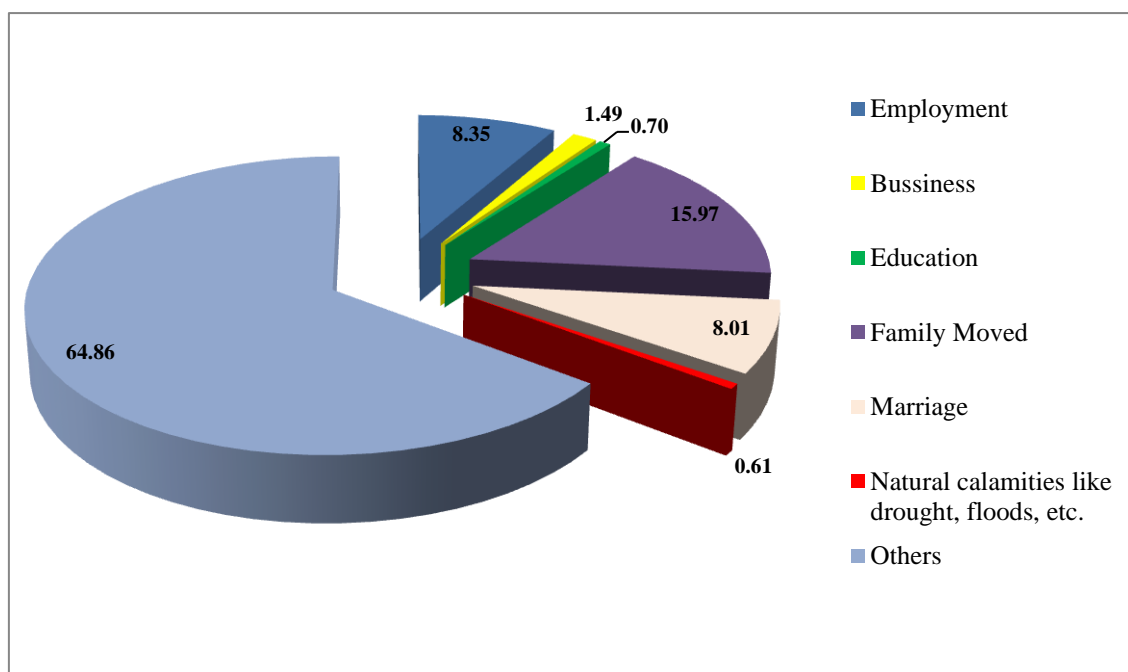
## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.74 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal but Period not Stated, 1991**

There was a group of migrants who did not specify their time of arrival in West Bengal and the census, they were categorized in a special column named 'period not stated'. This group of migrants accounted for around 2.7 lakhs people in which majority of them were from other states of India and as well as from Bangladesh. In both cases, almost equal numbers of immigrants entered West Bengal which covered 47.82 percent and 48.15 percent of total immigrants without mentioning their period of arrival in West Bengal respectively (Figure 6.74). Immigrants from Pakistan and other countries of the world contributed around 0.1 percent and 3 percent of total immigrants of this specific category of West Bengal (Figure 6.74). More than 3 thousand immigrants did not mention their place of displacement and categorised as 'unclassified' in the census (Table 6.35).

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.75 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for undefined periods and the Reasons of their Migration, 1991**

These 2.76 lakhs immigrants did not mention their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.36) and among them, around 65 percent entered West Bengal for 'others' reasons which were not categorised individually (Figure 6.75). they mainly came from outside India (Table 6.36). The next major group of migrants entered with their families and accounted for around 16 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal who arrived for an undefined period (Figure 6.75). The majority of these migrants previously resided outside India (Table 6.36). The employment opportunity and marriage purposes denoted 8.35 percent and 8.01 percent of total immigrants stayed for an undefined period in West Bengal respectively (Figure 6.75). Around 1.49 percent of immigrants arrived in West Bengal for business purposes and the remaining 0.70 percent and 0.61 percent of emigrants were moved from their place of last residence for education and natural calamities respectively (Figure 6.75). The last five groups of migrants largely originated from different states of India and arrived in West Bengal (Table 6.36).

# Immigration in West Bengal

## 6.7 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 2001

The movement of population from one region to another was never stopped rather it increased over time. West Bengal also witnessed a similar situation over the years. Despite the absence of specific incidents, the immigration flow in West Bengal occurred due to some socio-economic factors.

Like the previous census 2001 also enumerated the migration data into two categories; migration by birth and migration by place of last residence (POLR).

### 6.7.1 Structure of Indian Administrative Regions, 2001

According to Census 2001, several new states were formed after excavating some portions from the existing states.

Chhattisgarh, under British rule before the independence of India, was identified as the Chhattisgarh division under the Central Provinces. According to State Reorganisation Act, 1956 it became part of Madhya Pradesh on 1 November 1956 (The Economy of Chhattisgarh, An Overview, 2 May 2013). Since the 1920s, there was a demand for the separation of Chhattisgarh from Madhya Pradesh for which separate platforms were created. After attaining several meetings, strikes, and rallies finally separate Chhattisgarh Bill was prepared for approval and sent to Madhya Pradesh Assembly. After receiving approval from the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, the bill was transferred to Lok Sabha. Finally, on 25 August 2000 as per Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act consent was given to the formation of a separate state of Chhattisgarh. India Government decided that on 1 November 2000 Chhattisgarh would be declared a separate state from Madhya Pradesh (Origin of Chhattisgarh, 3 July 2007).

Jharkhand appeared as a separate state of India on 15 November 2000 after curving out some portions from South Bihar (Sinha, 2017). Bihar Reorganisation Bill created a separate Jharkhand state after including the Santhal Pargana Division and Chotonagpur Division from South Bihar (History of Jharkhand, 23 November 2016).

Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill was passed on 24 September 1998 by the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly which initiated the process of formation of a new state (Reorganisation Bill Passed by UP Government, 7 September 2009). After two years Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act,



## Immigration in West Bengal

2000 was passed and Uttaranchal became the 27<sup>th</sup> state of India (Mathur, Uttarakhand, Britannica, 21 March 2018; Uttarakhand, Wikipedia, 24 May 2022).

### 6.7.2 Population Enumeration in West Bengal, 2001

According to Census 2001, West Bengal had 18 districts in which West Dinajpur was part of the West Bengal from 1947 to 1992. After the independence of India, the former undivided Dinajpur was partitioned based on religion (Harun-or-Rashid, 2012), and West Dinajpur was incorporated into West Bengal (Chatterjee, 2007). The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 incorporated some parts of the Bengali-speaking areas from Bihar into West Dinajpur (Historical Background, 2 March 2007) and divided West Dinajpur into two districts such as Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur (Uttar Dinajpur District, 3 January 2008; Dakshin Dinajpur, 1 September 2008).

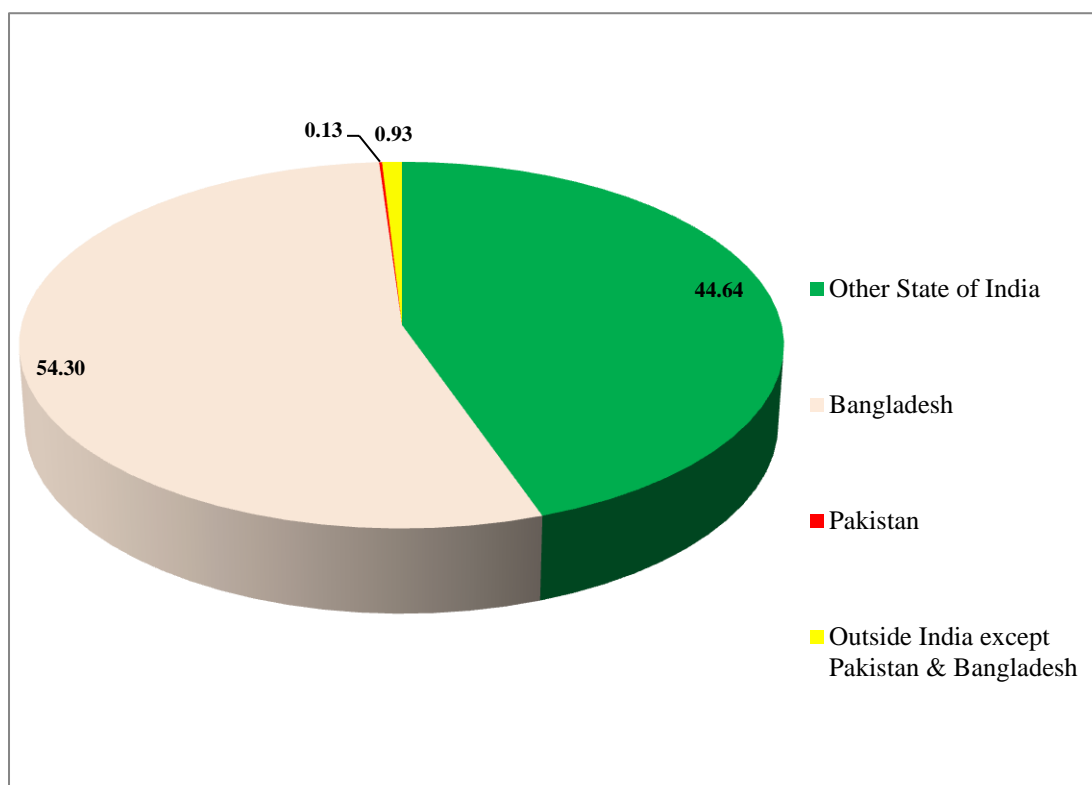
Census 2001 enumerated the migratory flow of West Bengal in which movement of population occurred from outside states of India as well as from other countries of the world.

**Table 6.37 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 2001**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	80176197
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	74593835
<b>Born Outside States</b>	2491932
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	7411
<b>Born in Bangladesh</b>	3031127
<b>Born Outside India except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	51855

Source: Census of India, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.76 Immigrations in West Bengal, 2001**

According to the census of 2001, there were around 80 million populations in West Bengal. Among them, around 77 million were born in India which included people who were born in West Bengal and as well as people from different states of India. More than 3 million people were born outside India (Table 6.37). It was also stated that out of 77 million, around 74 million people were born in West Bengal. West Bengal witnessed a major flow of immigration which covered around 5.6 million migrants (born outside states and outside countries and entered West Bengal) in 2001 (Table 6.37). Out of these 5.6 million immigrants, around 45 percent were born in different states of India and enumerated in West Bengal, and the remaining 55 percent were enumerated from outside India. There was around 54 percent of immigrants in West Bengal were born in Bangladesh and the remaining 1.06 percent were entered from others countries of the world (Figure 6.76). Very fewer numbers of migrants were contributed from Pakistan which covered only 0.13 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal (Figure 6.76).

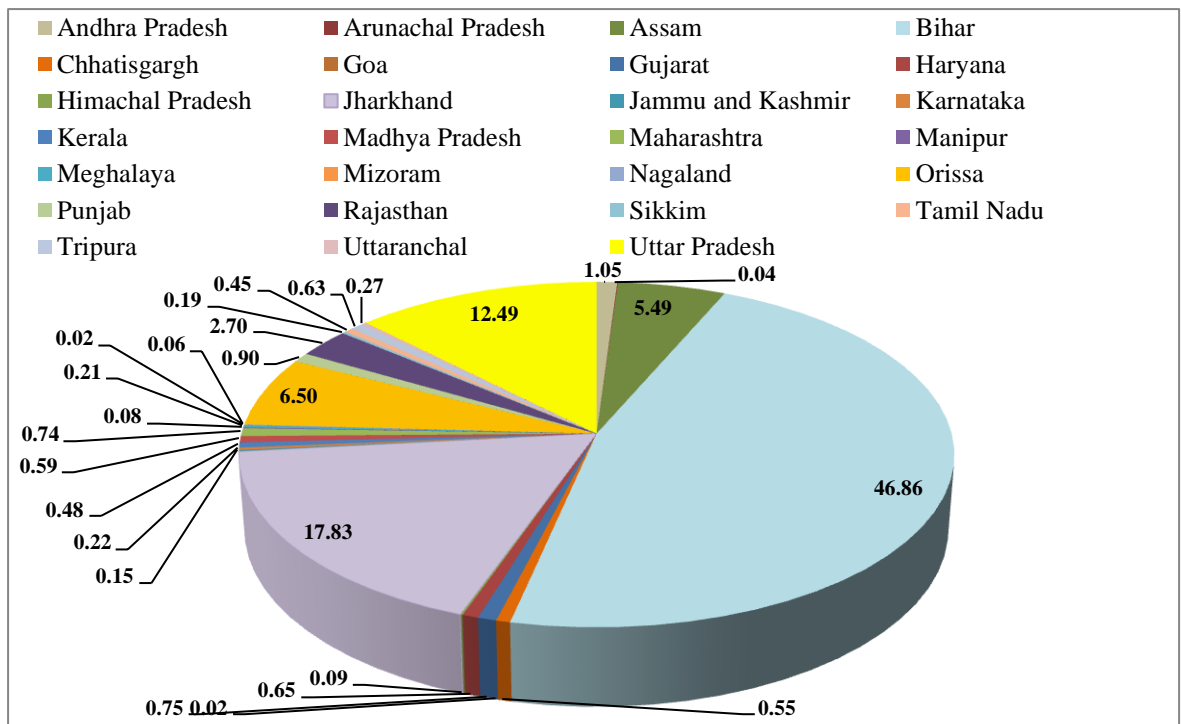
## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.38 Enumeration in West Bengal from Outside States, 2001**

States (Born)	Population
Andhra Pradesh	25930
Arunachal Pradesh	917
Assam	135980
Bihar	1160593
Chhattisgarh	13722
Goa	498
Gujarat	18507
Haryana	16118
Himachal Pradesh	2343
Jharkhand	441435
Jammu and Kashmir	3825
Karnataka	5327
Kerala	11988
Madhya Pradesh	14599
Maharashtra	18228
Manipur	1914
Meghalaya	5216
Mizoram	419
Nagaland	1413
Orissa	160942
Punjab	22277
Rajasthan	66932
Sikkim	4778
Tamil Nadu	11050
Tripura	15555
Uttaranchal	6667
Uttar Pradesh	309315

Source: Census of India, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.77 Immigrations to West Bengal from Other States of India (2001)**

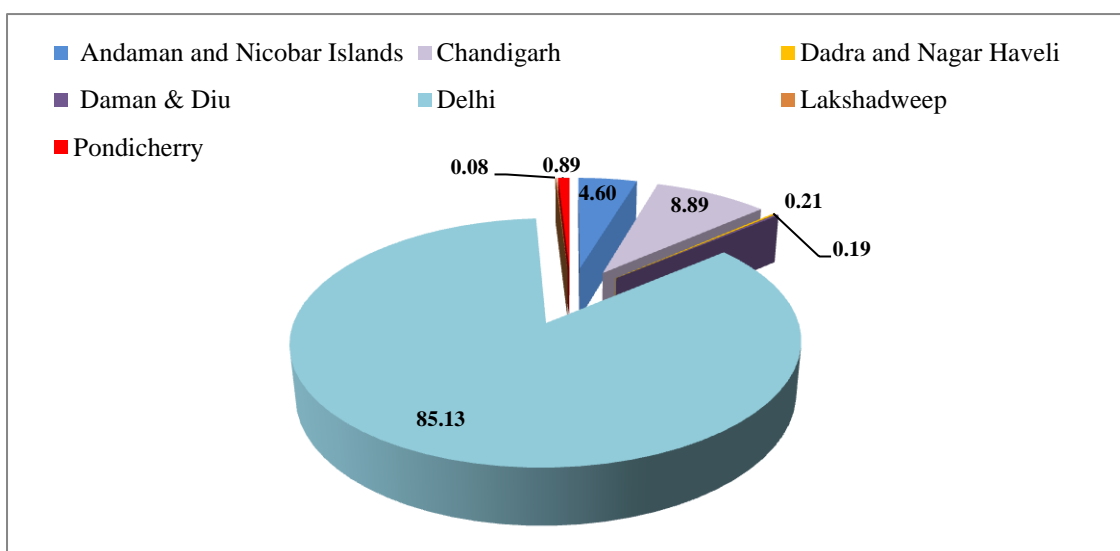
In 2001 there were 27 states in India from where around 2.47 million migrants entered West Bengal (Table 6.38). Among them, more than 1.1 million were entered from Bihar (Table 6.37) which accounted for 47 percent of total immigrants born in different states of India (Figure 6.77). It was followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh with 18 percent and 12 percent of total immigrants from outside states of India (Figure 6.77) individually. These migrants entered West Bengal mainly for better pay and opportunity while female migrants generally moved for marriage purposes. The next larger group of migrants originated from Orissa and Assam and they contributed approx. 7 percent and 6 percent of total immigrants enumerated in West Bengal respectively (Figure 6.77). These neighbouring states were culturally and linguistically similar to West Bengal which pulled the emigrants to settle in West Bengal (Times of India, 24 July 2019).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.39 Enumeration in West Bengal from Union Territories, 2001**

Union Territories (Born)	Population
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	711
Chandigarh	1373
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30
Daman & Diu	32
Delhi	13147
Lakshadweep	13
Pondicherry	138

Source: Census of India, 2001



**Figure 6.78 Immigrations to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (2001)**

There was around 15 thousand population who were born in different union territories of India and entered West Bengal (Table 6.39). Among them, large numbers of migrants entered from Delhi and it constituted little more than 85 percent of total immigrants from union territories (Figure 6.78). It was followed by Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Pondicherry (Table 6.39) with 9 percent, 4.60 percent, and 0.9 percent of total emigrants born in different union territories of India respectively (Figure 6.78). The remaining 0.49 percent of immigrants were born collectively in Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Lakshadweep (Table 6.39).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.40 Migrants Origin from Outside the Country and Enumerated in West Bengal (2001)**

<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	233	<b>Myanmar</b>	2470
<b>Bangladesh</b>	3031127	<b>Nepal</b>	40140
<b>Bhutan</b>	3414	<b>Pakistan</b>	7411
<b>China</b>	687	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	25
<b>Indonesia</b>	19	<b>Singapore</b>	113
<b>Iran</b>	58	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	129
<b>Iraq</b>	23	<b>Turkey</b>	7
<b>Japan</b>	82	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	64
<b>Kuwait</b>	9	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	0
<b>Malaysia</b>	92	<b>Vietnam</b>	3
<b>Maldives</b>	15	<b>Elsewhere</b>	2490

<b>Born in Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Born in Africa</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>France</b>	22	<b>Kenya</b>	21
<b>Germany</b>	84	<b>Mauritius</b>	9
<b>Portugal</b>	3	<b>Nigeria</b>	29
<b>U.K</b>	406	<b>Uganda</b>	7
<b>Elsewhere</b>	210	<b>Zambia</b>	4
		<b>Elsewhere</b>	314

## Immigration in West Bengal

<b>Born in America</b>		<b>Born in Oceania</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Canada</b>	59	<b>Australia</b>	30
<b>U.S.A</b>	124	<b>Fiji</b>	1
<b>Elsewhere</b>	374	<b>Elsewhere</b>	85

<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Unclassifiable</b>	37

**Source: Census of India, 2001**

Census 2001 registered more than 3 million migrants who were born in different countries of the world and enumerated in West Bengal (Table 6.37, 6.40). The majority of them were born in Asia which covered more than 99.94 percent of total foreign-born immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.40). Large numbers of emigrants were from Bangladesh and Nepal which accounted for little more than 98 percent and 1.3 percent of total foreign-born migrants who entered West Bengal respectively (Table 6.40). It was observed from table 6.40 that the number of Nepal-born immigrants in West Bengal was reduced after 1971 but still, they secured the second position of total foreign-born immigrants after Bangladesh.

After Asia, the majority numbers of emigrants were born in Europe and constituted 0.02 percent of total immigrants originating from outside India and it was followed by the Americas, Africa, and Oceania with 0.018 percent, 0.012 percent, and 0.004 percent of total foreign emigrants respectively (Table 6.40).

## Immigration in West Bengal

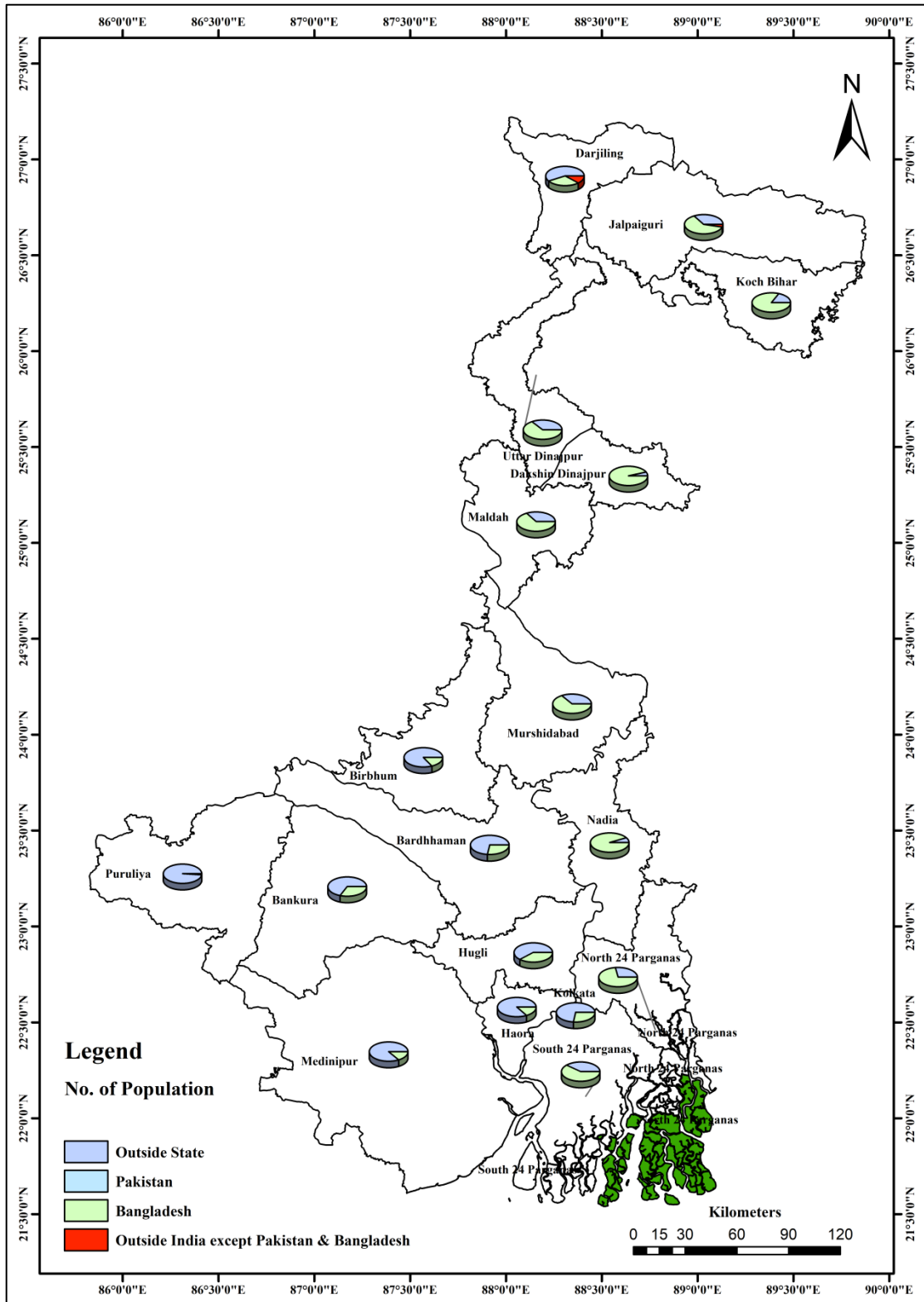
**Table 6.41 District-wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 2001 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Other States of India</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan &amp; Bangladesh</b>
<b>Bardhaman</b>	391452	150508	700	2098
<b>Birbhum</b>	57672	10404	35	259
<b>Bankura</b>	16883	8388	12	198
<b>Medinipur</b>	117336	18501	107	1029
<b>Hugli</b>	214864	143250	476	1374
<b>Haora</b>	234619	38096	340	1493
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	355410	906986	1015	4986
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	69346	100453	158	1036
<b>Kolkata</b>	464857	177394	2393	6156
<b>Nadia</b>	38515	576474	254	584
<b>Murshidabad</b>	29256	50814	138	192
<b>Malda</b>	51900	93278	139	357
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	7922	157572	144	192
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	66039	112627	170	779
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	136065	230574	691	12563
<b>Darjiling</b>	99628	58103	305	18045
<b>Coochbihar</b>	38799	196321	292	293
<b>Purulia</b>	101369	1384	42	221

Source: Census of India, 2001



# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.79 District wise Influx of Population in West Bengal, 2001**

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 5.6 million migrants enumerated in West Bengal in 2001. Among them, the majority were born outside India (Approx. 62%) and the remaining were from different states in India (Approx. 38%). Out of 5.6 million immigrants in West Bengal, large numbers of them were enumerated in the North 24 Parganas district which accounted for 23 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. It was followed by Calcutta and Nadia with 11.66 percent and 11.03 percent of total immigrants respectively (Table 6.41).

There were 2.5 million migrants born in different states in India and the majority of them entered Kolkata which reflected around 19 percent of total immigrants from different states in India. Barddhaman and North 24 Pargana secured the next positions in West Bengal which covered 16 percent and 14 percent of total immigrants from outside states of West Bengal respectively (Table 6.41).

The majority of foreign migrants entered 24 Pargana and accounted for 29.54 percent of total migrants enumerated in West Bengal from outside India. It was followed by Nadia and Jalpaiguri with 19 percent and 8 percent of total emigrants outside India respectively (Table 6.41).

The majority of the outside India-born migrants originated from Bangladesh (54%) and large numbers of them were enumerated in North 24 Parganas with 30 percent of total Bangladesh-born emigrants (Table 6.41, Figure 6.82).

In the case of Pakistan-born emigrants, the majority of them choose Kolkata as their destination with 32 percent of total Pakistan-born migrants (Figure 6.80)

Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, the contribution of other countries in the world was more than 50 thousand (Table 6.41) which covered 1.7 percent of total foreign migrants. Among them, more than 1.8 lakhs were enumerated in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal (Table 6.41).

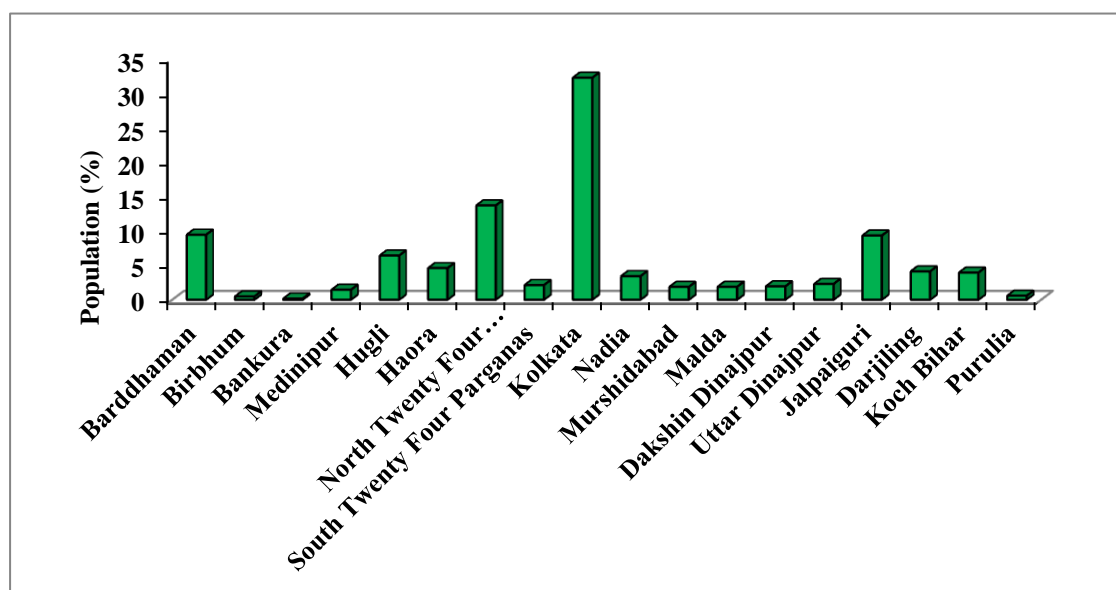
West Bengal witnessed around 5.6 million migratory flows in 2001 of which the majority were concentrated in North 24 Pargana with 23 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Among these immigrants majority (71.50%) were from Bangladesh (Figure 6.79). After North 24 Pargana, Kolkata, Nadia, and Barddhaman were the next choices of the migrants which absorbed 12 percent, 11 percent, and 9.7 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. The majority of these immigrants were born in

## Immigration in West Bengal

different states of India except in the Nadia district where numbers of Bangladeshi emigrants outnumbered the other emigrants (Figure 6.79). It also represented that with respect to the total migrants, the majority of the emigrants were from Bangladesh and they chose northern districts of West Bengal such as Jalpaiguri, Cooch Bihar, Uttar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, etc. for their destination. The western part of West Bengal witnessed a majority of the emigrants from different states of India which exceeded the foreign-born emigrants (Figure 6.79).

7411 migrants were born in Pakistan and enumerated in West Bengal in 2001 (Table 6.40, 6.41). After arriving in West Bengal they were distributed all over West Bengal and a majority of them were concentrated south-eastern part and northern parts of the state (Figure 6.81). Kolkata and North 24 Parganas sheltered around 32 percent and 14 percent of total Pakistan-born migrants (Figure 6.80). It was followed by the Barddhaman, Jalpaiguri, and Hugli districts of West Bengal with 9.45 percent, 9.32 percent, and 6.42 percent of total Pakistani emigrants (Figure 6.80). Jalpaiguri was one of the major northern districts of West Bengal which attracted more Pakistani emigrants than the remaining districts. More than 500 Pakistan-born emigrants were enumerated in this district of West Bengal (Figure 6.81).

Purulia, Birbhum, and Bankura were among those districts of West Bengal which witnessed very fewer numbers of Pakistani emigrants (less than 100) (Table 6.41) and contributed less than 1 percent of total Pakistan-born emigrants individually (Figure 6.80).



**Figure 6.80 Immigration from Pakistan, 2001**

# Immigration in West Bengal

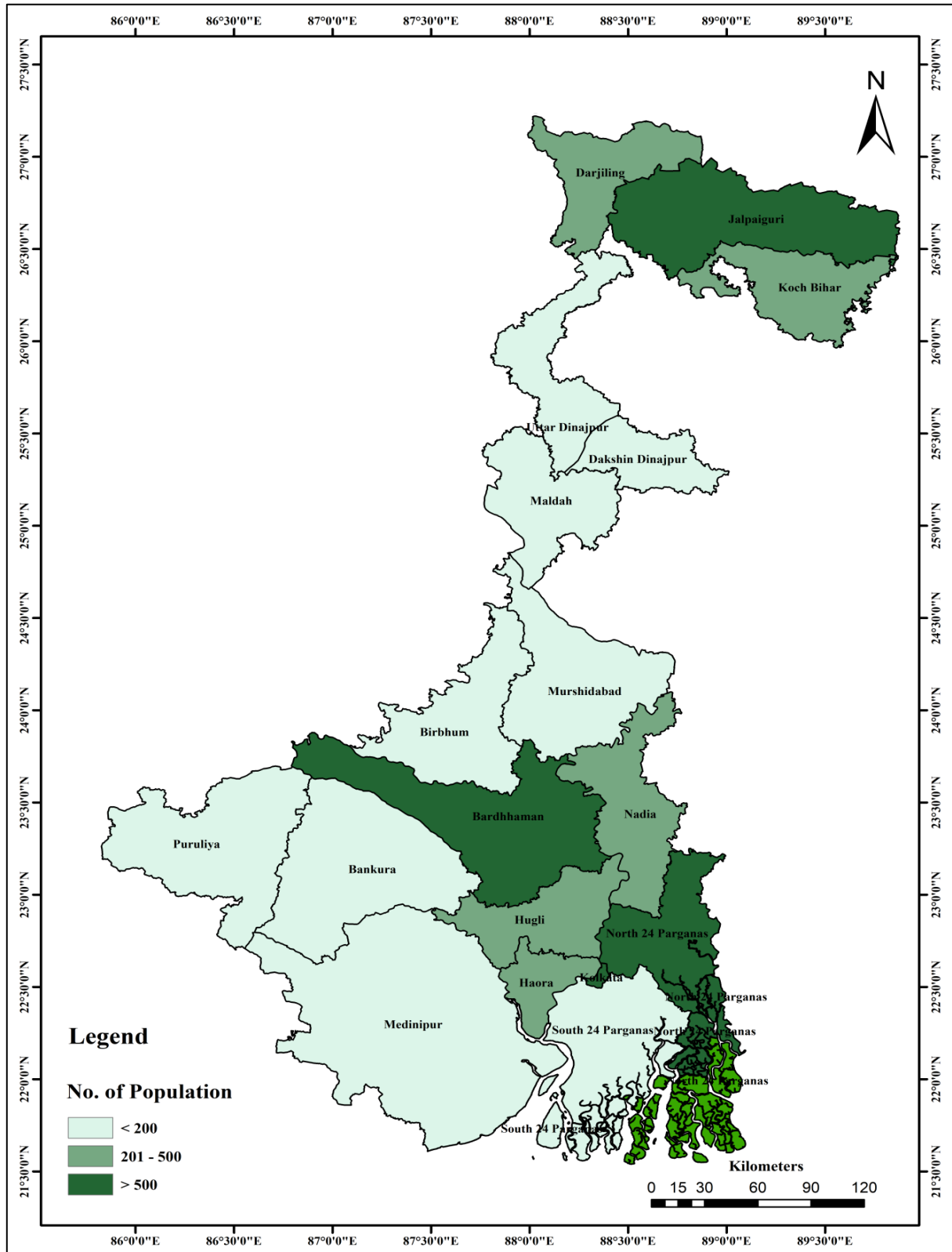


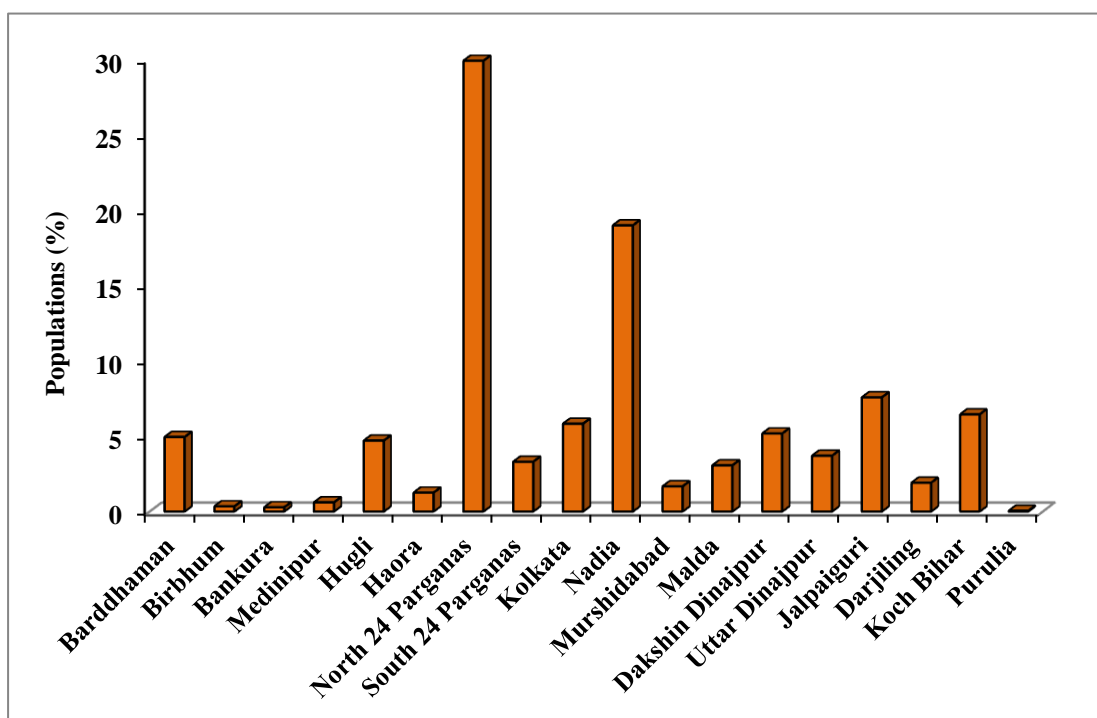
Figure 6.81 Concentration of Pakistani Immigrants in West Bengal, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 2001 registered more than 30 lakhs migrants from Bangladesh who entered West Bengal and distributed all over Bengal (Table 6.40, 6.41). Large numbers of Bangladesh-born migrants concentrated in the northern and south-eastern parts of West Bengal which were also located adjacent to Bangladesh (Figure 6.83). The concentration of these migrants was highest in North 24 Pargana with 30 percent of total Bangladesh-born emigrants (Figure 6.82). It was followed by Nadia with more than 19 percent of total Bangladeshi immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.82).

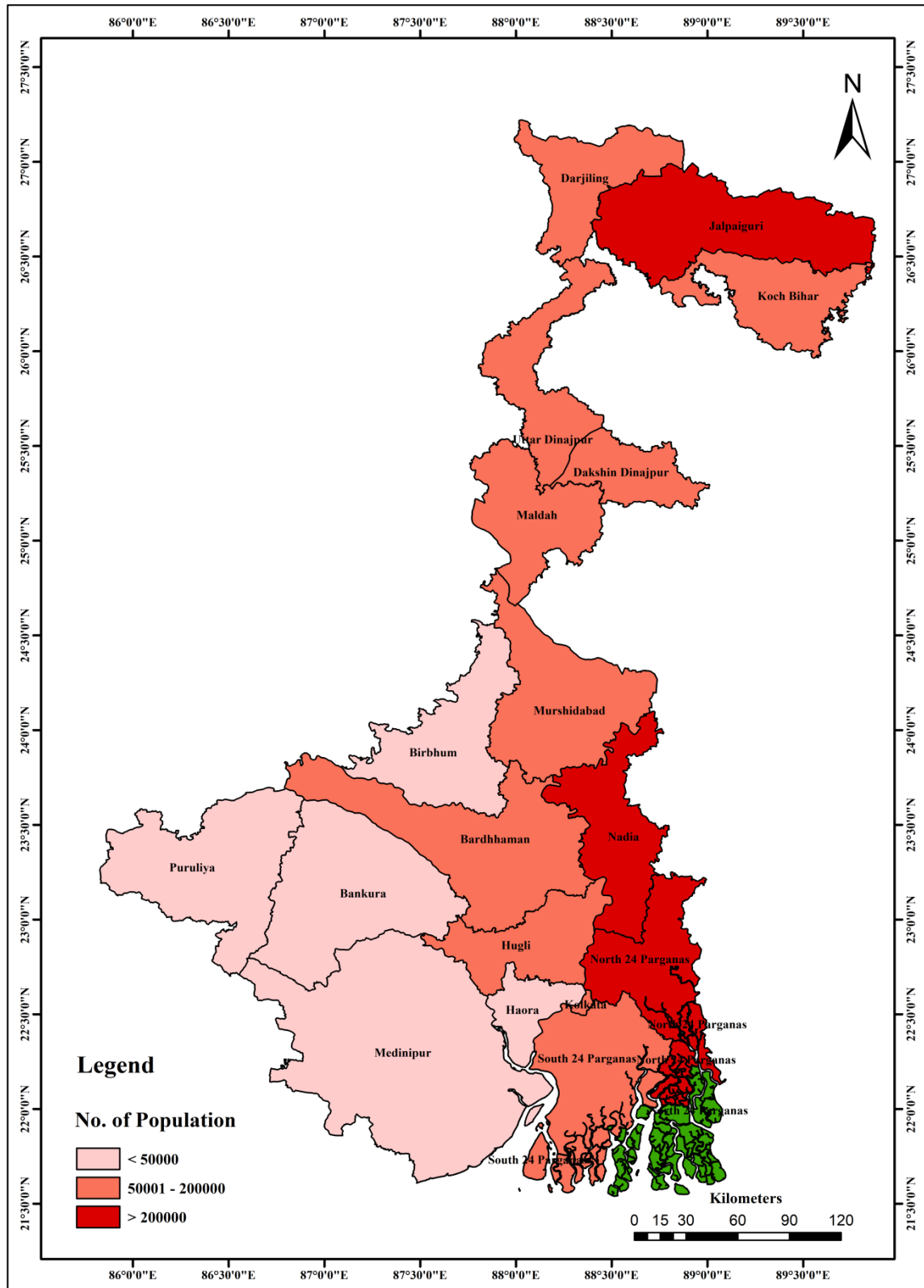
Northern districts of West Bengal also experienced the migratory flow of Bangladeshi emigrants in which Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar secured the higher positions with 8 percent and 6 percent of total Bangladesh-born immigrants in West Bengal respectively (Figure 6.82).

Some western and south-western districts of West Bengal witnessed very fewer numbers of immigrants flow from Bangladesh. Less than 1 percent of immigrants concentrated in the Medinipur, Bankura, Birbhum, and Purulia districts of West Bengal (Figure 6.83).



**Figure 6.82 Immigration from Bangladesh, 2001**

# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.83 Concentration of Bangladeshi Immigrants in West Bengal, 2001**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.42 Enumerations of Migrants in West Bengal 2001 (Based on POLR and Duration of Residence in West Bengal)**

<b>Duration of Residence in West Bengal</b>	<b>&lt;1 year</b>	<b>1-4 years</b>	<b>5-9 years</b>	<b>10-19 years</b>	<b>&gt; 20 Years</b>	<b>Period not stated</b>
<b>Outside West Bengal</b>	103157	332403	288964	568888	954662	209088
<b>Bangladesh</b>	10125	80358	155963	489502	1650650	142395
<b>Pakistan</b>	30	145	170	391	4859	575
<b>Outside Country except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	971	6122	5306	9737	22342	5151
<b>Unclassifiable</b>	0	5	6	5	12	8

Source: Census of India, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.43 Enumeration of Migrants based on Purposes of Movements, 2001**

Duration of Residence	Place of Last residence	Total migrants	Work/employment	Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after birth	Moved with household	Others
All Duration	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	2457162	680493	97816	26074	599481	57504	570995	424799
	Last residence outside India	2584806	140764	31444	14613	224955	9923	1216726	946381
	Unclassifiable	36	5	9	0	6	5	3	8
Less than 1 year	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	103157	45960	1489	1130	4584	1530	35371	13093
	Last residence outside India	11140	1211	206	147	965	73	4753	3785
	Unclassifiable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-4 years	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	332403	81187	8261	12168	73287	7821	106655	43024
	Last residence outside India	86625	8026	1557	1359	14458	343	35515	25367
	Unclassifiable	5	0	3	0	1	1	0	0
5-9 years	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	288964	71371	11481	4345	82905	8806	76441	33615
	Last residence outside India	161439	11266	2595	1148	19892	491	80653	45394
	Unclassifiable	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
10 years and above	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	1523550	481819	76556	8418	438597	31356	323262	163542
	Last residence outside India	2177481	120200	27073	11952	189585	6987	1071862	749822
	Unclassifiable	17	2	3	0	5	4	3	0
Period not Stated	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	209088	156	29	13	108	7991	29266	171525
	Last residence outside India	148181	61	13	7	55	2029	23943	122013
	Unclassifiable	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8

Source: Census of India, 2001



## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 2001 categorised the migrants' data based on their place of last residence (POLR). There were more than 5 million migrants in West Bengal who previously resided outside West Bengal as well as outside India and arrived in West Bengal (Table 6.42) at different periods. According to their duration of stay in West Bengal, the census 2001 classified these migrants into 6 different types. These were

1. POLR Migrants resided in West Bengal for less than 1 year
2. POLR Migrants resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years
3. POLR Migrants resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years
4. POLR Migrants resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years
5. POLR Migrants resided in West Bengal for more than 20 years
6. POLR Migrants did not state their period of residence in West Bengal

Apart from that migrants were also categorized based on their purposes of displacement in West Bengal and it was categorized into 7 types (Table 6.43)

1. Migrants arrived in West Bengal due to work or employment opportunities
2. Migrants arrived in West Bengal due to Business purposes
3. Migrants arrived in West Bengal due to Educational purposes
4. Migrants arrived in West Bengal due to Marriage
5. Migrants arrived in West Bengal after birth
6. Migrants arrived in West Bengal with their households
7. Migrants arrived in West Bengal for other reasons

According to Table 6.42, there were more than 5 million migrants in West Bengal, among them more than half of the migrants arrived in West Bengal a minimum of 20 years ago and they contributed 52.21 percent of total migrants by POLR (Table 6.42). The next group of migrants stayed in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years with their contribution around 21 percent of total immigrants who last stayed outside West Bengal and different parts of the world. Around 9 percent of immigrants stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years, and 8 percent of immigrants resided for 1 to 4 years. The recent displacement occurred less than 1 year ago and it accounted for only 2.3 percent of migration. The remaining 7 percent of immigrants did not specify their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.42).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.44 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for less than 1 Year in West Bengal, 2001**

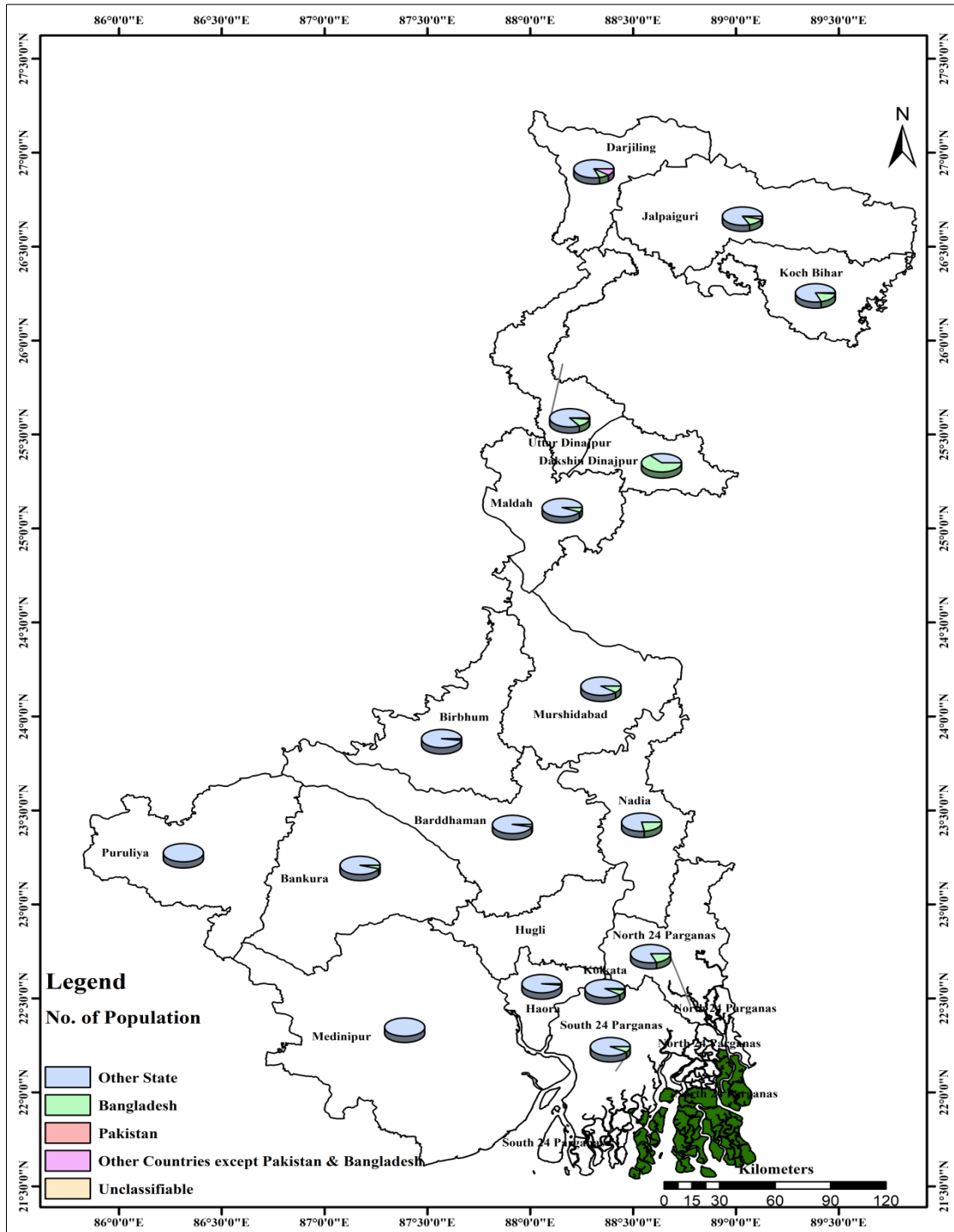
Enumareted	Place of Last Residence				
	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Darjiling</b>	2047	232	6	236	0
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	3998	633	1	193	0
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	1839	394	0	25	0
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	2732	416	0	53	0
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	508	854	1	5	0
<b>Maldah</b>	3508	230	0	12	0
<b>Murshidabad</b>	3257	335	4	1	0
<b>Birbhum</b>	2576	57	0	13	0
<b>Barddhaman</b>	12824	424	7	12	0
<b>Nadia</b>	5950	1680	0	30	0
<b>North Twenty Four Parganas</b>	13139	2985	2	112	0
<b>Hugli</b>	19505	539	0	35	0
<b>Bankura</b>	2539	119	0	20	0
<b>Puruliya</b>	1475	1	0	13	0
<b>Medinipur</b>	8130	46	0	59	0
<b>Haora</b>	6190	119	2	21	0
<b>Kolkata</b>	5517	455	7	104	0
<b>South Twenty Four Parganas</b>	7423	606	0	41	0

**Source: Census of India, 2001**

There were more than 1.14 lakhs migrants who arrived in West Bengal within 1 year (Table 6.44). The majority of these immigrants last resided in different states of India (90.26%) and after entering West Bengal they distributed to different parts of the State. Maximum numbers of emigrants from outside states were enumerated in Hugli, North 24 Pargana, and Barddhaman which covered 19 percent, 13 percent, and 12 percent of total immigrants from outside states of India (Table 6.44). Maximum Bangladeshi immigrants arrived in North 24 Parganas and Nadia (Figure 6.84) which covered 29 percent and 17 percent of total migrants who last stayed in Bangladesh. The contribution of Pakistani migrants was very less and their highest numbers were 7

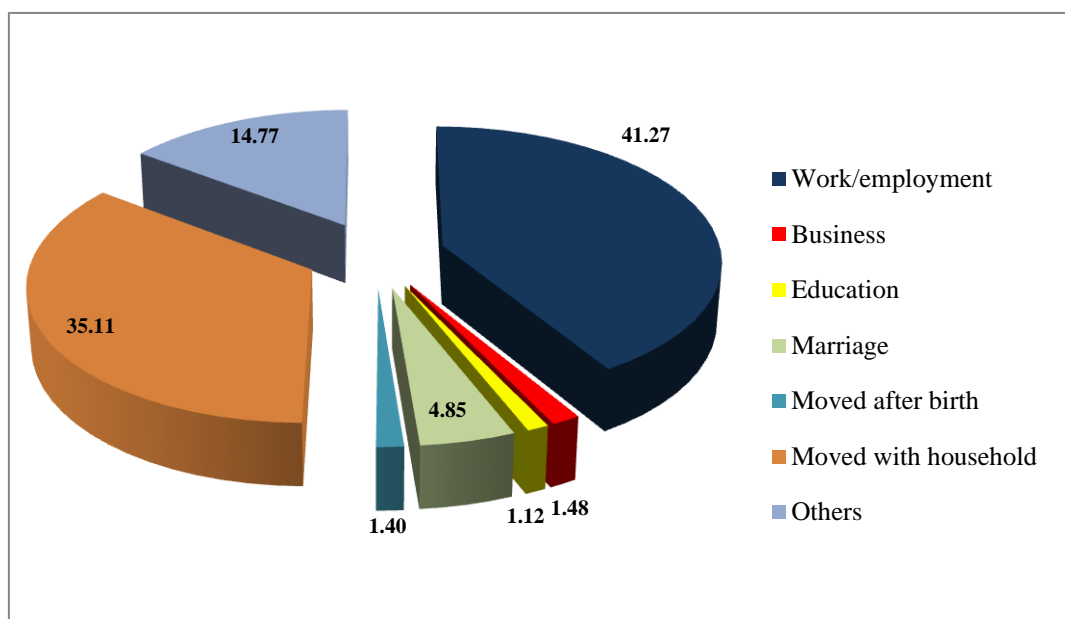
# Immigration in West Bengal

enumerated in Kolkata and Barddhaman (Table 6.44). all the districts of West Bengal witnessed major numbers of immigrants from different states of India except Dakshin Dinajpur where the number of Bangladeshi immigrants exceeded the other migrants (Figure 6.84)



**Figure 6.84 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for less than 1 Year, 2001**

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.85 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for less than 1 year and the Reasons of their Migration, 1991**

Among these 1.14 lakhs migrants, the majority of them arrived in West Bengal for employment purposes (Table 6.43) and contributed to 41.27 percent of total migrants who previously stayed outside West Bengal (Figure 6.85). There was around 35 percent of immigrants who entered West Bengal with their households and it was followed by other reasons in which immigrants did not specify the exact reason or census could not classify their purpose in a different column. It accounted for around 15 percent of total immigrants of this period. Marriage purposes, mainly confined among the females contributed to approximately 5 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.85). Apart from that, the movement for Business and Educational purposes contributed around 1.48 percent and 1.12 percent of total immigrants arrived in West Bengal within 1 year, and the remaining 1.40 percent of migrants entered West Bengal after birth (Figure). In all these cases maximum numbers of immigrants were moved from different states of India than in other countries (Table 6.43).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.45 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for 1 to 4 years in West Bengal, 2001**

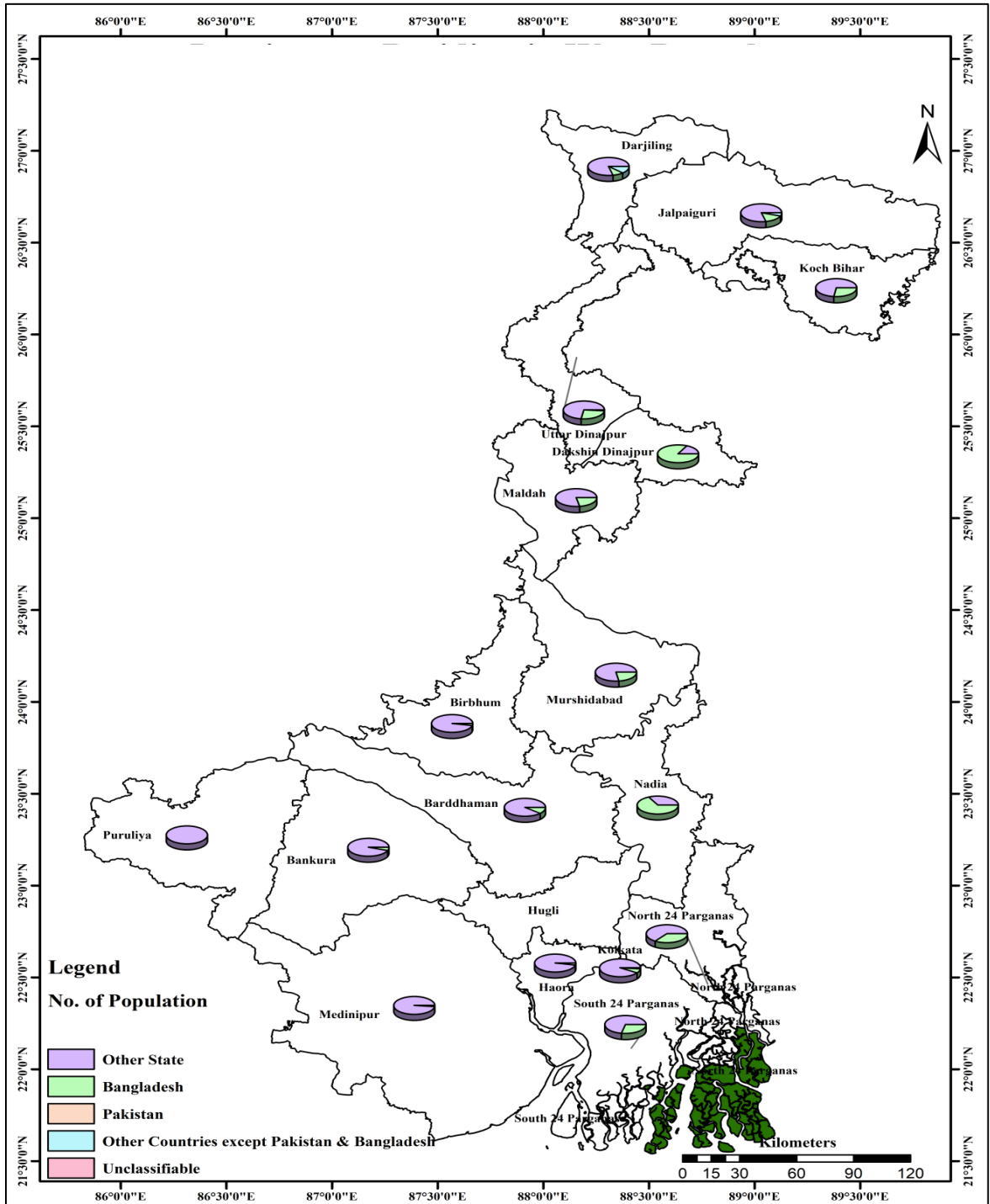
Enumerated	Place of Last Residence				
	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Darjiling</b>	18366	2321	8	2326	4
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	23159	4520	11	1252	0
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	6983	2679	3	86	0
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	8884	3296	3	149	0
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	1149	6203	1	34	0
<b>Maldah</b>	8239	2214	2	51	0
<b>Murshidabad</b>	4726	1315	2	27	0
<b>Birbhum</b>	8652	231	2	25	0
<b>Barddhaman</b>	44244	4425	14	213	0
<b>Nadia</b>	7451	14202	2	79	0
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	43842	26098	24	486	0
<b>Hugli</b>	25903	3887	9	192	0
<b>Bankura</b>	3354	147	1	32	0
<b>Puruliya</b>	14702	54	0	31	0
<b>Medinipur</b>	22736	335	0	159	0
<b>Haora</b>	26292	679	11	149	1
<b>Kolkata</b>	53043	3320	44	717	0
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	10678	4432	8	114	0

**Source: Census of India, 2001**

Around 4.19 lakh migrants arrived in West Bengal 1 to 4 years ago (Table 6.42, Table 4.45). Among them, around 79 percent last resided in different states of India outside West Bengal (Table 6.45). After arriving in West Bengal they settled in different parts of the state and large numbers of them concentrated in Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, and Barddhaman which accounted for 16 percent, 13.2 percent, and 13.3 percent of total immigrants from different states of India respectively (Table 6.45). Bangladeshi immigrants mainly entered in North 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal and covered around 32 percent and 18 percent of total immigrants who previously lived in Bangladesh respectively (Table 6.45). Less than 200 migrants previously lived in Pakistan. They entered West Bengal and stayed here for 1 to 4 years. The maximum of them settled in Kolkata (30%) and North 24 Parganas (17%). Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan migrants from different countries of the world arrived in the Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal which accounted for 38 percent and

# Immigration in West Bengal

21 percent of total emigrants outside India except for Bangladesh and Pakistan (Table 6.45). The majority of these emigrants were from Nepal and they chose the northern districts of West Bengal due to the presence of their co-religionists (Table 6.40, Figure 6.86).



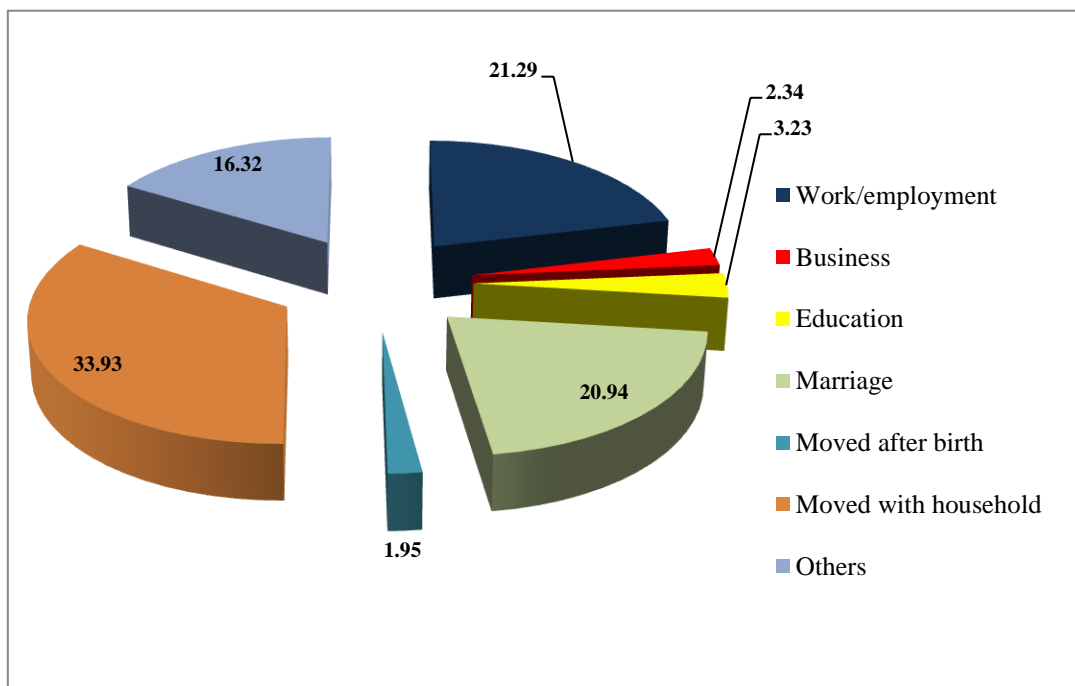
**Figure 6.86 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Years, 2001**

## Immigration in West Bengal

During this time majority of migrants who arrived in West Bengal last resided in different states of India except for Dakshin Dinajpur and Nadia. Herewith respect to the total immigrants' the majority of them were from Bangladesh (Figure 6.86).

This group of emigrants arrived in West Bengal for different purposes. The majority of them were moved with their households which accounted for 33.93 percent of total immigrants of this period (Figure 6.87). It was followed by working opportunities and marriages which former were mainly confined among the females. Both of these occupied around 21 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.87). Around 16 percent of migrants were categorized in 'others reasons' (Figure 6.87) as their reasons for movements did not fall into the mentioned categories. Education, Business, and movement after birth contributed little more than 3 percent, 2.34 percent, and around 2 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal from 1 to 4 years (Figure 6.87).

The migrants who arrived in West Bengal for various reasons, the majority of them last stayed in different states of India than the foreign immigrants (Table 6.43)



**Figure 6.87 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years and the Reasons of their Migration, 1991**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.46 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for 5 to 9 Years in West Bengal, 2001**

Enumerated	Place of Last Residence				
	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Darjiling</b>	11337	3504	4	2,166	6
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	16738	9770	12	1,066	0
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	5403	6060	14	51	0
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	8988	8427	3	128	0
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	889	14699	3	34	0
<b>Maldah</b>	7567	5332	1	56	0
<b>Murshidabad</b>	3682	2454	3	13	0
<b>Birbhum</b>	7973	313	0	21	0
<b>Barddhaman</b>	41615	9139	7	138	0
<b>Nadia</b>	3876	34473	6	66	0
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	35979	42477	39	407	0
<b>Hugli</b>	22772	6672	15	117	0
<b>Bankura</b>	2731	373	0	24	0
<b>Puruliya</b>	15069	46	1	19	0
<b>Medinipur</b>	14571	434	2	107	0
<b>Haora</b>	28464	865	11	172	0
<b>Kolkata</b>	52943	3333	41	607	0
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	8367	7592	8	114	0

**Source: Census of India, 2001**

There were around 4.5 million registered migrants, who stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years (Table 6.42, 6.46). After arriving in West Bengal they settled in different districts of West Bengal. Among them, around 64 percent of migrants last resided in different states of India and after entering West Bengal majority of them were concentrated in Kolkata and Barddhaman with 32 percent and 18 percent of total immigrants POLR in different parts of India individually (Table 6.46). Immigrants who last resided in Bangladesh entered West Bengal and large numbers of them were settled in North 24 Parganas and Nadia with 27 percent and 22 percent of total immigrants last residing in Bangladesh respectively (Table 6.46). The contribution of Pakistani migrants was very less. Only 170 emigrants entered West Bengal and a majority of them enumerated in Kolkata and North 24 Pargana with 24 percent and 23



## Immigration in West Bengal

percent of total Pakistani emigrants respectively (Table 6.46). Migrants also arrived from different parts of the country mainly from Nepal and the majority of them settled in Darjiling and Jalpaiguri (Figure 6.88) with 41 percent and 20 percent of total foreign migrants except for Bangladesh and Pakistan (Table 6.46).

Figure 6.88 represented the total immigration pattern in West Bengal which reflected that all the districts of West Bengal witnessed a major flow of migration. In Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia, and North 24 Parganas to the total immigrants' the majority of the migrants were from Bangladesh (Figure 6.88). The remaining districts of West Bengal witnessed large numbers of migrants from outside states of India in respect to the total migrants (Figure 6.88).

# Immigration in West Bengal

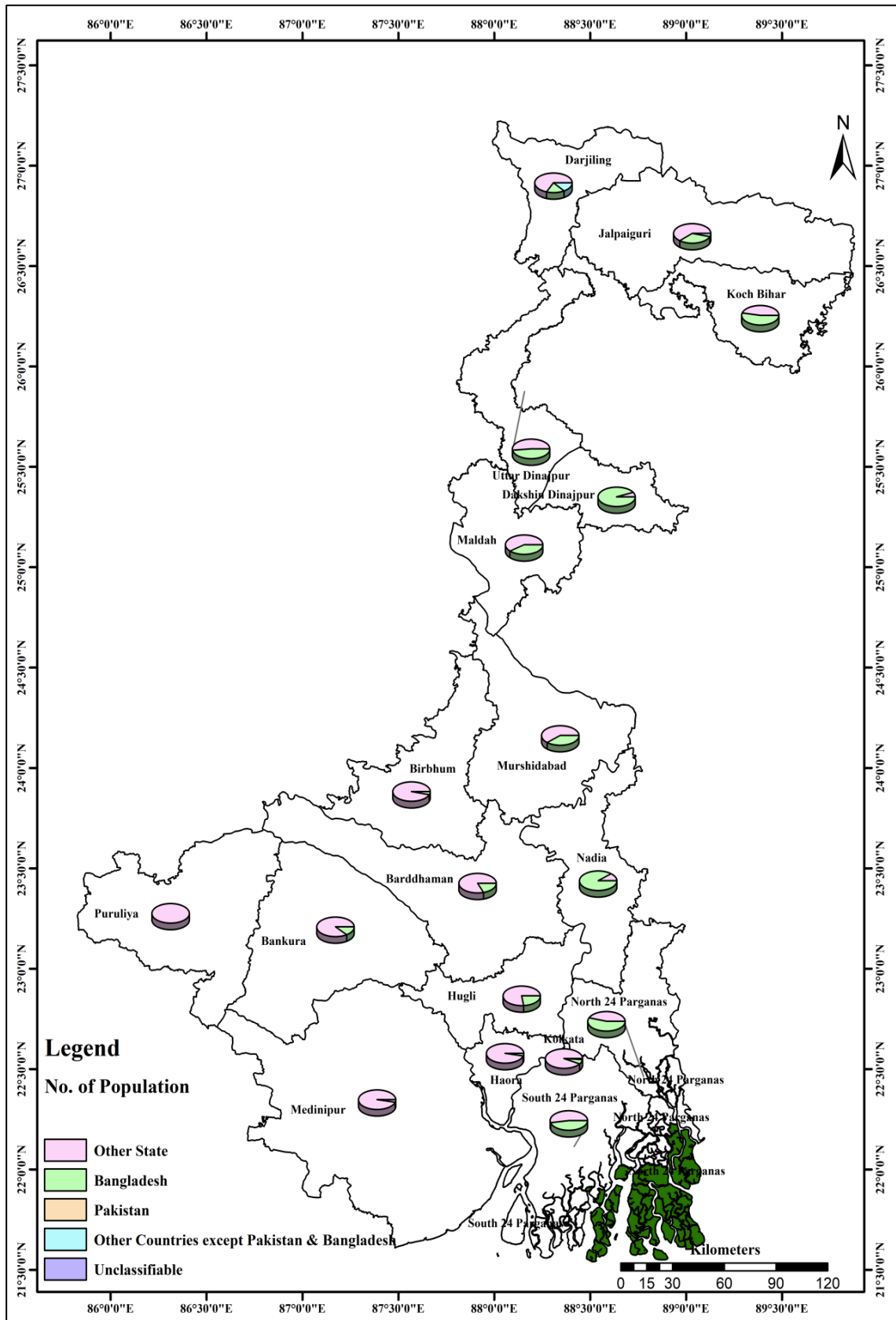
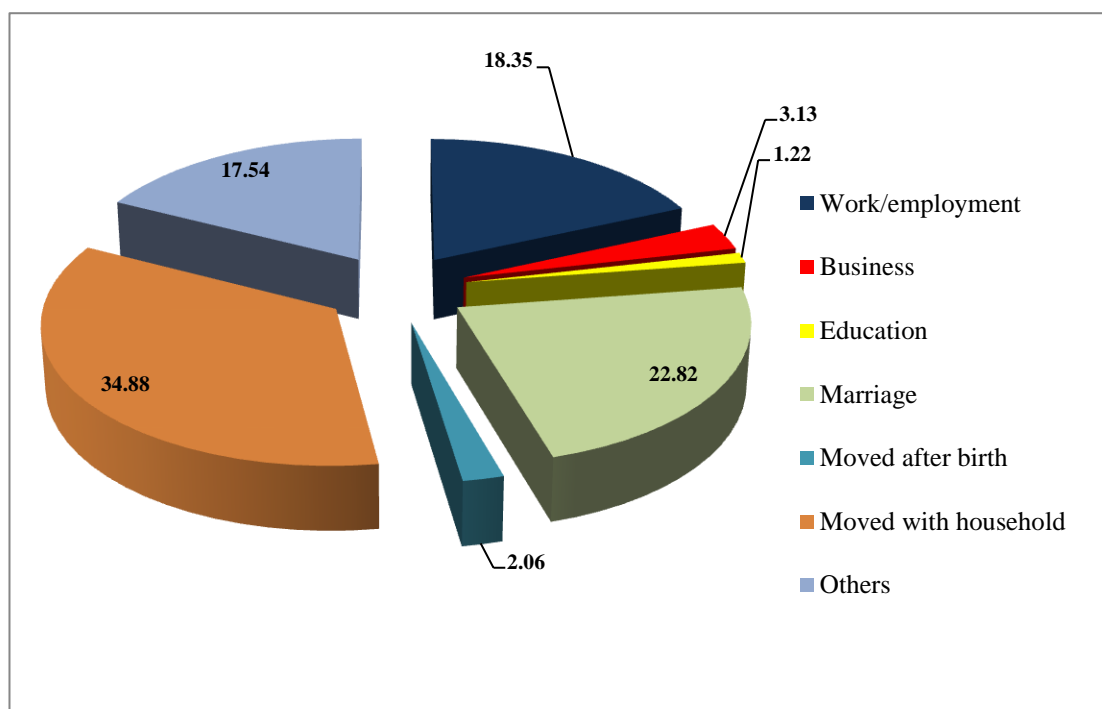


Figure 6.88 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.89 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years and the Reasons of their Migration**

There were several reasons which influenced the migrants from different states as well as different countries of the world to enter and enumerated themselves in West Bengal. The majority of migrants who stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years were moved with their households and it contributed to around 35 percent of total migrants staying in West Bengal within this time (Figure 6.89). The next larger group of migrants arrived in West Bengal for marriage purposes and it accounted for 23 percent of total immigrants. It was followed by employment opportunities and several other reasons in which both of them contributed more or less 18 percent of total migrants individually (Figure 6.89). Some other reasons were business, movement after birth and education represented 3 percent, 2 percent, and 1 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years respectively (Figure 6.89).

During this period, the majority of the migrants entered for an employment opportunity or other reasons and moved with their households while last residing outside India (Table 6.43). The majority of the migrants from other states of India were enumerated in West Bengal for business, education, and marriage purposes and displaced after birth (Table 6.43).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.47 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for 10 to 19 years in West Bengal, 2001**

Enumerated	Place of Last Residence				
	Other State	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Darjiling</b>	20766	11126	14	3767	0
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	31370	27436	51	2166	0
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	9977	18632	13	52	0
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	16451	20382	4	211	0
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	1556	39206	20	66	0
<b>Maldah</b>	13508	17037	9	115	0
<b>Murshidabad</b>	6554	8032	3	45	0
<b>Birbhum</b>	13978	1104	1	46	0
<b>Barddhaman</b>	93437	27925	42	363	0
<b>Nadia</b>	6962	116203	7	70	0
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	72856	143922	54	790	0
<b>Hugli</b>	44594	21516	34	259	0
<b>Bankura</b>	3502	903	0	39	0
<b>Puruliya</b>	26598	101	1	44	0
<b>Medinipur</b>	24571	1308	8	178	0
<b>Haora</b>	56249	3155	21	292	5
<b>Kolkata</b>	11267 1	10408	99	1059	0
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	13288	21106	10	175	0

**Source: Census of India, 2001**

There were 10.68 lakhs migrants registered in West Bengal who last resided outside the states of West Bengal and also outside India (Table 6.42, 6.47). After arriving in West Bengal they stayed there for 10 to 19 years in different districts. Among these immigrants majority of them were from outside states of West Bengal which accounted for little more than 53 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years. It was followed by foreign migrants among them a group of migrants was last resided in Bangladesh and enumerated in West Bengal. It contributed to 46 percent of total immigrants within this time in West Bengal (Table 6.42).

Large numbers of migrants from different states of India concentrated in Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, and Barddhaman districts of West Bengal, and they accounted for

## Immigration in West Bengal

20 percent, 13 percent, and 16 percent of total migrants who earlier stayed outside states of West Bengal respectively (Table 6.47). A group of migrants, whose POLR was Bangladesh, contributed more than 4.8 lakhs of total migrants who stayed for 10 to 19 years (Table 6.42). They largely settled in North 24 Parganas and Nadia with their contributions of 29 percent and 24 percent of total Bangladeshi migrants arrived in West Bengal 10 to 19 years ago respectively (Table 6.47). For the foreign migrants, the contribution of Pakistani migrants was very less and it covered a total of 391 immigrants in West Bengal, among them 25 percent were enumerated in Kolkata and 14 percent were from South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal (Table 6.47). Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, migrants from other countries contributed little less than 10 thousand and a majority of them entered Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts (Figure 6.90) with 39 percent and 22 percent of total emigrants from other countries except for Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively (Table 6.47).

All the districts of West Bengal witnessed major migratory flow from the immigrants who resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years. Most of the districts absorbed a majority of migrants from outside states of West Bengal. So these in-migrations occurred from different states of India to West Bengal (Figure 6.90). Of the total migrants, Bangladeshi emigrants were highest in northern districts of West Bengal especially Koch Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, and Malda. Southern and Eastern parts of West Bengal also witnessed the same in which Bangladeshi immigrants outnumbered the others in North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, and Murshidabad (Figure 6.90).

# Immigration in West Bengal

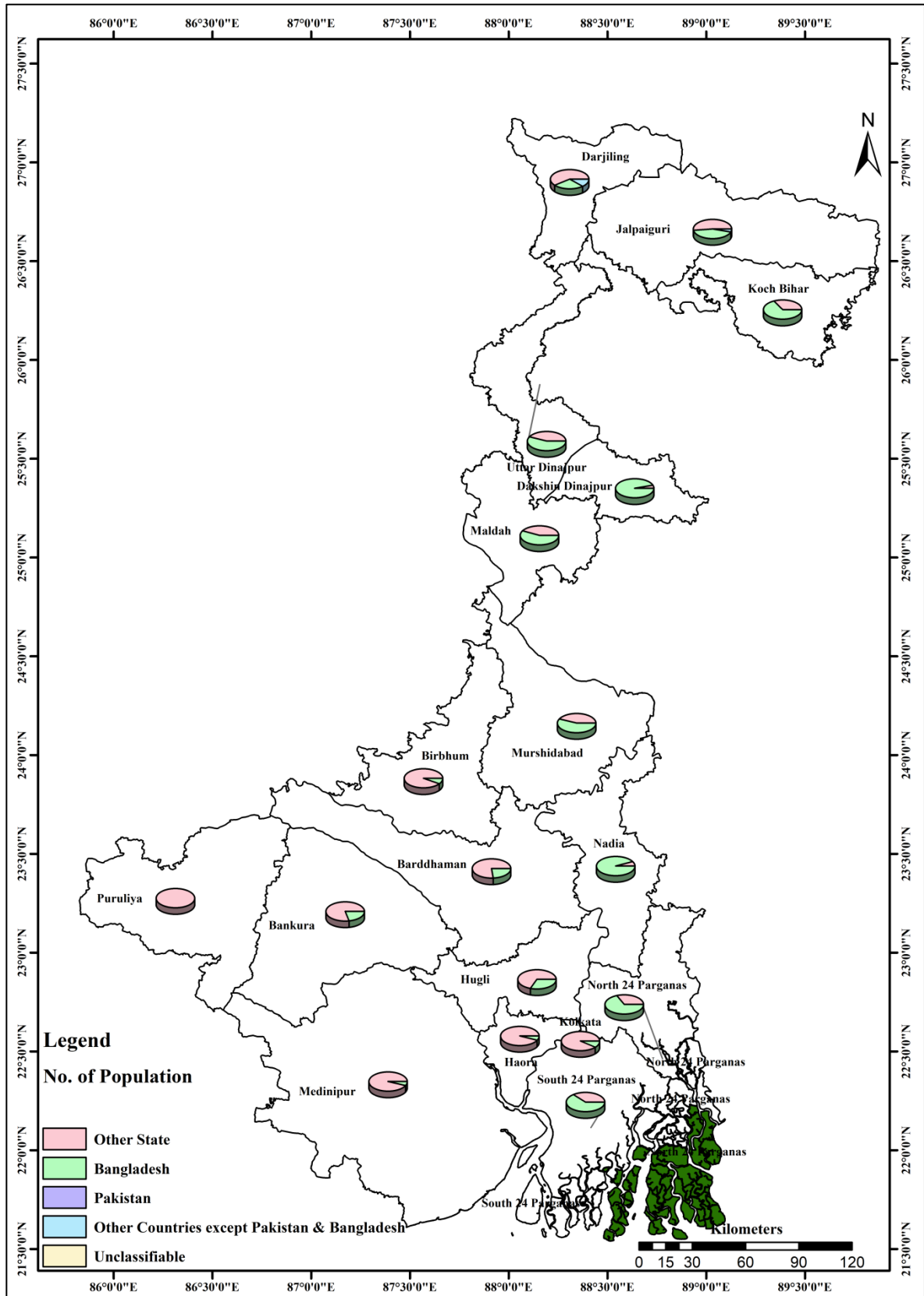


Figure 6.90 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 10 to 19 Years, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.48 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for more than 20 years in West Bengal, 2001**

Enumerated	Place of Last Residence				
	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Darjiling</b>	32881	28685	190	6823	1
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	53203	122502	393	6323	0
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	15107	131487	195	79	0
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	26885	59937	124	243	0
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	3405	77947	103	71	0
<b>Maldah</b>	18123	49399	77	122	0
<b>Murshidabad</b>	9374	32674	116	87	0
<b>Birbhum</b>	22257	6287	24	112	0
<b>Barddhaman</b>	163072	81658	490	1089	0
<b>Nadia</b>	11256	318634	130	242	0
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	133615	447708	540	1969	0
<b>Hugli</b>	79146	73896	303	575	0
<b>Bankura</b>	5024	4705	9	70	0
<b>Puruliya</b>	39870	801	30	81	0
<b>Medinipur</b>	42327	12134	78	410	0
<b>Haora</b>	87678	22947	188	630	11
<b>Kolkata</b>	194105	134415	1771	3046	0
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	17334	44834	98	370	0

Source: Census of India, 2001

According to the census of 2001, West Bengal witnessed large numbers of migrants flow from other states of India as well as from different countries of the world and they stayed more than 20 years in West Bengal. This group of migrants contributed to around 26 lakhs population (Table 6.42, 6.48) settled in different parts of West Bengal. Among them, 16.50 lakhs migrants last resided in Bangladesh which accounted for more than 62 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years (Table 6.42). The next higher group of migrants previously stayed in different states of India and entered West Bengal and contributed 9.54 lakhs immigrants or more than 36 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for this specific time frame (Table 6.42).

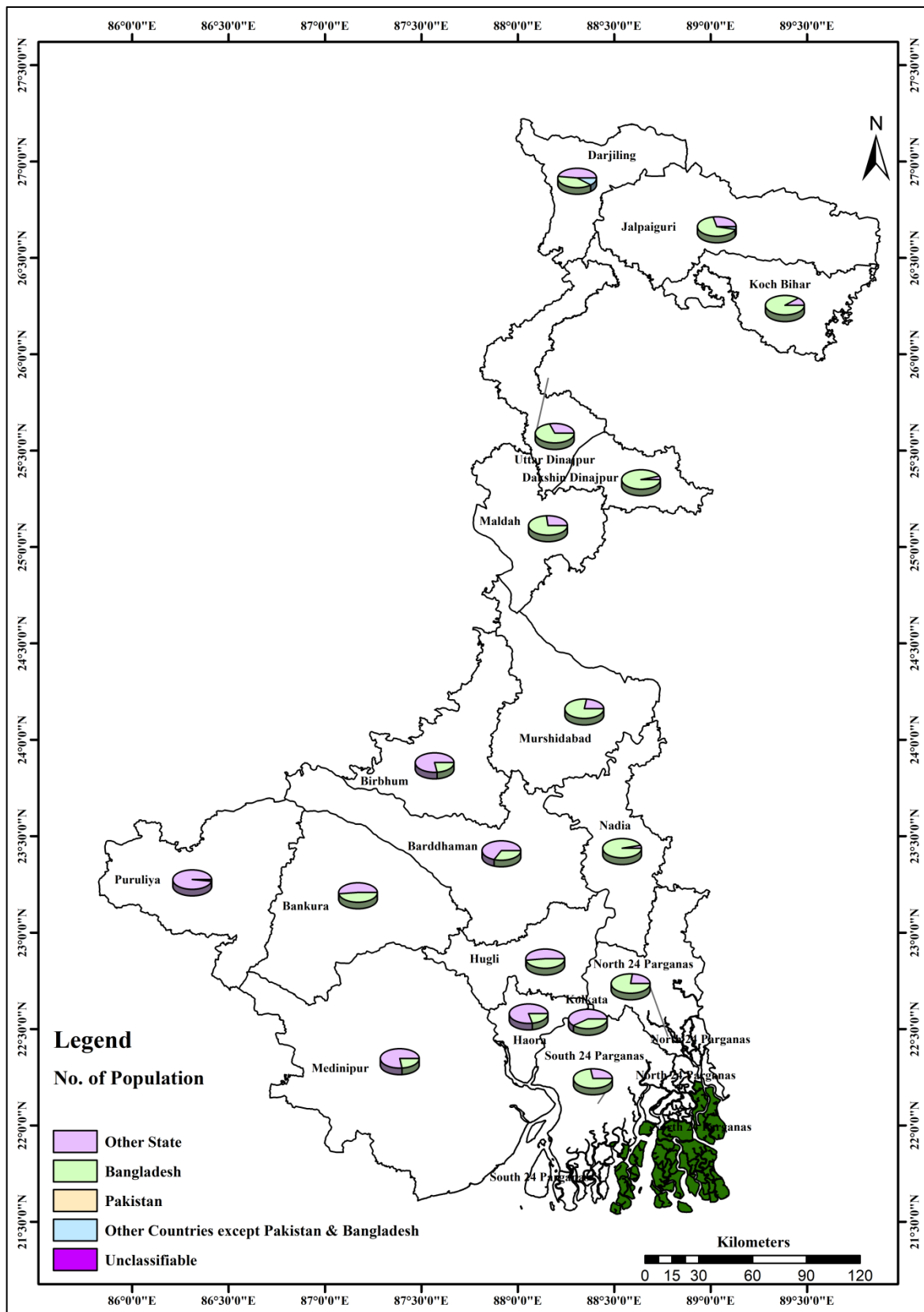
## Immigration in West Bengal

Migrants from different states of India, after entering West Bengal distributed in different districts. The majority of them choose Kolkata, Bardhaman, and North 24 Parganas for their destination and contributed 20 percent, 17 percent, and 14 percent of total migrants enumerated from outside states of West Bengal respectively (Table 6.48) and they also resided in West Bengal for more than 20 years. Emigrants from Bangladesh contributed more than 62 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years and were settled mainly in North 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal. It accounted for more than 27 percent and 19 percent of total Bangladesh moved emigrants respectively (Table 6.48). Pakistani migrants mainly settled in Kolkata and it contributed more than 36 percent of total Pakistani emigrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years (Table 6.48). Except for Bangladesh and Pakistan, other countries of the world also initiated the migratory flow in West Bengal, and the majority of these foreign migrants settled in Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts which accounted for more than 30 percent and 28 percent of total emigrants originating from different countries of the world outside Pakistan and Bangladesh respectively (Table 6.48).

Figure 6.91 represents the migration pattern of West Bengal in which the migrants from outside the state entered and resided for more than 20 years in West Bengal. All the districts of West Bengal witnessed the migratory flow from outside states as well as outside India. Among them, concerning the total population maximum numbers of outside states, migrants entered in Birbhum, Puruliya, Medinipur, Howrah, Kolkata, and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal. These districts observed maximum emigration from different states of India than others emigration (Figure 6.91). On the other hand, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Uttar, and Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas witnessed major migratory flow from Bangladesh in respect to their total immigration (Figure 6.91). Foreign emigration outside Pakistan and Bangladesh was mainly observed in the Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal (Figure 6.91). Here migration mainly occurred from Nepal due to the presence of their co-religionist in these districts (Table 6.40).

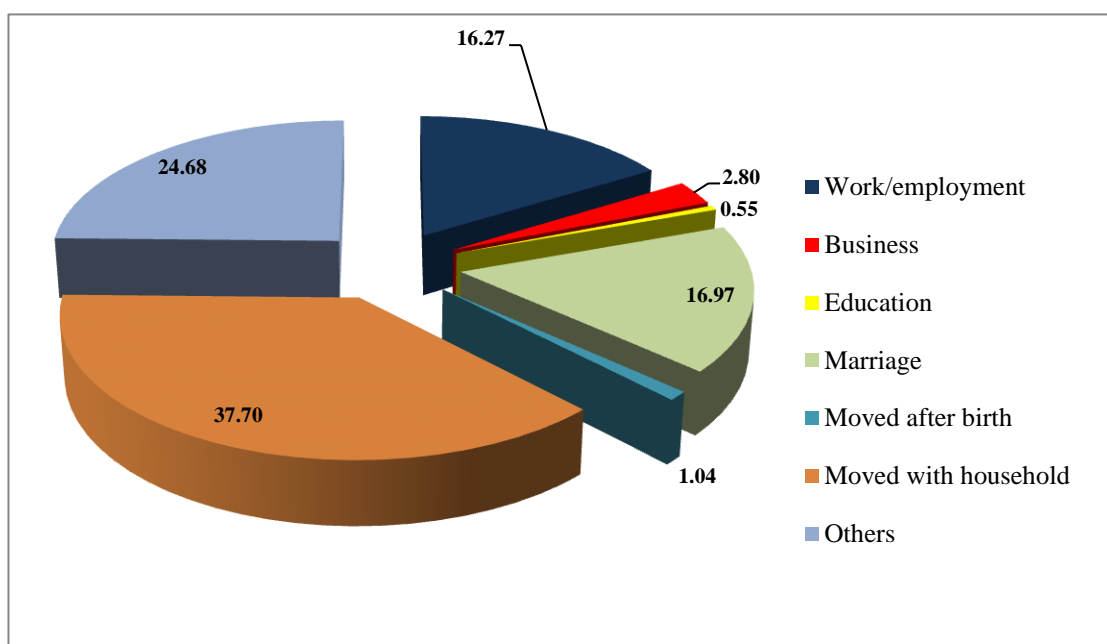


# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.91 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for more than 20 Years, 2001**

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.92 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 10 years and the Reasons of their Migration, 2001**

Census 2001 categorized the migration data based on reasons for their displacement. Table 6.43 represents that there were around more than 37 lakhs immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years (Table 6.43). There were several reasons behind this phase of migration. The majority of these migrants entered West Bengal with their households and it accounted for around 38 percent of total migrants who lived for 10 years. This purpose was largely observed among the foreign emigrants than the others in West Bengal (Figure 6.92). The next major reason for immigration was categorized as 'others' due to different kinds of purses (Figure 6.92) and the majority of this reason was mainly incorporated among the migrants from outside India (Table 6.43). It accounted for more than 24 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years. Marriage and employment purposes contributed an equal share of migrants i.e. more or less 16 percent of total immigrants lived in West Bengal for this period individually (Figure 6.92) and in both cases, higher numbers of immigrants originated from different states of India (Table 6.43). Business, movement after birth, and Education contributed around 3 percent, 1.04 percent, and 0.55 percent of total immigrants who resided in West Bengal for 10 years or more (Figure 6.92). The majority of the emigrants for moved after birth and business purpose were observed from outside states of India and for educational purposes, foreign migrants' contributions were highest than the others (Table 6.43).

## Immigration in West Bengal

Table 6.43 also represents a table which denoted 'all duration' means the total immigrants resided in West Bengal in 2001. This incorporated all the migrants who lived in West Bengal for different periods as well as those migrants who did not specify their time of arrival in West Bengal. 5042004 lakh immigrants resided in West Bengal for all duration of which 357217 were indefinite migrants who did not disclose their time of arrival (Table 6.43).

**Table 6.49 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for Indefinite time in West Bengal, 2001**

Enumerated	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Darjiling</b>	13678	4345	27	2,279	5
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	10714	7790	54	794	0
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	2605	7759	28	22	0
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	3273	3863	5	38	0
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	408	5316	10	8	0
<b>Maldah</b>	2705	3400	6	32	0
<b>Murshidabad</b>	2231	2640	5	21	0
<b>Birbhum</b>	2528	306	2	12	0
<b>Barddhaman</b>	31322	6910	38	161	0
<b>Nadia</b>	3078	17994	9	27	0
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	30463	47388	83	414	0
<b>Hugli</b>	14667	5715	16	131	0
<b>Bankura</b>	988	195	1	8	0
<b>Puruliya</b>	5201	74	0	13	0
<b>Medinipur</b>	6746	764	2	56	0
<b>Haora</b>	19153	2500	27	110	3
<b>Kolkata</b>	51969	19471	254	906	0
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	7359	5965	8	119	0

**Source: Census of India, 2001**

There were more than 3.57 lakhs migrants registered in West Bengal who previously resided either at different states of India as well as at outside India (Table 6.42, 6.49). This group of migrants did not mention their arrival in West Bengal and in the census of 2001 they were registered as 'undefined' migrants. The majority of these immigrants were moved from outside states of West Bengal and they accounted for

## Immigration in West Bengal

around 59 percent of total indefinite immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.42). They were mainly concentrated in Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal which accounted for 25 percent, 14 percent, and 15 percent of total immigrants last stayed in different states of India respectively (Table 6.49). Bangladeshi migrants contributed 40 percent of total migrants who stayed in West Bengal for indefinite periods and the majority of them were concentrated in North 24 Parganas and Kolkata. They contributed more than 33 percent and 14 percent of total emigrants from Bangladesh respectively (Table 6.49). Pakistani emigrants after entering West Bengal concentrated mainly in Kolkata which covered more than 44 percent of total Pakistani emigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.49). Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, emigrants from other countries of the world settled in the Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal and accounted for around 42 percent and 15 percent of total immigrants from other countries of the world except for Bangladesh and Pakistan (Table 6.49).

After arriving in West Bengal these migrants were settled in different districts. Concerning the total immigrants Darjiling, Jalpaiguri, Purulia, Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Medinipur, Hugli, Haora and Kolkata witnessed large numbers of emigrants from outside states of West Bengal (Figure 6.93). The remaining districts absorbed the majority of the migrants from Bangladesh in respect to its total immigrants (Figure 6.93). The majority of the emigrants from foreign countries except Bangladesh and Pakistan were mainly concentrated in the Darjiling and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal (Figure 6.90) and these foreign migrants were mainly entered from Nepal (Table 6.40). The majority of the Indian soldiers were from the Nepali and Gorkha communities which encouraged these groups of migrants to enumerate in West Bengal.

# Immigration in West Bengal

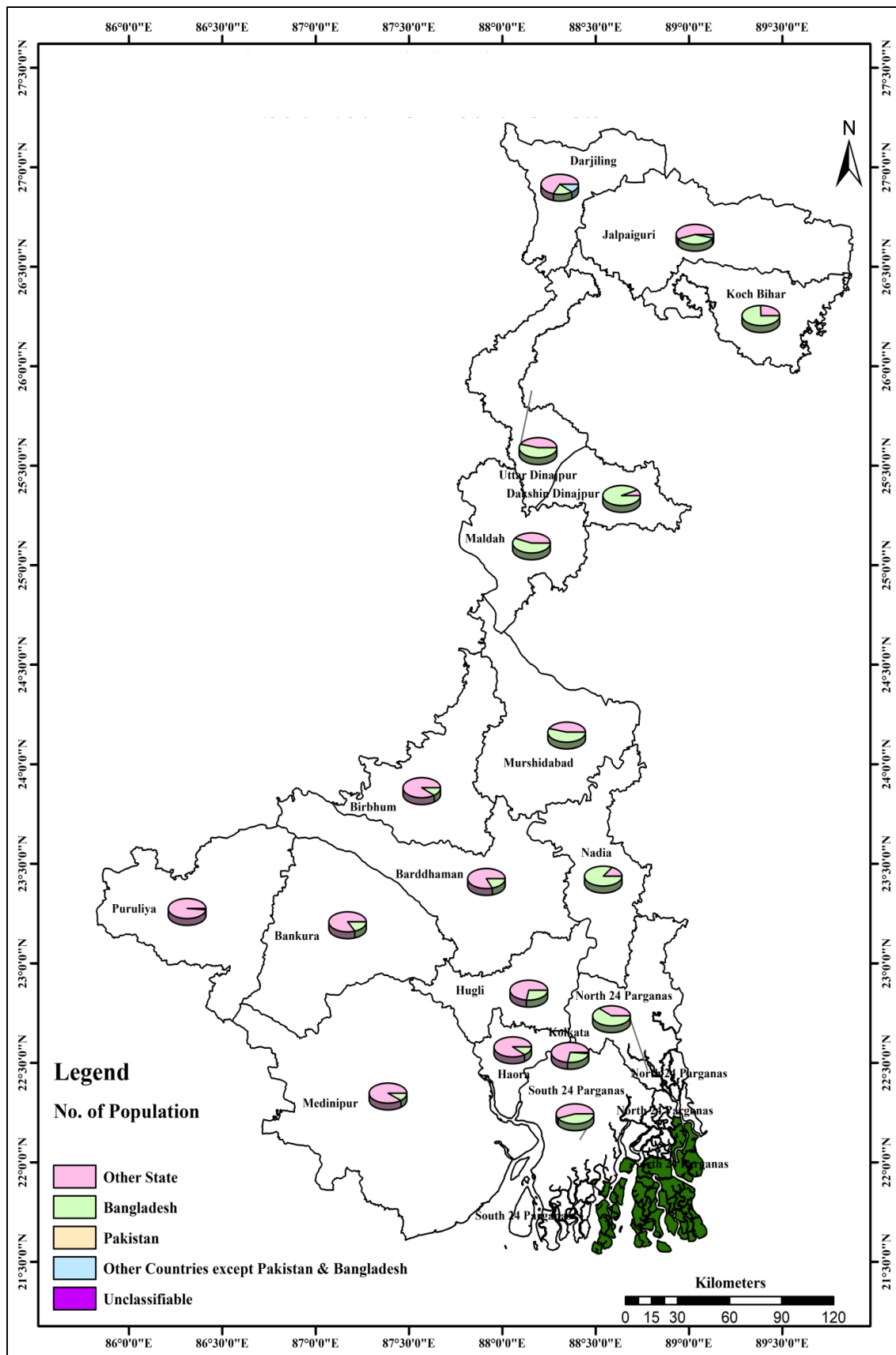
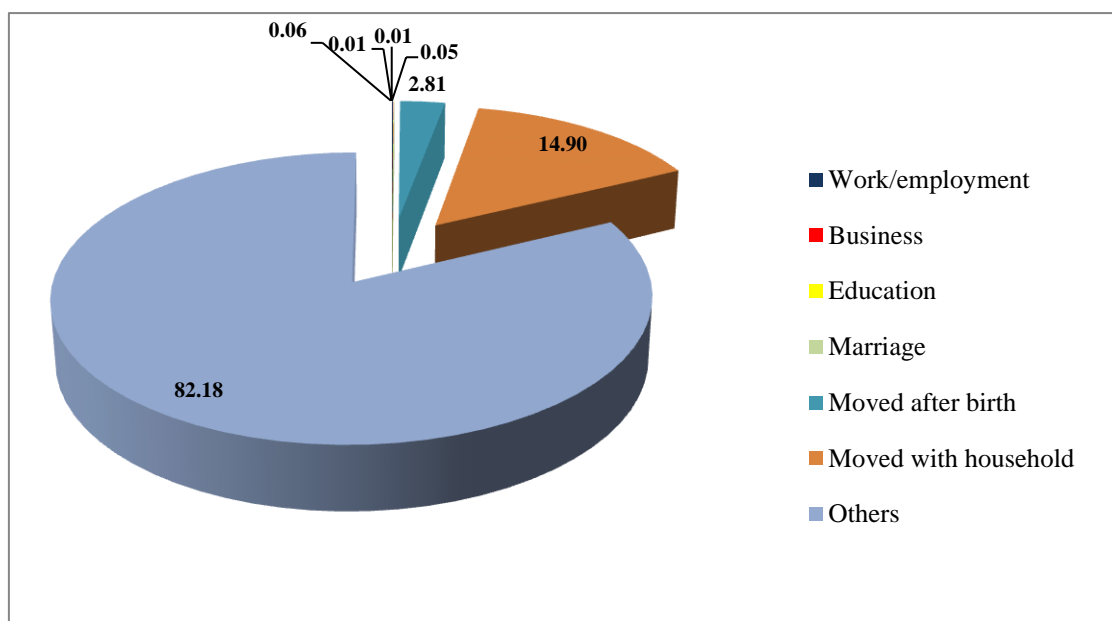


Figure 6.93 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for Indefinite Period, 2001

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.94 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for undefined periods and the Reasons of their Migration**

These 3.57 lakhs immigrants arrived in West Bengal for different purposes (Table 6.43). Large numbers of migrants entered for ‘others’ purposes which were not fall under the categories of census 2001. This group of emigrants accounted for more than 82 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal who did not specify their time of arrival (Figure 6.94). The next major group of migrants entered with their households and it constituted 15 percent of the total undefined immigrants of West Bengal (Figure 6.94). Around 2.81 percent of emigrants entered West Bengal after birth and the remaining 1.13 percent of emigrants shifted their place of the last residence for employment, business, education, and marriage purposes (Figure 6.94). In all cases, the majority of the migrants previously resided different states in India and enumerated in West Bengal (Table 6.43).

## **6.8 Flow of Immigrants in West Bengal, 2011**

Migration flow in West Bengal was never stopped though its pace of movement became flow over time. Census 2011 also enumerated the migration flow in West Bengal from all over the world as well as from different states and union territories of India. This is the latest census that records the population status of West Bengal and also enumerates its current migratory pattern.

Immigration in West Bengal occurred before the independence of India and it continued nowadays. Despite of absence of distinct incidents like the partition of Bengal or the Bangladesh Liberation War, West Bengal observed in-migratory flow due to socio-economic and personal reasons. These factors drive people from all over India as well as from all the continents to shift their place of origin and entered West Bengal.

Like previous censuses, Census 2011 also categorised the migrants into two types; migrants by birth and migrants by place of last residence (POLR).

### **6.8.1 Structure of Indian Administrative Regions, 2011**

There were no distinct changes that occurred in Indian administrative regions in 2011. Only Uttaranchal state, which curved out from Uttar Pradesh on 9 November 2009 was renamed Uttarakhand in January 2007 (Mathur, Uttarakhand, Britannica, 21 March 2018).

### **6.8.2 Population Enumeration in West Bengal, 2011**

According to the census of 2011, West Bengal had 19 districts. The entire Midnapur district was divided into two administrative regions i.e. the western Paschim Medinipur and the eastern Purba Medinipur and it became effective on 1 January 2002 (Ananda Bazar Patrica, 1 January 2002).

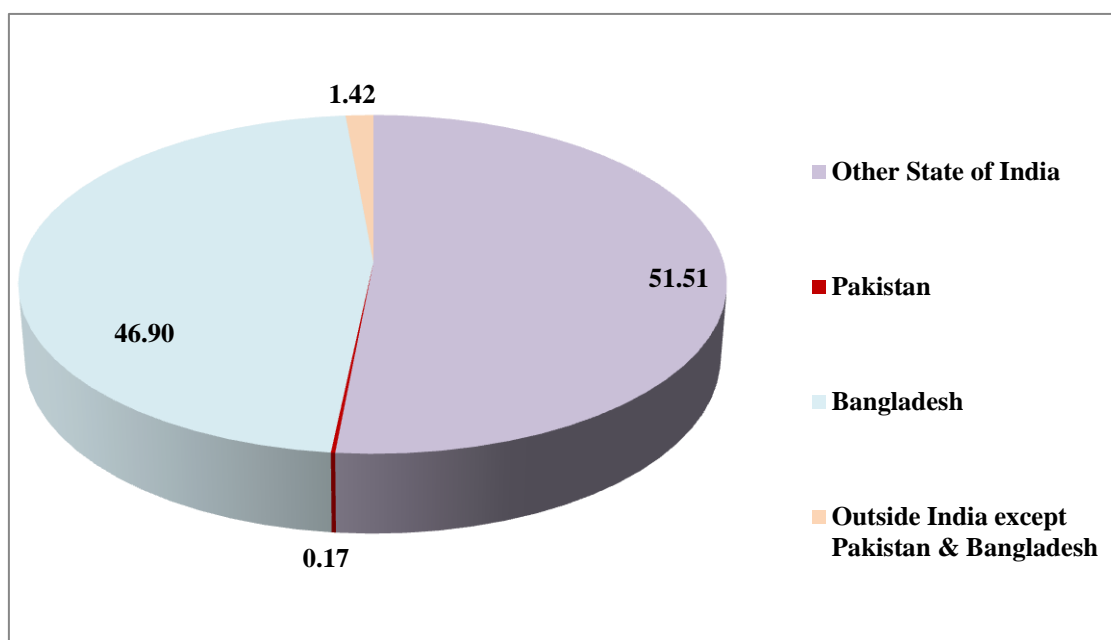
Census 2011 also enumerated the immigrants from outside states of West Bengal as well as outside India.

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.50 Estimated Population Enumerations in West Bengal, 2011**

Born	Population
<b>Total Population In West Bengal</b>	91276115
<b>Born in West Bengal</b>	86529284
<b>Born Outside States</b>	2440613
<b>Born in Pakistan</b>	8068
<b>Born in Bangladesh</b>	2222091
<b>Born Outside India except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	67419

Source: Census of India, 2011



**Figure 6.95 Immigrations in West Bengal, 2011**

Census 2011 registered a 9.13 crore population in West Bengal. Among them, 8.90 crores were either born in West Bengal or born in other states of India and entered West Bengal. Among these 8.90 crore population, around 8.65 crores were born in



## Immigration in West Bengal

West Bengal (Table 6.50) which constituted 97 percent of the total population born in India, and the remaining 24.40 lakhs population were born outside states of West Bengal (Table 6.50). There were 22.97 lakhs foreign-born population registered in West Bengal which constituted only 2.52 percent of the total population in West Bengal (Table 6.50).

West Bengal witnessed more than 47 lakhs immigrants in 2011. The majority of them originated from different states of India and they accounted for more than 51 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.95). The remaining 48 percent of migrants were born abroad and among them, the majority of people were from Bangladesh. It contributed 47 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.95) or 97 percent of total foreign-born emigrants in West Bengal. Around 0.17 percent of total immigrants were born in Pakistan and the remaining 1.42 percent of migrants originated from other countries in World excluding Bangladesh and Pakistan (Figure 6.95).

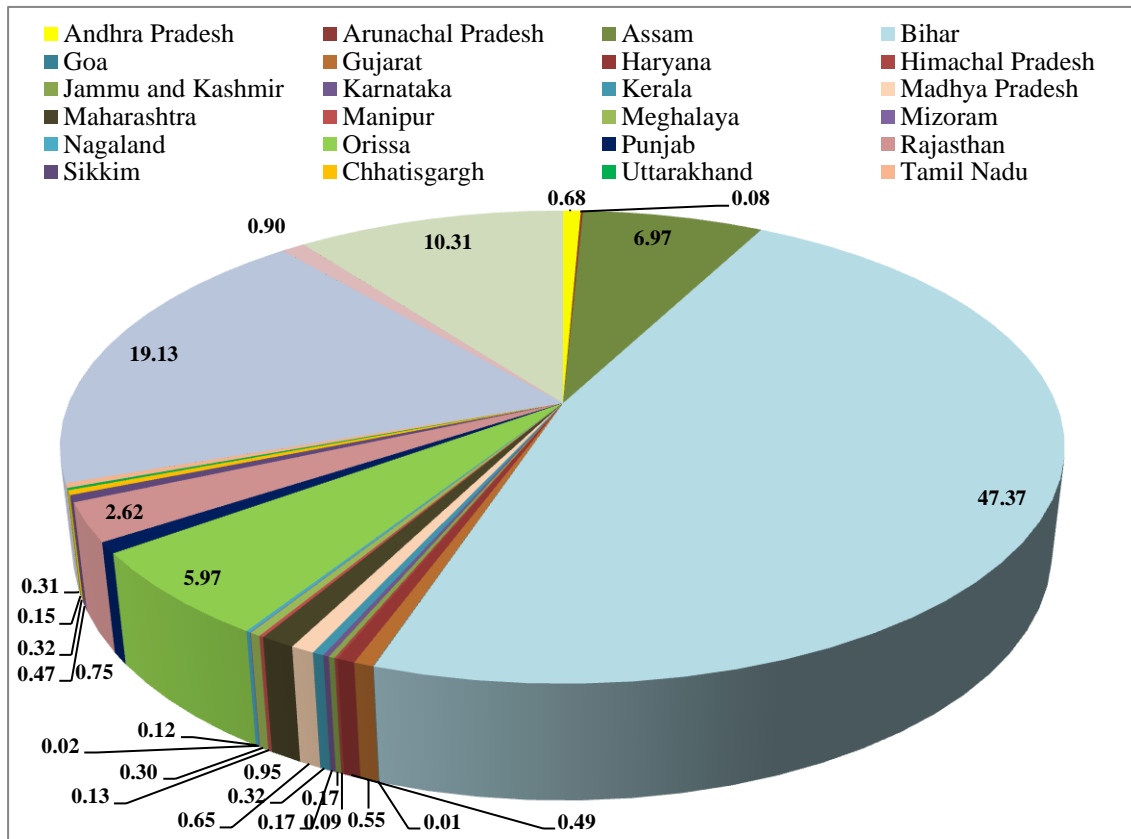
## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.51 Enumerations in West Bengal from Outside States, 2011**

<b>States (Born)</b>	<b>Population</b>
Andhra Pradesh	16590
Arunachal Pradesh	2056
Assam	169018
Bihar	1149023
Goa	351
Gujarat	13249
Haryana	11790
Himachal Pradesh	2259
Jammu and Kashmir	4191
Karnataka	4066
Kerala	7723
Madhya Pradesh	15779
Maharashtra	22991
Manipur	3049
Meghalaya	7232
Mizoram	575
Nagaland	2982
Orissa	144770
Punjab	18079
Rajasthan	63661
Sikkim	11473
Chhattisgarh	7781
Uttarakhand	3530
Tamil Nadu	7525
Jharkhand	464133
Tripura	21724
Uttar Pradesh	249993

Source: Census of India, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.96 Immigrations to West Bengal from Other States of India (2011)**

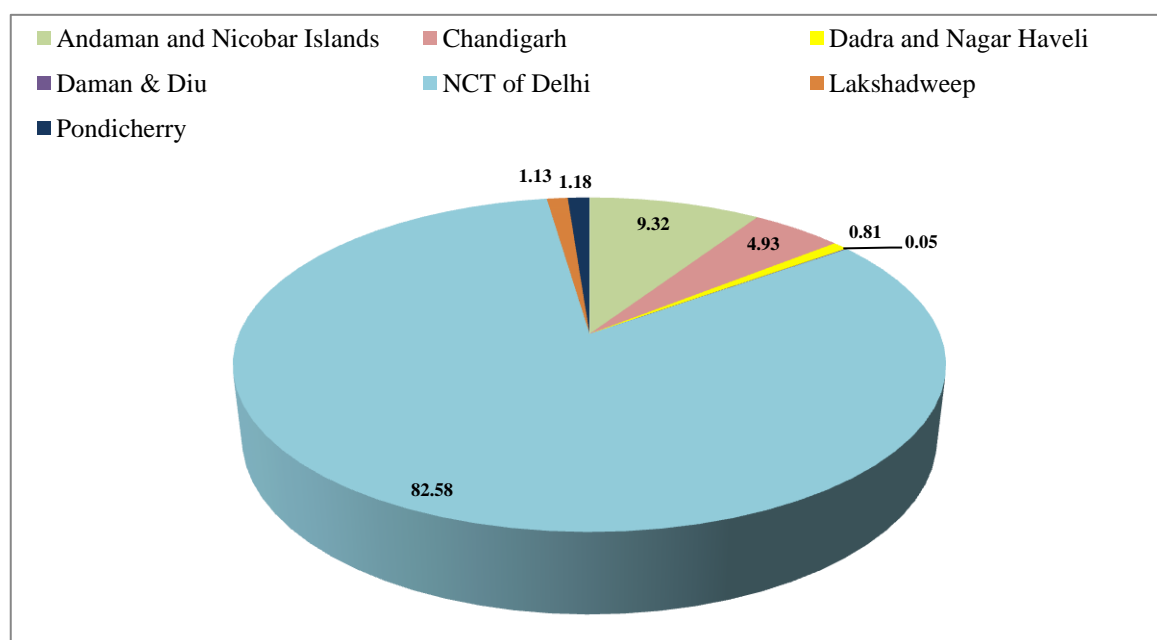
According to the census of 2011, there were 24.25 lakhs migrants enumerated in West Bengal from outside states of India (Table 6.51). The majority of them were born in Bihar with more than 11 lakhs immigrants who constituted more than 47 percent of total immigrants born outside states of West Bengal (Figure 6.96). It was followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh which accounted for more than 19 percent and 10 percent of total migrants from different states of India respectively (Figure 6.96). These migrants were mainly attracted by the employment opportunities and better lifestyle in West Bengal. The location of Bihar and Jharkhand adjacent to West Bengal was one of the major factors of the migration in West Bengal. The next higher group of migrants originated from Assam and Orissa with little less than 7 percent and 6 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal, born in other states of India accordingly (Figure 6.96). These two states were linguistically similar to West Bengal which might be influenced the migrants to enumerate in West Bengal.

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.52 Enumerations in West Bengal from Union Territories of India, 2011**

Union Territories (Born)	Population
<b>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</b>	1400
<b>Chandigarh</b>	741
<b>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</b>	121
<b>Daman &amp; Diu</b>	8
<b>NCT of Delhi</b>	12403
<b>Lakshadweep</b>	170
<b>Pondicherry</b>	177

Source: Census of India, 2011



**Figure 6.97 Immigrations to West Bengal from Union Territories of India (2011)**

There were more than 15 thousand migrants in West Bengal who were born in different union territories of India (Table 6.52). Among them, more than 82 percent of immigrants originated in Delhi and it was followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh with more than 9 percent and little less than 5 percent of total migrants from union territories of India individually (Figure 6.97). The remaining 3 percent of migrants entered from Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu respectively (Figure 6.97).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.53 Migrants Origin from Outside the Country and Enumerated in West Bengal (2011)**

<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Born in Asia including U.S.S.R</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>Afghanistan</b>	166	<b>Myanmar</b>	2807
<b>Bangladesh</b>	2222091	<b>Nepal</b>	31162
<b>Bhutan</b>	3162	<b>Pakistan</b>	8068
<b>China</b>	227	<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	38
<b>Indonesia</b>	16	<b>Singapore</b>	82
<b>Iran</b>	14	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	58
<b>Iraq</b>	7	<b>Turkey</b>	1
<b>Japan</b>	60	<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	121
<b>Kuwait</b>	23	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	0
<b>Malaysia</b>	71	<b>Vietnam</b>	5
<b>Maldives</b>	6	<b>Elsewhere</b>	7298

<b>Born in Europe excluding U.S.S.R</b>		<b>Born in Africa</b>	
<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>	<b>Country in Origin</b>	<b>Number of Immigrants</b>
<b>France</b>	23	<b>Kenya</b>	12
<b>Germany</b>	76	<b>Mauritius</b>	3
<b>Portugal</b>	3	<b>Nigeria</b>	24
<b>U.K</b>	439	<b>Uganda</b>	1
<b>Elsewhere</b>	1922	<b>Zambia</b>	1
		<b>Elsewhere</b>	4937

## Immigration in West Bengal

Born in America		Born in Oceania	
Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants	Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants
Canada	55	Australia	34
U.S.A	629	Fiji	1
Elsewhere	6601	Elsewhere	7334

Country in Origin	Number of Immigrants
Unclassifiable	8640

**Source: Census of India, 2011**

Census 2011 registered more than 22 lakhs migrants in West Bengal who were born abroad (Table 6.50, 6.53). Among them, more than 99 percent of migrants were born in Asia and the remaining originated from other countries of the World. Bangladesh contributed little less than 98 percent of total immigrants born in Asia and it was followed by Nepal with more than 31 thousand estimated numbers of emigrants enumerated in West Bengal. It represented only 1.37 percent of total Asia-born migrants. After Asia, the majority of migrants were enumerated from the Americas and Oceania both of which accounted for 0.32 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal respectively (Table 6.53). The next group of migrants originated in Africa and Europe which covered the remaining 0.22 percent and 0.11 percent of total foreign migrants respectively. A group of migrants was categorised as ‘unclassifiable’ due to the non-availability of their place of birth and it estimated around 8 thousand migrants in West Bengal (Table 6.53).

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.54 District-wise Population Enumeration in West Bengal 2011 (based on birth places outside the State of enumeration)**

<b>Born</b>	<b>Other States of India</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Outside India except Pakistan &amp; Bangladesh</b>
<b>Bardhaman</b>	385153	495	116034	4265
<b>Birbhum</b>	65905	41	7109	499
<b>Bankura</b>	17233	26	5936	484
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	29044	59	591	1119
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	73474	546	10103	2434
<b>Hugli</b>	195260	369	118962	4305
<b>Haora</b>	216303	287	27693	2680
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	336669	1530	7,04,573	10369
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	82437	227	82,890	3856
<b>Kolkata</b>	379224	1488	1,00,593	4975
<b>Nadia</b>	37515	782	4,00,032	1640
<b>Murshidabad</b>	33787	207	35,243	898
<b>Malda</b>	64913	211	60,178	1085
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	6968	318	1,03,071	321
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	82331	192	87,488	1842
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	145417	602	1,78,905	8506
<b>Darjiling</b>	121104	291	58,054	16875
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	42934	361	1,23,967	840
<b>Purulia</b>	124942	36	669	426

Source: Census of India, 2011

# Immigration in West Bengal

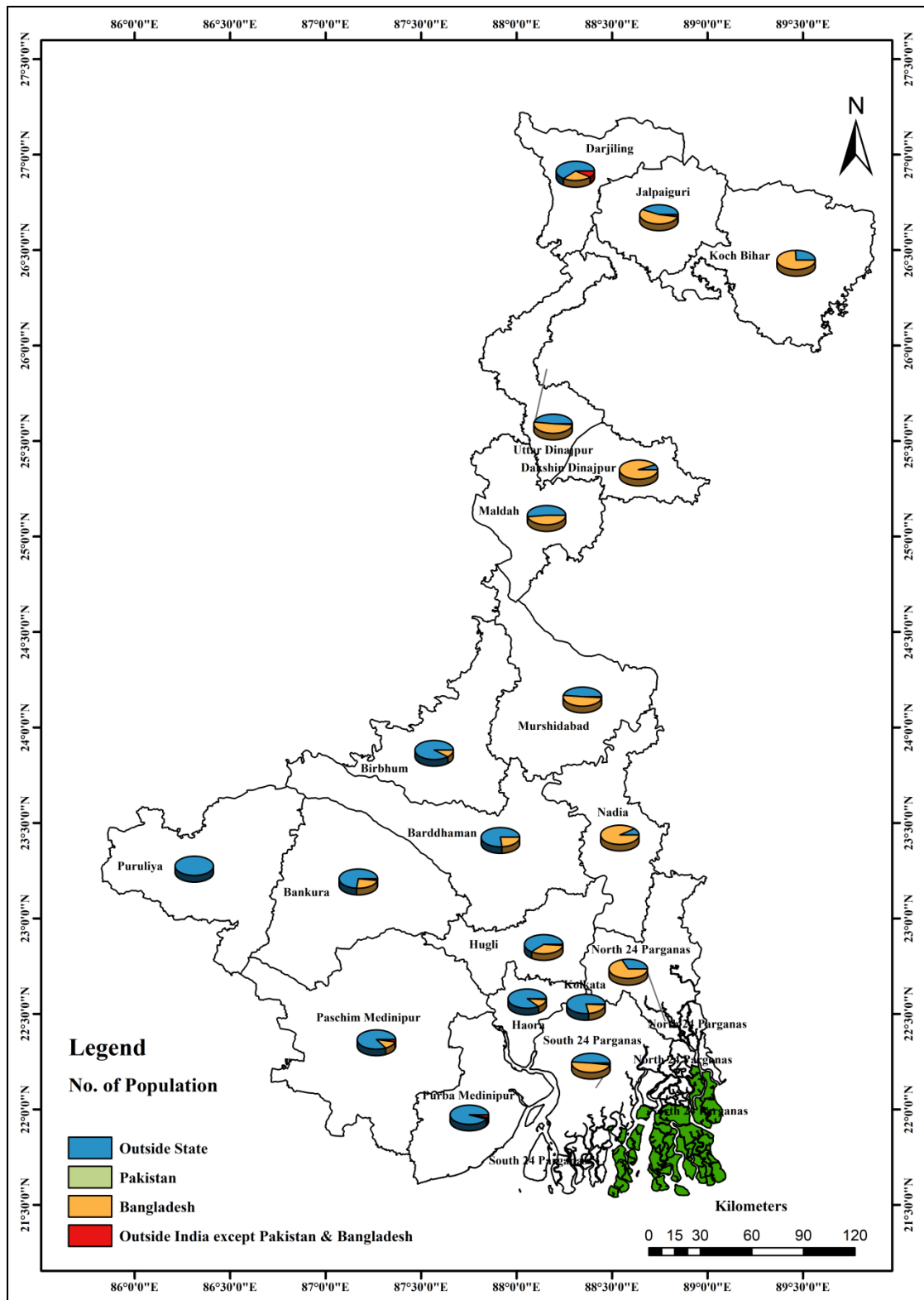


Figure 6.98 District wise Population Influx in West Bengal, 2011



## Immigration in West Bengal

There were 4.7 million migrants enumerated in West Bengal in 2011. Among them, the majority were born in different states of India (Approx. 52.52%) and the remaining were from outside India (Approx. 48.49%). Out of 4.7 million migrants in West Bengal, the majority of them were enumerated in the North 24 Parganas district which accounted for 22 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. It was followed by Bardhaman and Kolkata with 10.86 percent and 22.23 percent of total immigrants respectively (Table 6.54).

There were 2.4 million migrants born in different states in India and the majority of them entered Bardhaman which reflected around 16 percent of total immigrants from different states of India. Kolkata and North 24 Pargana secured the next positions in West Bengal which covered 16 percent and 14 percent of total immigrants from outside states of West Bengal respectively (Table 6.54).

The majority of foreign migrants entered North 24 Pargana and accounted for 31.18 percent of total migrants enumerated in West Bengal from outside India. It was followed by Nadia and Jalpaiguri with 18 percent and 8 percent of total emigrants outside India respectively (Table 6.54).

The majority of the outside India-born migrants originated from Bangladesh (97%) and large numbers of them were enumerated in North 24 Parganas with 32 percent of total Bangladesh-born emigrants (Table 6.54).

In the case of Pakistan-born emigrants, the majority of them choose North 24 Pargana and Kolkata as their destination with 19 percent and 18 percent of total Pakistan-born migrants (Table 6.54)

Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, the contribution of other countries in the world was more than 67 thousand (Table 6.54) which covered 3 percent of total foreign migrants. Among them, more than 16 thousand were enumerated in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal (Table 6.54).

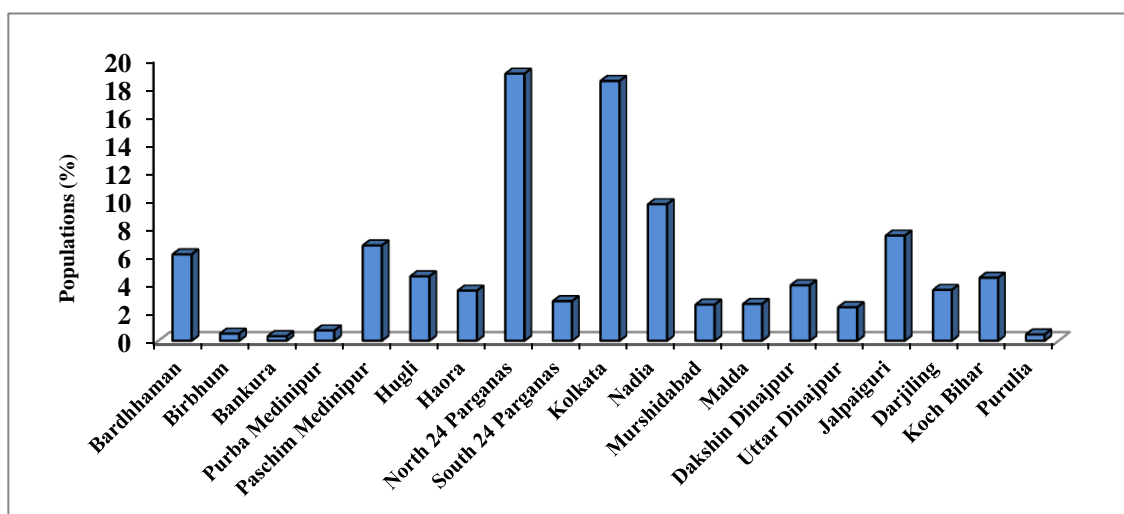
West Bengal witnessed around 4.7 million migratory flows in 2011 of which the majority were concentrated in North 24 Pargana with 22 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Among these immigrants majority (67%) were from Bangladesh (Figure 6.98). After North 24 Pargana, Bardhaman, Kolkata, and Nadia were the next choices of the migrants which absorbed 11 percent, 10 percent, and 9.29 percent

## Immigration in West Bengal

of total immigrants in West Bengal. The majority of these immigrants were born in different states of India; except in the Nadia district where numbers of Bangladeshi emigrants outnumbered the other emigrants (Figure 6.98). Figure 6.95 also represented that concerning the total migrants, the majority of the emigrants were from Bangladesh in northern districts of West Bengal such as Jalpaiguri, Cooch Bihar, Uttar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Murshidabad, etc. for their destination. The western part of West Bengal witnessed a majority of the emigrants from different states of India which exceeded the foreign-born emigrants (Figure 6.98).

8068 migrants were born in Pakistan and enumerated in West Bengal in 2011 (Table 6.53, 6.54). After arriving in West Bengal they were distributed all over West Bengal and the majority of them were concentrated south-eastern part and northern parts of the state (Figure 6.100). North 24 Parganas and Kolkata sheltered around 19 percent and 18 percent of total Pakistan-born migrants (Figure 6.99). It was followed by Nadia, Jalpaiguri, and Paschim Medinipur districts of West Bengal with 9.69 percent, 7.46 percent, and 6.77 percent of total Pakistani emigrants (Figure 6.99). Jalpaiguri was one of the major northern districts of West Bengal which attracted more Pakistani emigrants than the remaining districts. More than 400 Pakistan-born emigrants were enumerated in this district of West Bengal (Figure 6.100).

Purulia, Birbhum, Bankura, and Purba Medinipur, were among those districts of West Bengal which witnessed very fewer numbers of Pakistani emigrants (less than 100) (Table 6.54) and contributed less than 1 percent of total Pakistan-born emigrants individually (Figure 6.99).



**Figure 6.99** Immigration from Pakistan, 2011

# Immigration in West Bengal

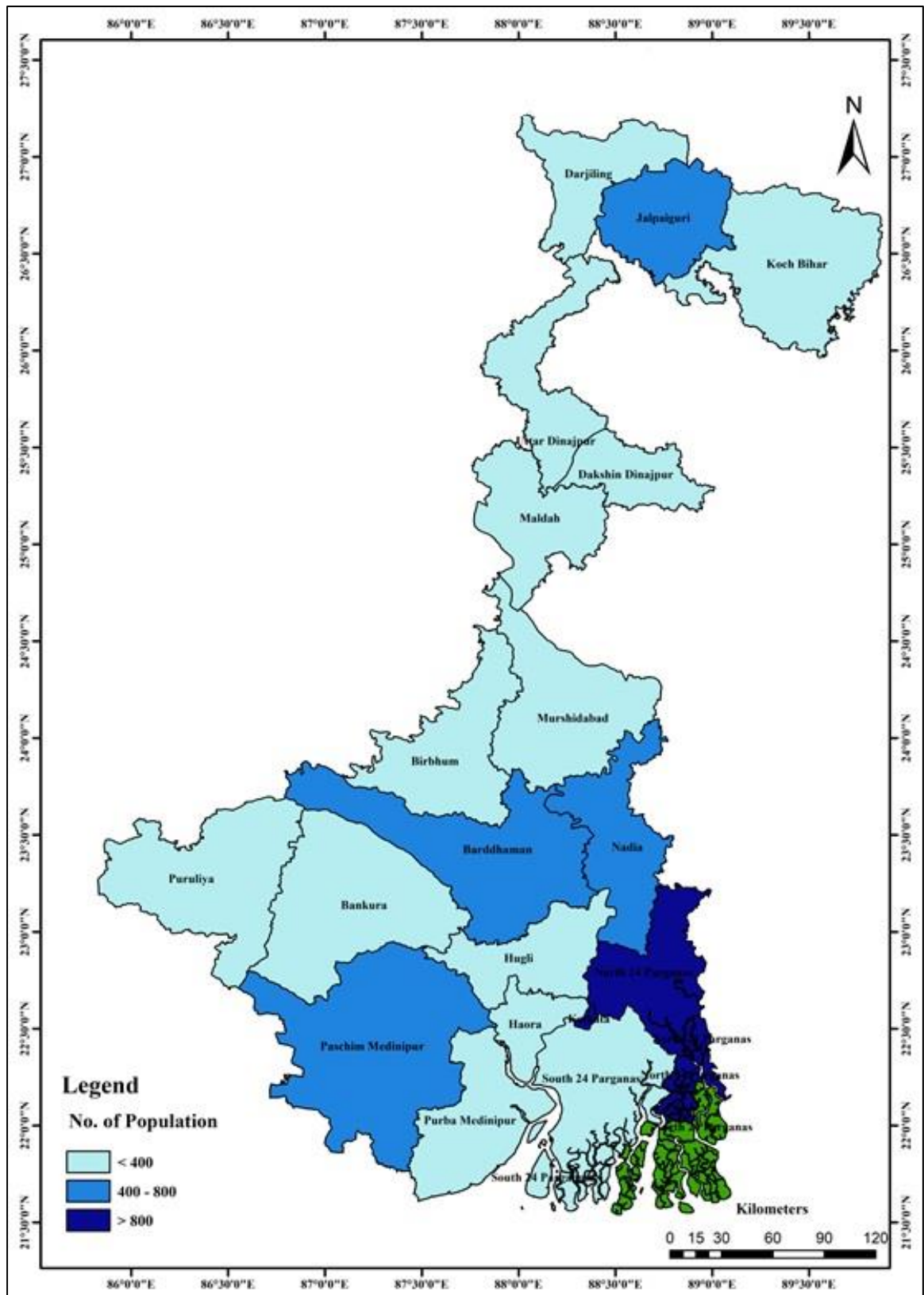


Figure 6.100 Concentrations of Pakistani Immigrants in West Bengal, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were around 2.2 million Bangladeshi migrants in West Bengal and the majority of them were enumerated in the North 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal (Figures 6.101 and 6.102). It accounted for around 32 percent and 18 percent of total Bangladeshi-born emigrants respectively (Figure 6.101).

Bangladeshi-born migrants were mainly concentrated in the south-eastern part of West Bengal where Nadia and North 24 Parganas witnessed more than 4 lakhs of Bangladeshi migrants individually (Figure 6.102). In the northern part of West Bengal Koch Bihar, Jalpaiguri and Dakshin Dinajpur absorbed more than 1 lakhs emigrants from Bangladesh (Figure 6.102). In the central part of the state, Hugli and Bardhaman observed the same (Figure 6.102). Most of these districts except Bardhaman and Hugli were located at the border of Bangladesh which also influenced the migrants to arrive in West Bengal.

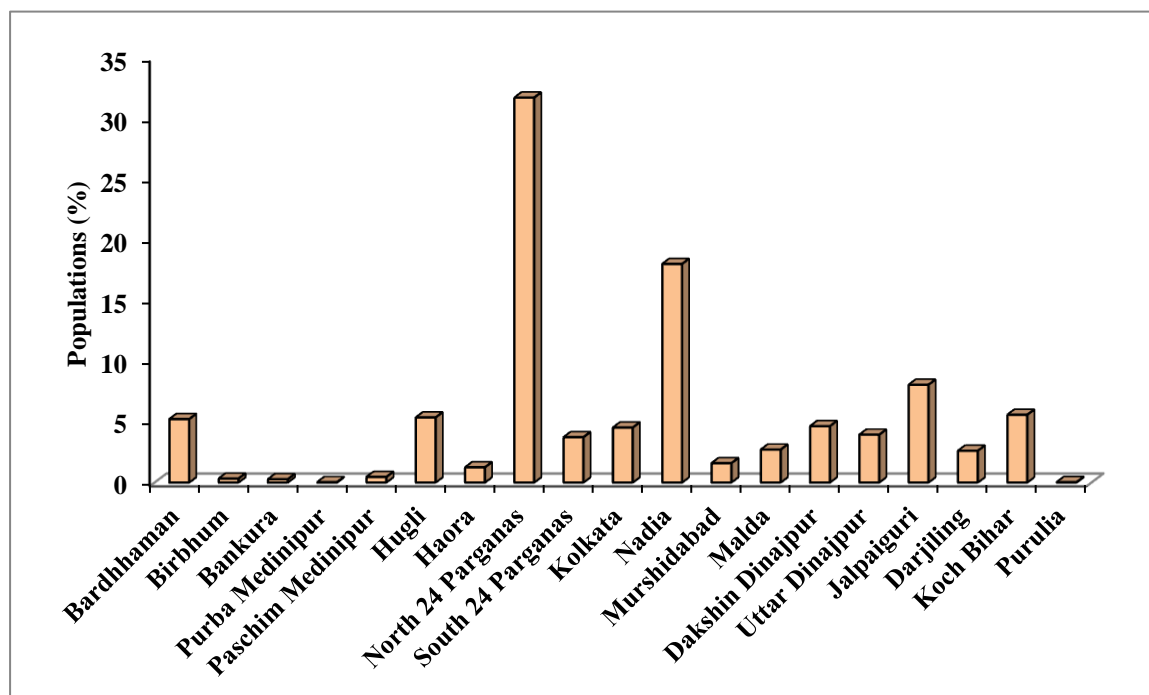


Figure 6.101 Immigrations from Bangladesh, 2011

# Immigration in West Bengal

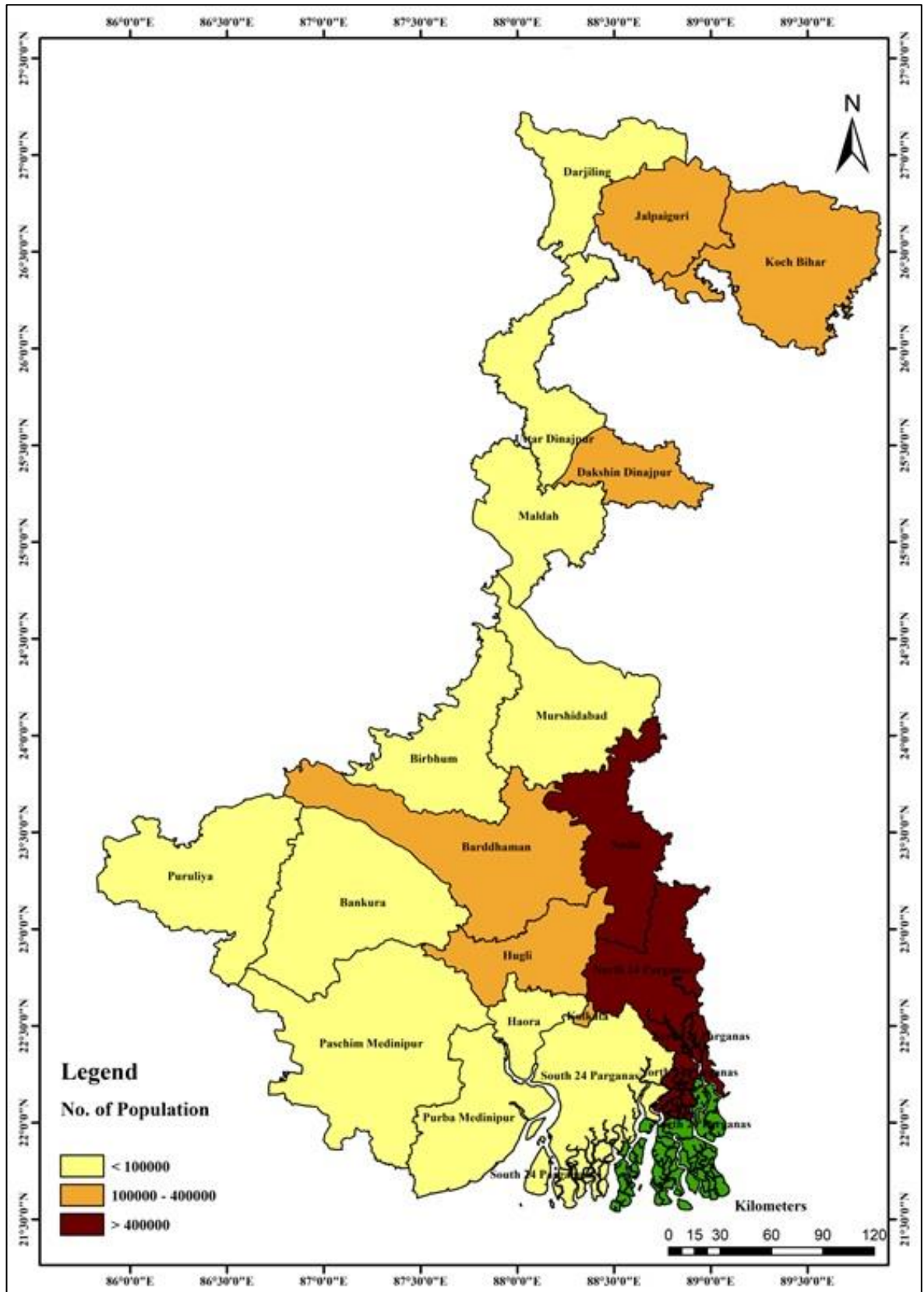


Figure 6.102 Concentrations of Bangladeshi Immigrants in West Bengal, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.55 Enumerations of Migrants in West Bengal 2011 (Based on POLR and Duration of Residence in West Bengal)**

<b>Duration of Residence in West Bengal</b>	<b>&lt;1 year</b>	<b>1-4 years</b>	<b>5-9 years</b>	<b>10-19 years</b>	<b>&gt; 20 Years</b>	<b>Period not stated</b>
<b>Outside West Bengal</b>	112386	312533	304783	537772	946820	166751
<b>Bangladesh</b>	19136	54387	77726	244471	1417281	83554
<b>Pakistan</b>	65	255	273	521	5256	543
<b>Outside Country except Bangladesh &amp; Pakistan</b>	4643	14159	12666	20608	36557	13834
<b>Unclassifiable</b>	314	1173	1116	1896	3339	812

Source: Census of India, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.56 Enumeration of Migrants based on Purposes of Movements, 2011**

Duration of Residence	Place of Last Residence	Total Migrants	Work/employment	Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after birth	Moved with households	Others
<b>All Duration</b>	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	2381045	468773	83472	21037	773672	77981	538720	417390
	Last residence outside India	2005945	139901	30698	7929	267658	24264	918633	616862
	Unclassifiable	8676	860	185	92	3792	600	1406	1741
<b>Less than 1 year</b>	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	112386	35484	2406	1487	13264	2547	37106	20092
	Last residence outside India	23844	3098	447	192	2314	588	8903	8302
	Unclassifiable	314	56	5	6	68	22	87	70
<b>1-4 years</b>	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	312533	53726	7267	7465	96779	10216	92281	44799
	Last residence outside India	68801	7837	1517	1022	14074	1796	24952	17603
	Unclassifiable	1173	157	16	43	530	99	162	166
<b>5-9 years</b>	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	304783	51838	9271	3124	106483	10857	81903	41307
	Last residence outside India	90665	9668	2031	538	18361	1921	35535	22611
	Unclassifiable	1116	98	17	9	561	87	196	148
<b>10 years and above</b>	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	1484592	308874	60447	6580	525749	40419	302093	240430
	Last residence outside India	1724704	113902	25086	5607	222635	14842	825102	517530
	Unclassifiable	5260	519	135	26	2505	337	909	829
<b>Period not Stated</b>	States in India beyond the state of enumeration	166751	18851	4081	2381	31397	13942	25337	70762
	Last residence outside India	97931	5396	1617	570	10274	5117	24141	50816
	Unclassifiable	813	30	12	8	128	55	52	528

Source: Census of India, 2011



## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 2011 categorised the immigrants of West Bengal based on their place of last residence (POLR) and their duration of residence in West Bengal. There were more than 4.3 million migrants in West Bengal who previously last resided in different states of India as well as outside India. Based on the duration of residence these POLR migrants were classified into 6 segments, (Table 6.55) such as-

1. Migrants by POLR resided in West Bengal for less than 1 year
2. Migrants by POLR migrants in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years
3. Migrants by POLR migrants in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years
4. Migrants by POLR migrants in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years
5. Migrants by POLR migrants in West Bengal for more than 20 years
6. Migrants by POLR migrants in West Bengal without mentioning their arrival in West Bengal

These migrants left their place of residence and arrived in West Bengal for several reasons. After the partition of India and the Bangladesh Liberation War, there were no such kinds of major incidents occurred that insisted the people leave their land, though there were several purposes of migration which were categorised by the census 2011 into 7 parts (Table 6.56). Such as-

1. Migration for Business purposes
2. Migration for Education
3. Migration due to Marriage
4. Migration after Birth
5. Migration with households
6. Migration due to other reason

There were more than 4.75 million migrants in West Bengal who previously stayed in different states of India and also outside India and enumerated in West Bengal. The majority of this category of migrants previously stayed in different parts of India and contributed 58 percent of total migrants. The remaining 42 percent originated from outside India as well as from an 'unclassified' place which was not mentioned by the immigrants (Table 6.55).



## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.57 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for less than 1 Year in West Bengal, 2011**

Enumerated	Place of Last Residence				
	Other State	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Bardhaman</b>	11888	777	4	250	12
<b>Birbhum</b>	1786	25	1	33	7
<b>Bankura</b>	1085	50	0	37	7
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	2115	7	3	131	8
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	2425	60	6	103	3
<b>Hugli</b>	12941	1539	3	184	44
<b>Haora</b>	8508	381	14	203	8
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	16595	7392	8	756	13
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	7604	1122	2	246	16
<b>Kolkata</b>	10948	1212	15	318	29
<b>Nadia</b>	6994	2230	4	660	31
<b>Murshidabad</b>	2416	214	0	84	14
<b>Malda</b>	7228	409	0	53	4
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	307	684	1	14	7
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	4869	1140	0	475	7
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	5220	877	4	483	46
<b>Darjiling</b>	4451	549	0	466	36
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	2360	461	0	127	19
<b>Purulia</b>	2646	7	0	20	3

Source: Census of India, 2011

There were 1.4 lakhs migrants who arrived in West Bengal within 1 year (Table 6.55, 6.57). Among them, 82 percent last resided in different states of India and 14 percent originated from Bangladesh. Pakistani migrants contributed 0.05 percent of immigrants in West Bengal and the remaining 3.40 percent originated from different countries of the world (Table 6. 57).

After arriving, migrants were enumerated in different districts of West Bengal. The majority of them last resided in different states outside West Bengal except in Dakshin Dinajpur. Here concerning the total migrants,' the majority of them came from Bangladesh (Figure 6.103). Large numbers of outside states migrants entered

## Immigration in West Bengal

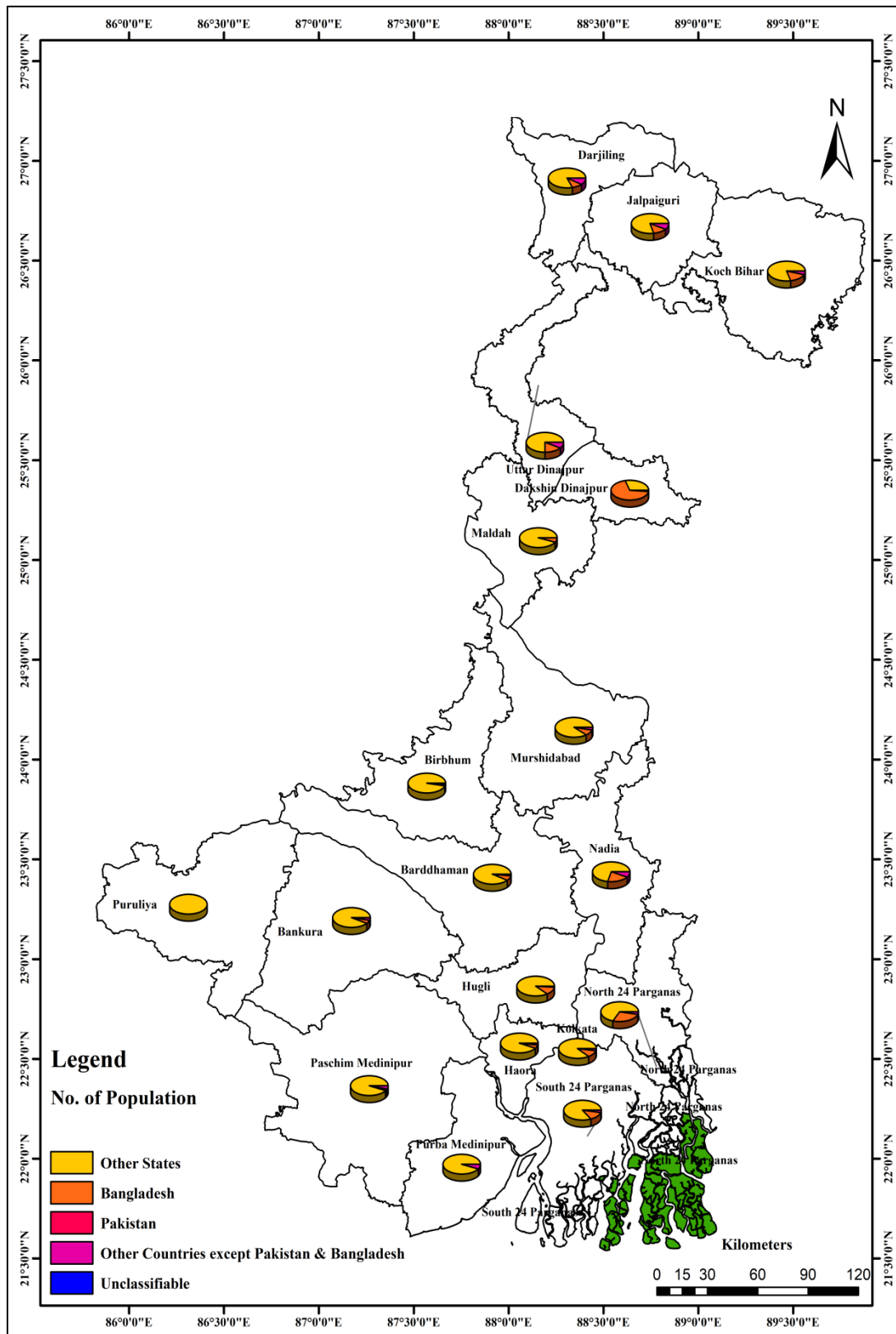
North 24 Parganas and Hugli which contributed 15 percent and 12 percent of total migrants who previously stayed in different states respectively (Table 6.57).

Bangladeshi migrants mainly entered North 24 Parganas with more than 38 percent of total Bangladeshi migrants (Table 6.57).

Very fewer numbers of Pakistani migrants arrived in West Bengal and a majority of them were enumerated in Kolkata and Haora with 23 percent and 22 percent of total Pakistani migrants (Table 6.57).

Darjiling, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, and Uttar Dinajpur absorbed specific numbers of migrants in respect to their total migrants from outside India except for Bangladesh and Pakistan (Figure 6.103).

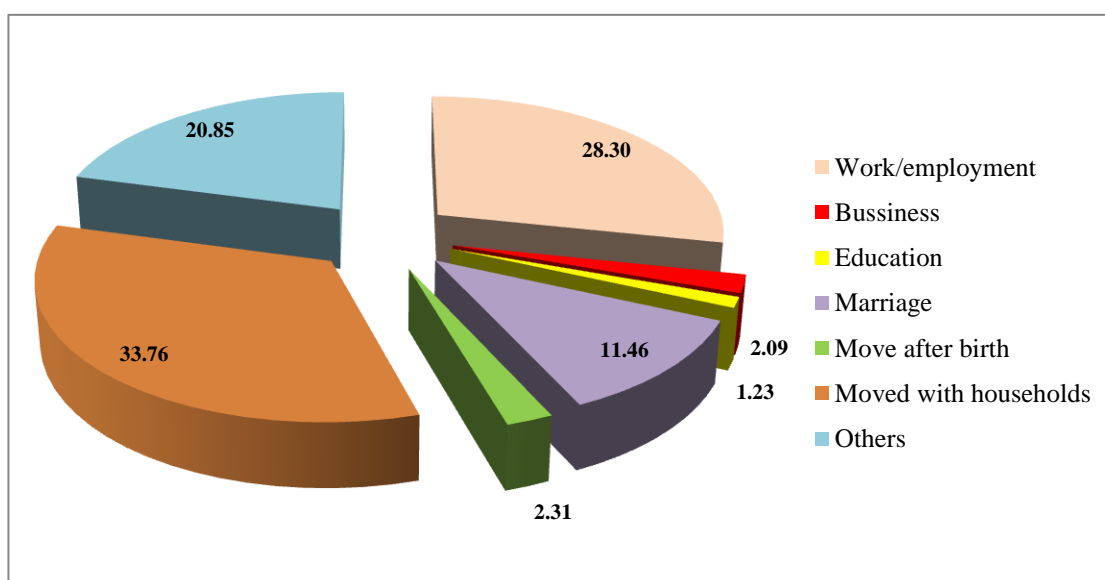
# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.103 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for less than 1 Year, 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

Among these 1.36 lakhs immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for less than 1 year, the majority were displaced from their place of the last residence with their households (Table 6.56). It covered around 34 percent of total immigrants who entered West Bengal within this period (Figure 6.104). More than 80 percent of these migrants who moved with their households emigrated from outside states in India (Table 6.56). The next major group of migrants entered West Bengal for employment or work purposes which accounted for more than 28 percent of total migrants in West Bengal living for less than 1 year (Figure 6.104). The majority of this group of migrants were also enumerated from outside states of West Bengal and covered around 92 percent of total migrants moved for employment purposes (Table 6.56). There were several reasons for migration that were not categorised specifically in the census and altogether classified as 'others'. This group of migrants covered around 21 percent of total immigrants (Figure 6.104) and more than 70 percent of these migrants entered from different states in India (Table 6.56). The next major group of migrants was enumerated in West Bengal for marriage and moved after birth which contributed to more than 12 percent and 2.31 percent of total immigrants entered within this time frame (Figure 6.104). The remaining migrants were moved for business and educational purposes and enumerated in West Bengal and covered 2 percent and 1.23 percent of total migrants inside in West Bengal for less than 1 year (Figure 6.104). All these migrants were largely enumerated from outside states within India (Table 6.56).



**Figure 6.104 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for less than 1 year and the Reasons of their Migration, 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.58 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for 1 to 4 Years in West Bengal, 2011**

Enumerated	Other State	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Bardhaman</b>	41473	2278	9	1036	50
<b>Birbhum</b>	8414	98	3	156	16
<b>Bankura</b>	2921	210	3	135	23
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	5276	37	6	444	37
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	8789	226	57	326	8
<b>Hugli</b>	25155	4485	20	581	99
<b>Haora</b>	26074	785	6	753	48
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	47633	21236	42	2753	93
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	12675	3214	11	1043	25
<b>Kolkata</b>	45223	2792	53	1051	67
<b>Nadia</b>	4963	5768	10	601	127
<b>Murshidabad</b>	5150	635	4	284	43
<b>Malda</b>	7704	1000	2	232	36
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	897	2265	4	70	18
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	12540	2994	9	381	17
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	17769	2990	13	1389	171
<b>Darjiling</b>	18421	2188	0	2523	177
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	6072	1166	2	290	98
<b>Purulia</b>	15384	20	1	111	20

Source: Census of India, 2011

Census 2011 registered more than 3.82 lakhs migrants who resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Tables 6. 55, 6.56, and 6.58). They previously stayed outside India or in different places within India and enumerated in West Bengal for several reasons. The majority of these migrants previously resided outside the state of West Bengal and covered 82 percent of total immigrants who lived in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Table 6.58). It was followed by Bangladeshi and Pakistani emigrants with 14 percent and 0.07 percent of total migrants entering West Bengal within this time frame (Table 6.58). Migrants from other countries except for Bangladesh and Pakistan jointly contributed more than 3 percent of total immigrants while unclassified immigrants contributed 0.31 percent of total migrants who stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Table 6.58).

## Immigration in West Bengal

Immigrants originating from different states in India were largely concentrated in North 24 Parganas which accounted for 15 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years. It was followed by Kolkata and Bardhaman with 14 percent and 13 percent of total outside states emigrants staying within this period respectively (Table 6.58).

The majority of the Bangladeshi emigrants mainly concentrated in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal which reflected 39 percent of total emigrants who previously resided in Bangladesh. After North 24 Parganas, Nadia and Hugli were the next destination districts which absorbed 11 percent and 8 percent of total immigrants from Bangladesh and they stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Table 6.58).

Large numbers of Pakistani migrants entered Paschim Medinipur and Kolkata which contributed 22 percent and 21 percent of total Pakistan-origin emigrants in West Bengal stayed for 1 to 4 years respectively (Table 6.58).

Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, migrants from other countries of the world entered West Bengal and a majority of them choose North 24 Parganas, Darjiling, and Jalpaiguri which accounted for 19 percent, 18 percent, and 10 percent of total foreign migrants outside Bangladesh and Pakistan who resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years respectively (Table 6.58).

Large numbers of these migrants mainly originated from outside states of India and were enumerated in all districts of West Bengal except in Dakshin Dinajpur and Nadia where large numbers of migrants were entered from Bangladesh (Figure 6.105). With respect to the total foreign migrants, the majority of the migrants from outside India excluding Bangladesh and Pakistan were registered in Darjiling (Table 6.58).

# Immigration in West Bengal

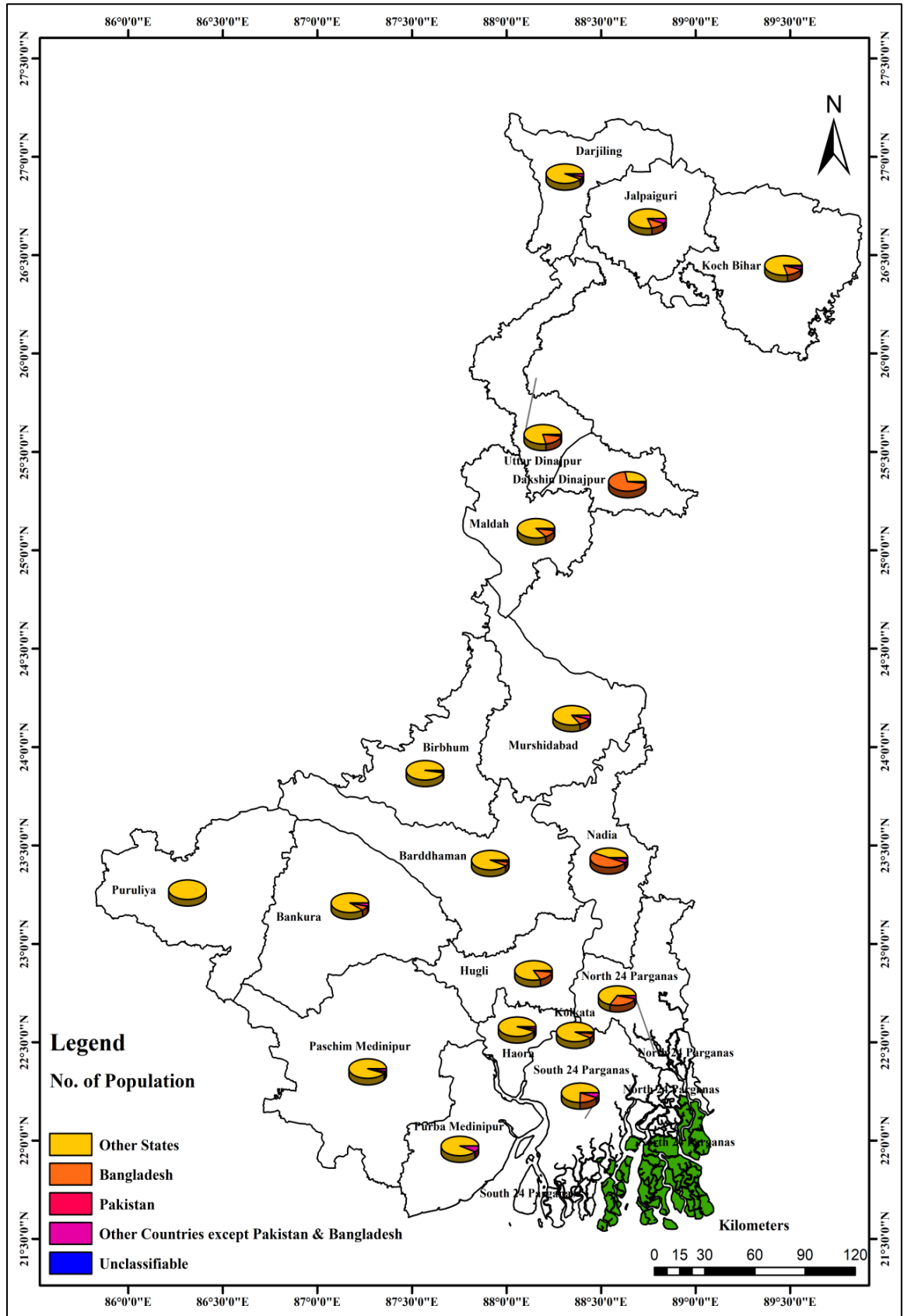
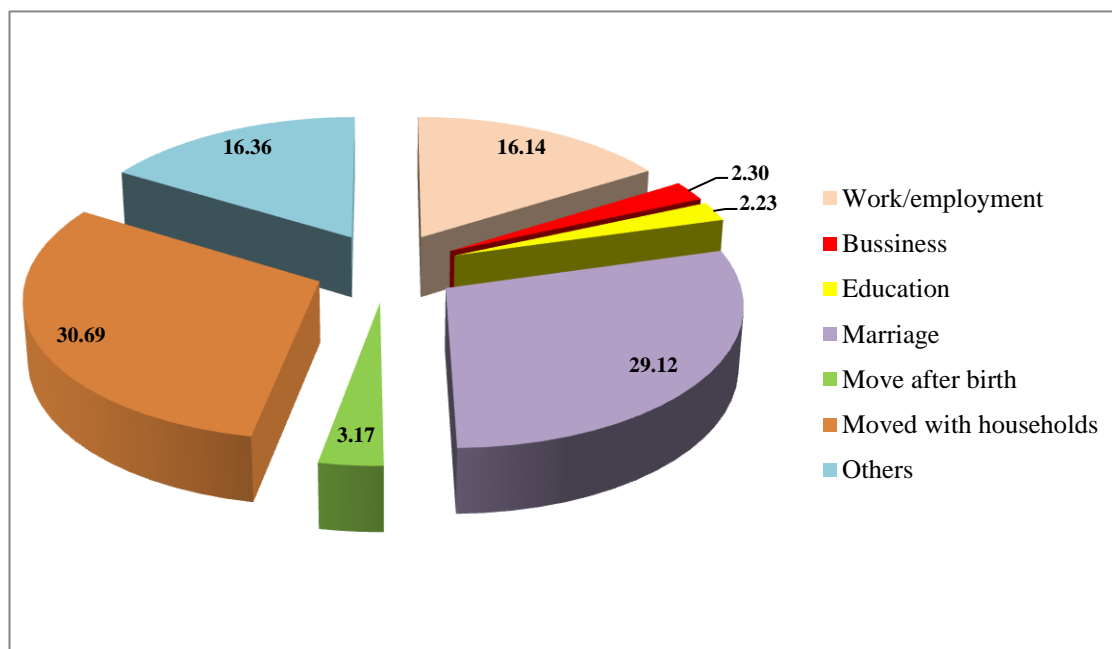


Figure 6.105 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 1 to 4 Years, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal

According to the census of 2011, there were 3.82 lakhs immigrants who stayed for 1 to 4 years in West Bengal (Tables 6.55, 6.56, and 6.58). The majority of them were entered with their households which covered 31 percent of total immigrants who resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years (Figure 6.106). Among these immigrants, large numbers previously stayed in different states of India and entered West Bengal (Table 6.58). The next major group of migrants arrived in West Bengal for marriage and it accounted for more than 29 percent of total immigrants staying in West Bengal for this time (Figure 6.106). These migrants were also displaced from outside states of West Bengal more in numbers than any other place (Table 6.58). There were more than 16.36 percent of immigrants who arrived in West Bengal for different types of reasons which were jointly categorised as ‘others’ and 16.14 percent of immigrants in West Bengal were entered for employment purposes (Figure 6.106). Around 3 percent of immigrants left their previous place after birth and the remaining immigrants arrived in West Bengal for business and education purposes which contributed 2.30 percent and 2.23 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years respectively (Figure 6.106). In all the cases majority of the migrants arrived from different states of India (Table 6.58).



**Figure 6.106 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 1 to 4 years and the Reasons of their Migration, 2011**



## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.59 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for 5 to 9 Years in West Bengal, 2011**

Enumerated	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Bardhaman</b>	43853	3677	13	1006	68
<b>Birbhum</b>	9219	143	1	154	22
<b>Bankura</b>	2769	270	0	149	18
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	4518	41	7	467	39
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	9026	280	70	333	11
<b>Hugli</b>	25665	6086	12	584	111
<b>Haora</b>	28637	871	20	671	33
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	40394	27776	37	2433	70
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	11608	4729	10	964	32
<b>Kolkata</b>	44258	3079	45	817	52
<b>Nadia</b>	3809	9761	4	367	104
<b>Murshidabad</b>	4774	793	4	218	39
<b>Malda</b>	7994	1640	7	217	36
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	793	3971	5	86	15
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	10447	4041	6	254	10
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	17605	5081	20	1244	201
<b>Darjiling</b>	15351	3757	4	2291	162
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	5472	1690	3	291	79
<b>Purulia</b>	18591	40	5	120	14

Source: Census of India, 2011

There were more than 3.96 lakhs migrants who stayed for more than 5 to 9 years in West Bengal (Table 6.55, 6.56, 6.559). The majority of them arrived from outside states of India which contributed to 77 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years (Table 6.59). The remaining 23.14 percent of migrants previously stayed outside India as well as at some places which were unspecified by the emigrants and in the census they were treated as ‘unclassified’ migrants. The majority of them were entered from Bangladesh and it contained 19.60 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for this period (Table 6.59). It was followed by Pakistani migrants, foreign migrants except for Bangladesh and Pakistan,

## Immigration in West Bengal

and unclassified migrants with 0.07 percent, 3.19 percent, and 0.28 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal lived for this time frame respectively (Table 6.59).

After arriving in West Bengal most of the emigrants from different states of India enumerated in Kolkata which accounted for 15 percent of total migrants who entered West Bengal from outside states of West Bengal and stayed for 5 to 9 years (Table 6.59). It was followed by Bardhaman and North 24 Parganas with 14 percent and 13 percent of total emigrants from outside states of West Bengal who resided in West Bengal within this time frame (Table 6.59).

Emigrants from Bangladesh mainly concentrated in North 24 Parganas with more than 35 percent of total Bangladeshi emigrants staying in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years. The next major destination districts were Nadia and Hugli which covered 14 percent and 8 percent of total Bangladeshi emigrants who lived in West Bengal for this period respectively (Table 6.59).

Pakistani migrants largely concentrated at Paschim Medinipur and Kolkata which reflected 26 percent and more than 16 percent of total Pakistani migrants stayed in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years respectively (Table 6.59).

Emigrants from other countries of the world (except Bangladesh and Pakistan) were largely enumerated in North 24 Parganas and Koch Bihar districts of West Bengal with 19 percent and 18 percent of total emigrants previously staying in foreign countries except Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively (Table 6.59).

All the districts of West Bengal witnessed large numbers of migrants from different states of India in respect to its total immigration except Nadia and Dakshin Dinajpur where in respect to total immigrants, the majority originated from Bangladesh (Figure 6.107). Concerning its total migrants, Darjeeling observed a distinct number of foreign migrants from outside Bangladesh and Pakistan (Figure 6.107) and it was assumed that they mainly originated from Nepal.

# Immigration in West Bengal

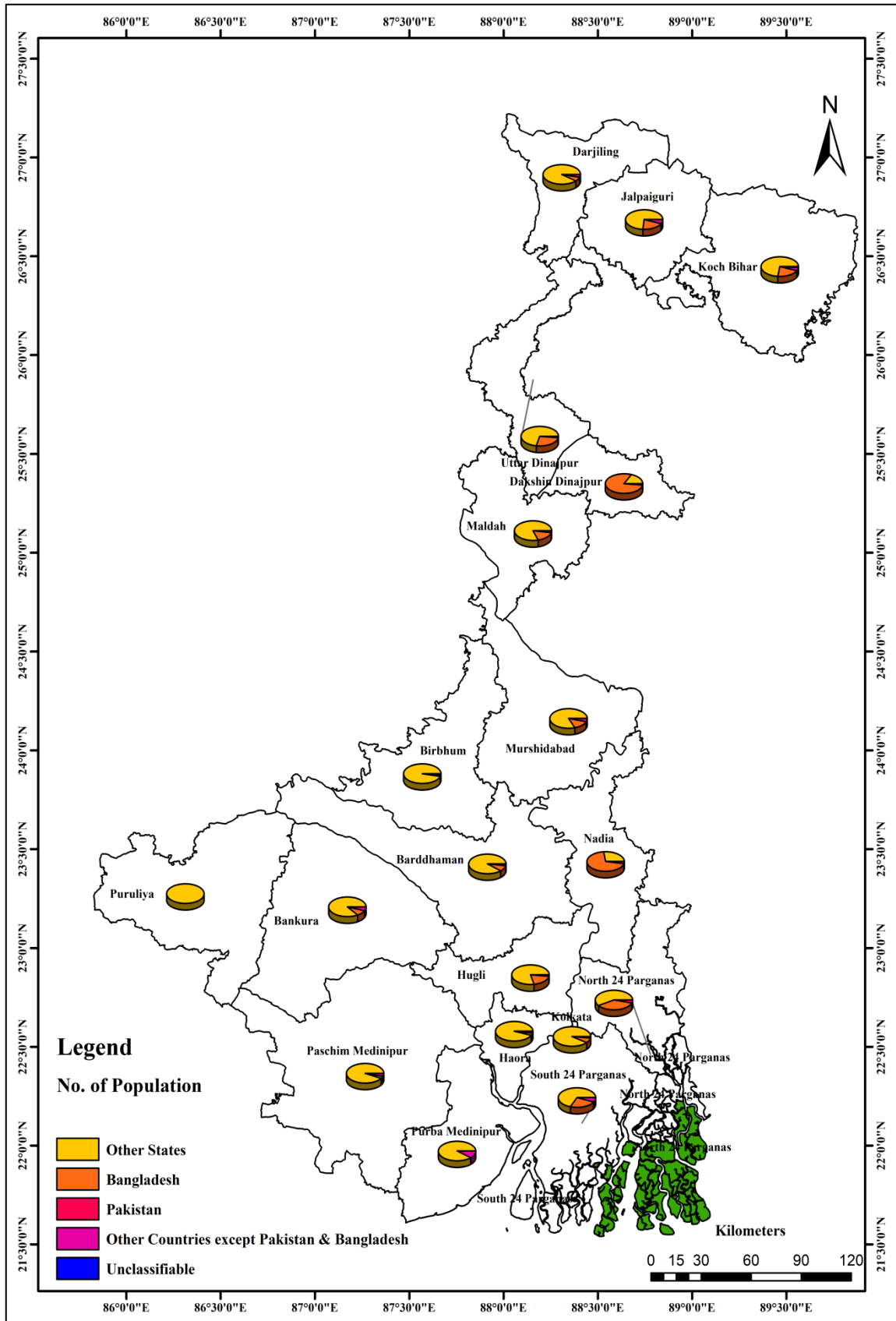
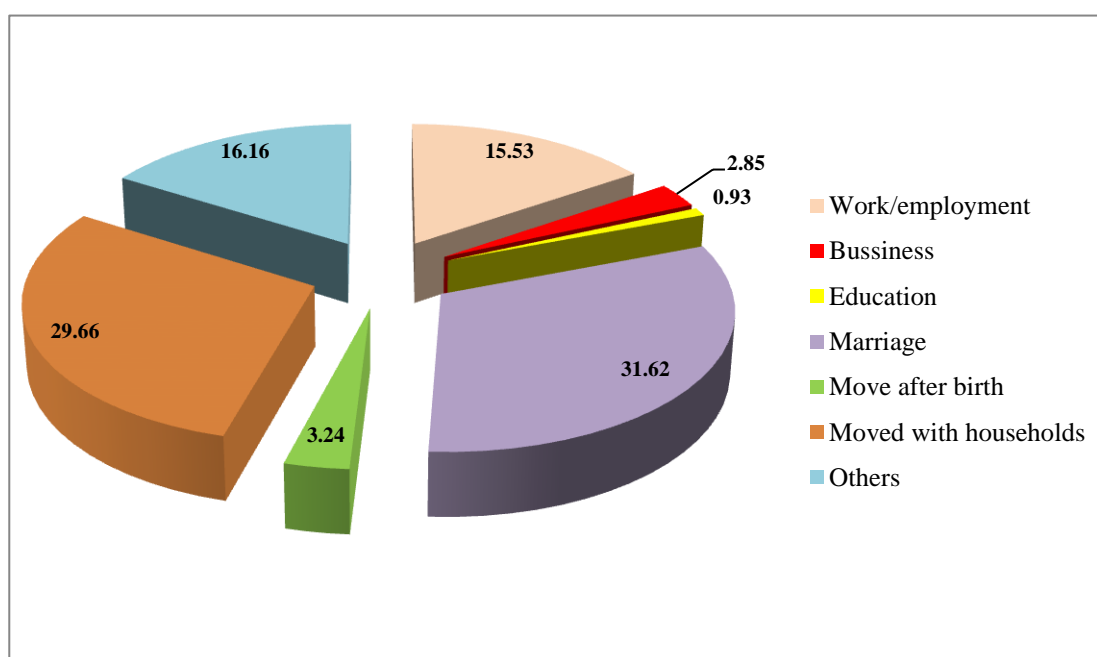


Figure 6.107 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 5 to 9 Years, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were various reasons which compelled these 3.96 lakhs people to displace from their place of last residence (Table 6.55, 6.56, 6.59). According to the census of 2011, the majority of these migrants entered West Bengal for marriage purposes. It accounted for 32 percent of total immigrants who lived in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years (Figure 6.108). Movement due to marriages was mainly confined among the female migrants and their numbers were quite higher than the male migrants (Census 2011). The second major reason for migration occurred with the migrants who moved with their households. It shared that 30 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal within the above-mentioned period (Figure 6.108). The next group of immigrants arrived in West Bengal for 'others' reasons and it accounted for more than 16 percent. Around 16 percent of migrants arrived in West Bengal for employment and working purposes and 3.24 percent of emigrants left their place of residence after birth. The remaining 2.85 percent and 0.93 migrants entered for business and educational purposes respectively (Figure 6.108). All these purposes displaced more numbers migrants from outside states in India than the other places (Table 6.59).



**Figure 6.108 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for 5 to 9 years and the Reasons of their Migration, 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.60 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for 10 to 19 Years in West Bengal, 2011**

Enumerated	Other States	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Bardhaman</b>	84888	13920	20	1791	137
<b>Birbhum</b>	15889	523	5	239	36
<b>Bankura</b>	4361	565	5	224	29
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	6640	73	6	702	38
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	15800	667	109	567	18
<b>Hugli</b>	43706	15683	33	919	220
<b>Haora</b>	48232	2005	20	1043	51
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	64982	77255	103	4097	105
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	16917	13267	23	1454	34
<b>Kolkata</b>	88515	6697	68	1163	114
<b>Nadia</b>	6896	40744	36	621	198
<b>Murshidabad</b>	7632	3104	4	419	64
<b>Malda</b>	14141	6841	11	389	61
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	1325	15636	14	122	32
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	18265	13075	15	471	21
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	33263	17424	22	2079	333
<b>Darjiling</b>	25755	10036	17	3714	257
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	9974	6903	4	423	121
<b>Purulia</b>	30591	53	6	171	27

Source: Census of India, 2011

Census 2011 enumerated more than 8 lakhs immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years (Table 6.55, 6.56, 6.60). Among these migrants, the majority previously resided in different states of India and enumerated in West Bengal. They covered 67 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal who stayed for 10 to 19 years (Table 6.55, 6.60). It was followed by Bangladeshi emigrants; who accounted for more than 30 percent of total immigrants who lived in West Bengal during this time frame (Table 6.55, 6.60). The next major group of migrants originated from different countries of the world except for Bangladesh and Pakistan and jointly they contributed 2.56 percent of total immigrants who resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19

## Immigration in West Bengal

years. Pakistani emigrants contributed only 0.06 percent and the remaining 0.24 percent of migrants were considered 'unclassified' (Table 6.60).

There were 5.37 lakhs migrants who stayed for 10 to 19 years in West Bengal and who earlier lived in different states in India (Table 6.60). After arriving in West Bengal majority of them were concentrated in Kolkata, Bardhaman, and North 24 Parganas which accounted for 16.46 percent, 15.79 percent, and 12.08 percent of total emigrants who previously stayed in different states in India (Table 6.60).

The foreign emigrants were also distributed in different districts after arriving in West Bengal. The majority of the emigrants who previously resided in Bangladesh were concentrated in North 24 Parganas which covered 32 percent of total Bangladeshi immigrants who stayed in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years (Table 6.60).

The majority of Pakistani emigrants enumerated in Paschim Medinipur and North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal which accounted for 21 percent and 20 percent of total Pakistani migrants stayed in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years respectively (Table 6.60).

Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, migrants from other countries of the world also entered West Bengal and a majority of them chose North 24 Parganas, Darjiling, and Jalpaiguri which accounted for 20 percent, 18 percent, and 10 percent of total emigrants from outside India except Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively (Table 6.60).

More than 8 lakhs emigrants entered and distributed in different districts in West Bengal. All the districts of West Bengal witnessed larger numbers of migrants from outside states in India except Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia, and North 24 Parganas where a majority of migrants entered from Bangladesh and resided in West Bengal for 10 to 19 years (Figure 6.109). Concerning the total immigrants, a significant number of foreign migrants excluding Bangladesh and Pakistan registered at Darjiling, Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Bankura, Murshidabad, etc. (Figure 6.109).

# Immigration in West Bengal

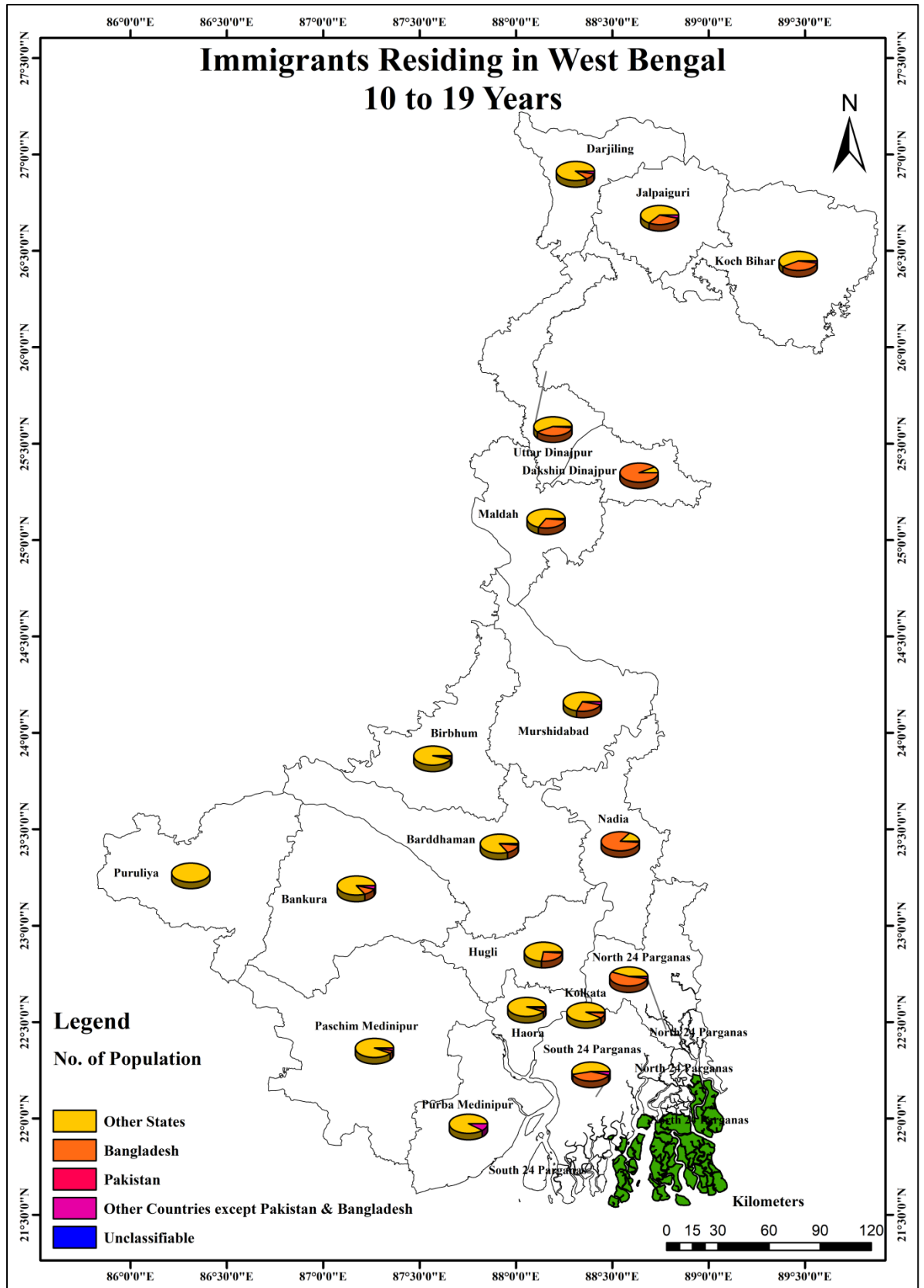


Figure 6.109 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for 10 to 19 Years, 2011

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.61 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for more than 20 Years in West Bengal, 2011**

Enumerated	Other State	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Bardhaman</b>	163360	71953	337	3348	186
<b>Birbhum</b>	26853	4726	20	398	50
<b>Bankura</b>	5946	4110	18	327	61
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	9543	330	34	1132	70
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	31568	7180	231	1046	45
<b>Hugli</b>	69044	73048	210	1719	534
<b>Haora</b>	71941	16942	163	1796	89
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	107055	407864	871	6868	186
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	18674	38719	88	2130	57
<b>Kolkata</b>	192106	81348	1154	3185	239
<b>Nadia</b>	12970	282012	604	1214	256
<b>Murshidabad</b>	12409	25526	138	571	106
<b>Malda</b>	22577	41271	131	585	68
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	3303	70580	244	245	38
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	31642	53043	139	620	43
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	59740	116649	402	4371	537
<b>Darjiling</b>	39101	28531	184	6004	447
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	18346	93062	264	626	243
<b>Purulia</b>	50642	387	24	372	84

Source: Census of India, 2011

There were around 24 lakhs immigrants who resided in West Bengal for more than 20 years (Table 6.55, 6.61). The majority of them previously lived in Bangladesh, entered West Bengal, and stayed there for 20 years or more. It accounted for 59 percent of total immigrants who resided in West Bengal for more than 20 years (Table 6.61). The next higher group of migrants originated from different states in India outside West Bengal and contributed 39.30 percent of total immigrants resided in West Bengal within this time frame (Table 6.61). The remaining migrants were coming from Pakistan, outside India except for Bangladesh and Pakistan, and undefined areas and enumerated in West Bengal. It constituted 0.22 percent, 1.52



## Immigration in West Bengal

percent, and 0.14 percent of total immigrants residing in West Bengal for more than 20 years individually (Table 6.61).

More than 9.46 lakhs immigrants last resided outside states in India and they entered West Bengal and stayed there for 20 years or more. Among them, a majority of emigrants (More than 1 lakhs individually) were concentrated in Kolkata, Bardhaman, and North 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal which constituted more than 20 percent, 17 percent, and 11 percent of total immigrants originated from different states of India respectively (Table 6.61).

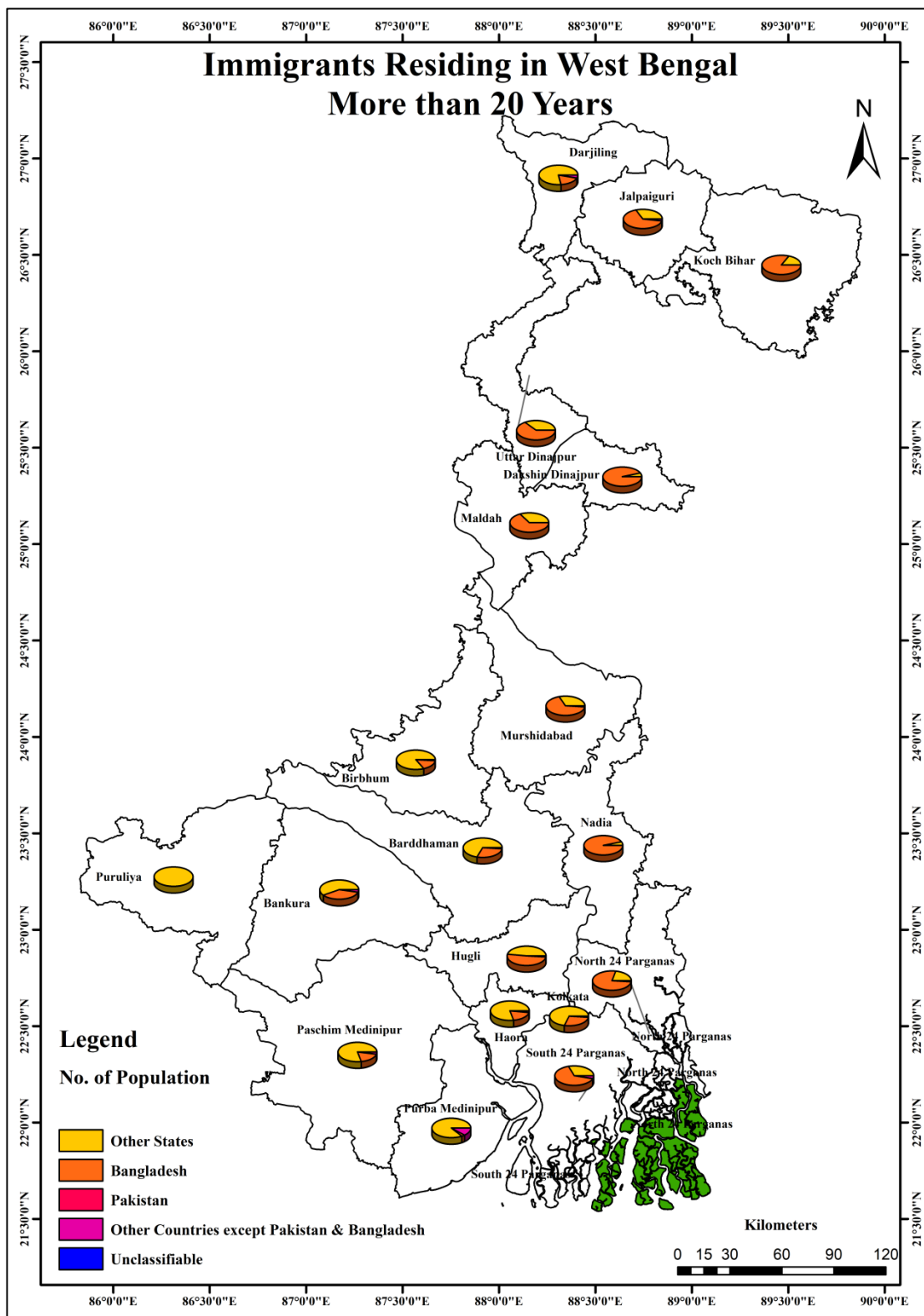
Bangladesh itself contributed more than 14 lakhs immigrants to West Bengal who resided here for more than 20 years (Table 6.55, 6.61). Among them, large numbers of migrants enumerated in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal which covered around 29 percent of total Bangladesh return migrants. It was followed by Nadia and Jalpaiguri with 20 percent and 8 percent of total Bangladeshi emigrants enumerated and stayed in West Bengal for more than 20 years respectively (Table 6.61).

There were very fewer numbers of migrants who previously stayed in Pakistan and resided in West Bengal for more than 20 years. The estimated numbers of Pakistani migrants were only 5256 among them large numbers entered Kolkata which accounted for 22 percent of total emigrants from Pakistan (Table 6.61). It was followed by Nadia and Jalpaiguri with 11 percent and 8 percent of total Pakistan return emigrants in West Bengal respectively (Table 6.61).

Apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, large numbers of migrants from other foreign countries contributed to more than 36 thousand estimated emigrants. Among them, large numbers of migrants entered in North 24 Parganas and Darjiling districts of West Bengal which constituted 19 percent and 16 percent of total foreign emigrants excluding Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively (Table 6.61).

Concerning its total migrants,' the majority of the immigrants originated from Bangladesh and it observed in most of the districts of West Bengal such as Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad, Nadia, Hugli, North and South 24 Parganas (Figure 6.110). The remaining districts absorbed the majority of their emigrants from different states in India (Figure 6.110).

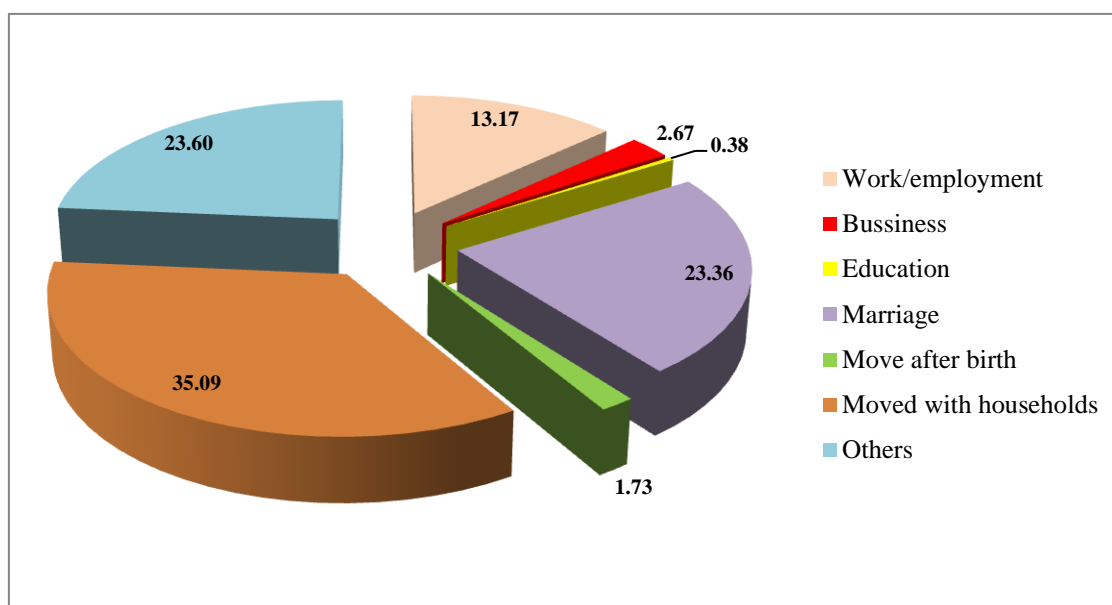
# Immigration in West Bengal



**Figure 6.110 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for more than 20 Years, 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

Census 2011 enumerated the migrants who stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years and also their purposes of movement. It was estimated that there were more than 32 lakhs migrants in West Bengal who stayed in West Bengal for more than 10 years (Table 6.56). The majority of these migrants were moved with their households and it accounted for more than 35 percent of total emigrants registered in West Bengal 10 years ago (Figure 6.111). This group of migrants mostly originated from outside India (Table 6.56). The next major group of migrants entered West Bengal for various purposes which were not specified categorically and termed as ‘others’ and covered around 24 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal within this period (Figure 6.111). The majority of this group of immigrants were also entered from outside India (Table 6.56). The next group of migrants entered West Bengal for marriage purposes which generated more than 23 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal and stayed for more than 10 years (Figure 6.111). Employment or working purposes originated more than 13 percent of migrants in West Bengal (Figure 6.111) and among them; larger numbers previously resided outside the states of West Bengal (Table 6.56). The remaining 4.78 percent of immigrants entered West Bengal for business and education purposes and a group of migrants also moved after birth. It accounted for 2.67 percent, 0.38 percent, and 1.73 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal who stayed for more than 10 years respectively (Figure 6.111).



**Figure 6.111 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for more than 10 years and the Reasons of their Migration, 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.62 Enumeration of Migrants and their Duration of Residence for Indefinite time in West Bengal, 2011**

Enumerated	Other State	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Other Countries except Pakistan & Bangladesh	Unclassifiable
<b>Bardhaman</b>	31735	4665	27	1762	36
<b>Birbhum</b>	3632	302	3	151	21
<b>Bankura</b>	1220	234	3	146	12
<b>Purba Medinipur</b>	1645	15	11	455	15
<b>Paschim Medinipur</b>	5908	799	97	406	14
<b>Hugli</b>	13750	5282	16	680	84
<b>Haora</b>	18924	1665	30	1018	31
<b>North 24 Parganas</b>	25740	26843	83	3012	40
<b>South 24 Parganas</b>	6678	4701	10	1422	31
<b>Kolkata</b>	12861	6024	101	212	0
<b>Nadia</b>	1936	9247	32	289	33
<b>Murshidabad</b>	2846	1540	7	427	35
<b>Malda</b>	5206	2704	26	385	31
<b>Dakshin Dinajpur</b>	424	3963	16	101	18
<b>Uttar Dinajpur</b>	4106	2969	7	230	11
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	8674	5063	24	1055	97
<b>Darjiling</b>	10945	2270	23	1469	194
<b>Koch Bihar</b>	2999	5186	8	430	87
<b>Purulia</b>	7522	82	19	184	22

Source: Census of India, 2011

There were more than 2.65 lakhs immigrants registered who did not definite their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.55, 6.62). The majority of these migrants last stayed in different states in India and accounted for 63 percent of total undefined migrants in West Bengal (Table 6.62). The next major group of migrants arrived from Bangladesh which covered more than 31 percent of total immigrants who stayed in West Bengal but did not specify their time of arrival (Table 6.62). Very fewer numbers of Pakistani migrants entered West Bengal which accounted for 0.20 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal. Migrants arrived in West Bengal from outside India excluding Bangladesh and Pakistan and covered more than 5 percent of total immigrants in West Bengal stayed for an unspecified duration (Table 6.62). Around 0.30 percent of emigrants did not disclose their previous place of residence and

## Immigration in West Bengal

arrived in West Bengal and stayed there without mentioning the time of arrival (Table 6.62).

Emigrants from outside states in India were mainly concentrated in the Bardhaman district which accounted for more than 19 percent of total emigrants originating from outside states of India (Table 6.62). It was followed by North 24 Parganas and Haora with more than 15 percent and 11 percent of total outside states immigrants staying in West Bengal for unspecified duration respectively (Table 6.62).

Emigrants who previously resided in Bangladesh enumerated more than 83 thousand populations in West Bengal (Table 6.55, 6.62). The majority of them entered North 24 Pargana district which accounted for more than 31 percent of total Bangladeshi immigrants. It was followed by Kolkata and Nadia with 11 percent and 7 percent of total Bangladeshi emigrants residing in West Bengal for an indefinite period respectively (Table 6.62).

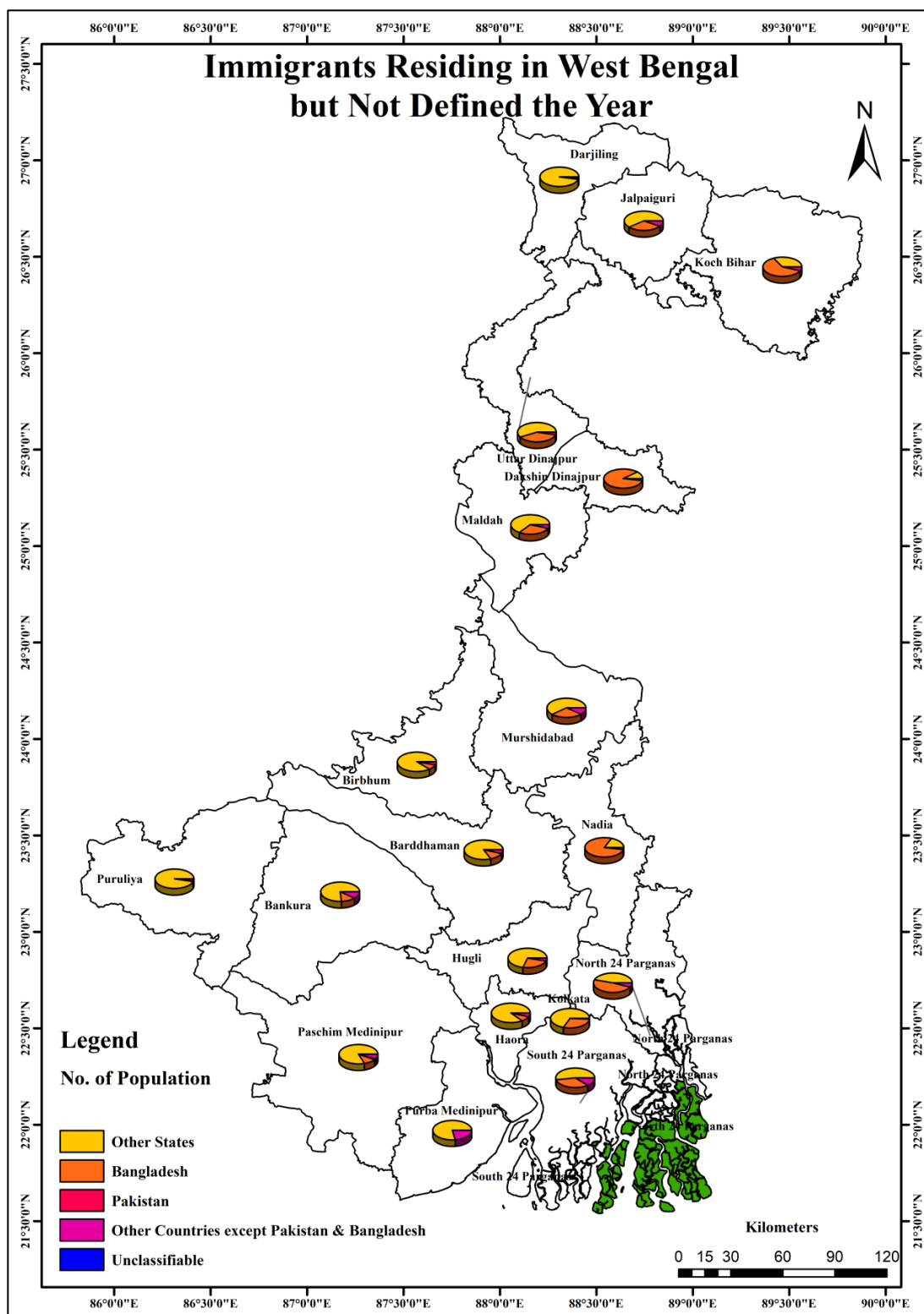
Pakistani emigrants mainly entered Kolkata, Paschim Medinipur, and North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal which covered around 19 percent, 18 percent, and 15 percent of total emigrants who previously stayed in Pakistan respectively (Table 6.62).

Foreign migrants except for Bangladesh and Pakistan also contributed a major portion of total immigrants in West Bengal. The majority of them concentrated in North 24 Parganas and accounted for 22 percent of total outside India migrants who stayed in West Bengal without mentioning their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.62). It was followed by the Bardhaman and Darjiling districts of West Bengal with 13 percent and 11 percent of total immigrants previously staying outside of India except for Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively (Table 6.62).

Concerning its total migrants, the majority of the districts of West Bengal witnessed large numbers of immigrants from outside states in India except for Koch Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia, and North 24 Parganas where the majority of the immigrants previously resided in Bangladesh (Figure 6.112). A significant number of foreign immigrants outside Bangladesh and Pakistan were also concentrated in several districts of West Bengal. With respect to total migrants this was observed in Jalpaiguri, Koch Bihar, Maldah, Murshidabad, Bankura, Haora, North and South 24

# Immigration in West Bengal

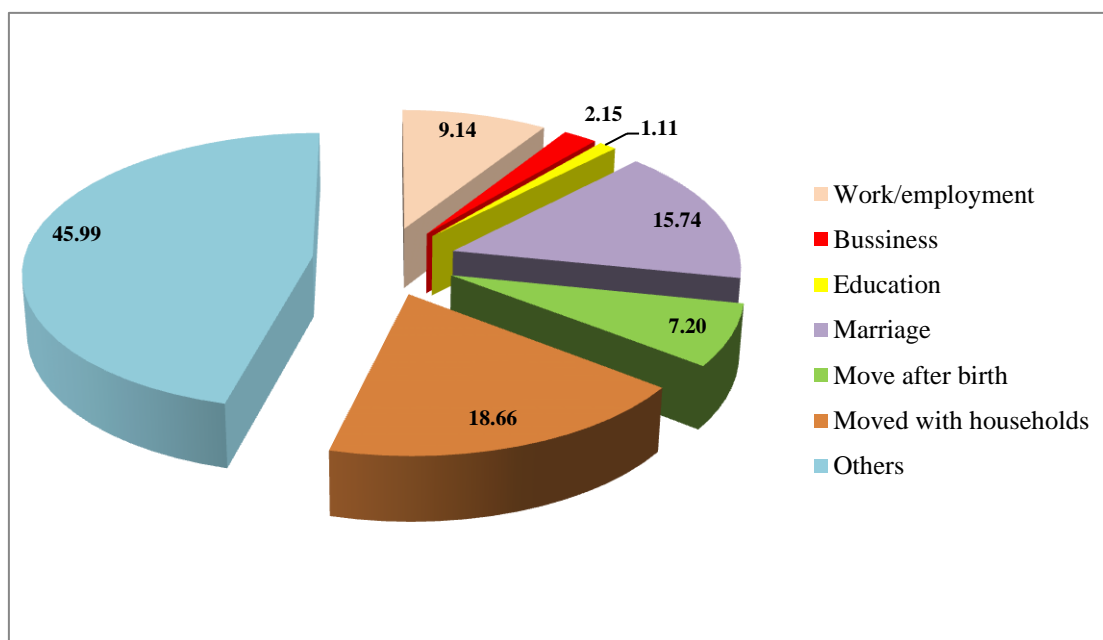
Parganas, etc. (Figure 6.112). Purba Medinipur witnessed a majority of migrants from outside states of India and it was followed by emigrants from outside India except for Bangladesh and Pakistan (Table 6.62, Figure 6.112).



**Figure 6.112 Immigrants Residing in West Bengal for Indefinite Period, 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

2.65 lakh migrants did not specify their time of arrival in West Bengal (Table 6.56). There were various reasons which determined these emigrants to enter West Bengal. The majority of these migrants were registered in West Bengal for 'others' reasons. It included different reasons which were not categorised separately. It denoted that 46 percent of total immigrants stayed in West Bengal for an indefinite period (Figure 6.113). The next major migration occurred with the immigrants who moved with their households and it accounted for around 19 percent of total undefined immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.56, Figure 6.113). The next group of migrants arrived in West Bengal for marriage purposes which denoted around 16 percent of total undefined immigrants in West Bengal (Table 6.56, Figure 6.113). Around 9 percent of immigrants entered West Bengal for employment opportunities and little more than 7 percent of emigrants were moved after birth (Table 6.56, Figure 6.113). The remaining 3.25 percent of immigrants entered for business and educational purposes which denoted 2.15 percent and 1.11 percent of total undefined immigrants in West Bengal respectively (Table 6.56, Figure 6.113).



**Figure 6.113 Immigrants Resided in West Bengal for indefinite period and the Reasons of their Migration, 2011**

# Immigration in West Bengal

## 6.9 Overall outcome of immigration in West Bengal from 1951 to 2011

Immigration in West Bengal which was started after the independence (There was undivided Bengal before the partition of India) of India continued now a day. Census enumerated these immigrants into two categories; immigrants by birth and immigrants by place of last residence (POLR).

According to Census 2011, there were more than 46 lakhs, immigrants, by birth in West Bengal, and these values were calculated from 1951 as census 1951 was the first census after independence. The following table 6.63 reflects the immigration pattern (by birth) of West Bengal between 1951 and 2011.

**Table 6.63 Immigration (by birth) in West Bengal between 1951 and 2011**

	<b>Immigration in West Bengal (by Birth)</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Outside States of West Bengal</b>	<b>Pakistan+ Bangladesh</b>
<b>1951</b>	1881731	2618938
<b>1961</b>	2238854	3068750
<b>1971</b>	2093049	3078192
<b>1981</b>	2204064	3303510
<b>1991</b>	2024165	3079650
<b>2001</b>	2491932	3038538
<b>2011</b>	2440613	2230159

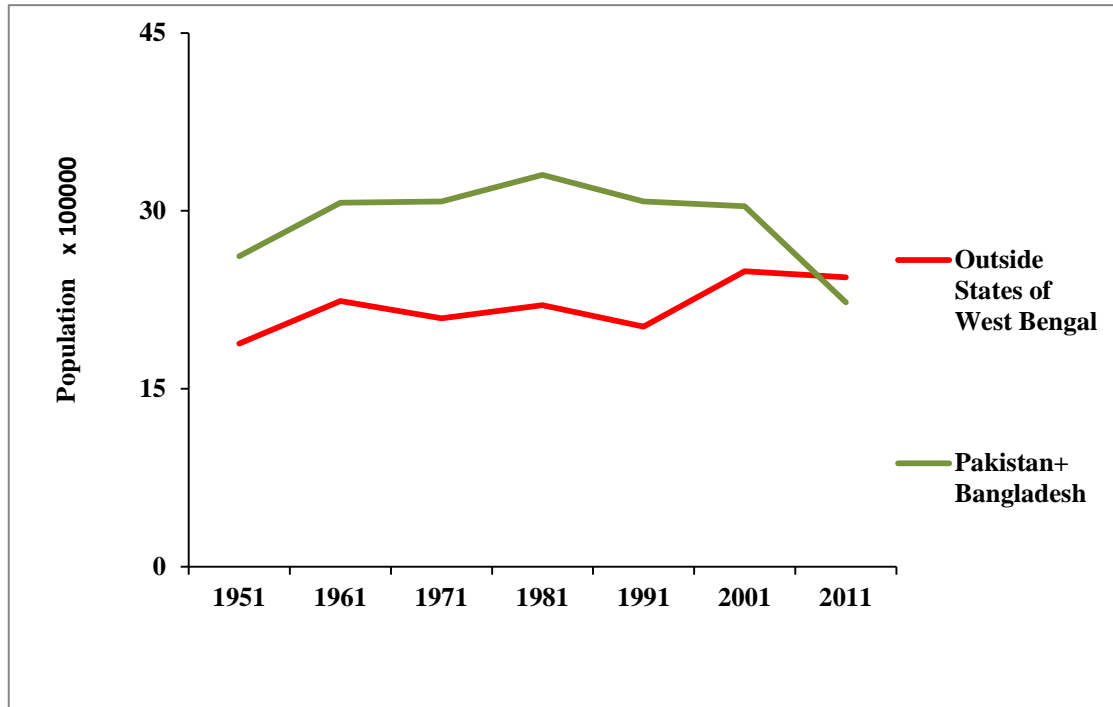
Source: Census of India, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011

There were more than 46 lakhs migrants in West Bengal who were born in different states of India as well as outside India (Table 6.63). Census 1951 registered more than 18 lakhs emigrants from different states of India which increased over time and it reached around 24 lakhs migrants in 2011. Similar kinds of the picture also observed in Bangladesh and Pakistani migrants jointly in which the number of immigrants



## Immigration in West Bengal

enumerated in the following censuses slightly changed over the years. Though the number of immigrants increased with time, some fluctuations in migration were also observed (Figure 6.114).



**Figure 6.114 Immigrants in West Bengal (by Birth) between 1951 and 2011**

The above figure 6.114 represents that the number of emigrants from outside states in India was increasing from 1951 to 1961. There were more than 18 lakhs immigrants who arrived in West Bengal in 1951 and it reached more than 22 lakhs in 1961 (Table 6.63). After that, the estimated number of immigrants starts declining, and in the census of 1971, it was registered little less than 21 lakhs immigrants who were born in different states in India and enumerated in West Bengal (Table 6.63, Figure 6.114). It occurred due to less number of immigration during these 10 years. Census 1981 again enumerated more than 22 lakhs, migrants, from the outside state of West Bengal (Table 6.63, Figure 6.114) and it was assumed that during this tenure Indo-Pakistan conflict and Bangladesh Liberation War stimulated large-scale population displacement in West Bengal. Census 1991 enumerated little more than 20 lakhs immigrants by birth which also declined from the previous 1981 census (Table 6.63, Figure 1.114). From 2001 the number of immigrants by birth increased and reached around 25 lakhs which again slightly decreased in 2011 and registered more than 24.40 lakhs migrants by birth arrived in West Bengal from different states in India (Table 6.63, Figure 6.114).

## Immigration in West Bengal

Migrants also arrived in West Bengal from different countries of the world. As the majority of them were born in Bangladesh and Pakistan, table 6.63 only reflects their values jointly. During the partition of India there was only a single nation known as Pakistan which was formed into two separate regions; East Pakistan and West Pakistan. After Bangladesh Liberation War, East Pakistan territory was separated from Pakistan and appeared as a distinct entity known as Bangladesh. In 1951, there were more than 18 lakhs immigrants born in Pakistan and enumerated in West Bengal which increased to 30.68 lakhs in 1961 and 30.78 lakhs in 1971 (Table 6.63, Figure 6.114). After that Bangladesh appeared as a separate region and in 1981 both Pakistan and Bangladesh jointly contributed more than 33 lakhs immigrants to West Bengal (Table 6.63, Figure 6.114) which was the result of the Bangladesh Liberation War. The 1991 census registered 30.79 lakhs, immigrants, in West Bengal who was born in Pakistan and Bangladesh jointly. Since 1991 the number of immigrants from these regions was gradually declining and there were 30.58 lakhs, immigrants, in West Bengal according to the census 2001 (Table 6.63, Figure 6.114). The estimated numbers of Bangladeshi and Pakistani immigrants further declined to 22.30 lakhs in 2011. There were several reasons which might be involved in these kinds of fluctuations; the rate of immigration became low over time, migrants might be returned to their place of birth or any other places; the government was able to check cross-border illegal migration, etc.

Census also started to enumerate immigration data based on migrants' place of their last residence (POLR) in 1971. According to the census, there were more than 46 lakhs immigrants registered in West Bengal until 2011 who previously stayed in different states in India and as well as outside India. The following table 6.64 reflects the immigration pattern in West Bengal based on migrants' place of their last residence (POLR) and their arrival in West Bengal from 1971 to 2011.

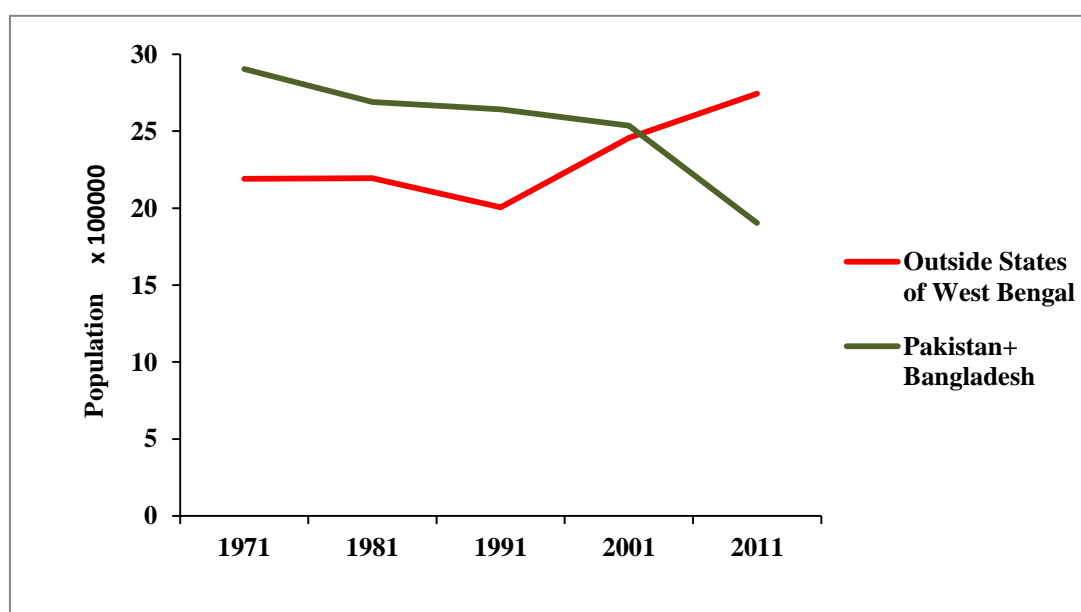
## Immigration in West Bengal

**Table 6.64 Immigration (by POLR) in West Bengal between 1971 and 2011**

	<b>Immigration in West Bengal (by POLR)</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Outside States of West Bengal</b>	<b>Pakistan+ Bangladesh</b>
<b>1971</b>	2190310	2905065
<b>1981</b>	2195755	2689191
<b>1991</b>	2005331	2642608
<b>2001</b>	2457162	2535163
<b>2011</b>	2743307	1903468

Source: Census of India, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011

There were more than 46 lakhs immigrants registered in West Bengal who lastly stayed in different states in India and as well as outside India (Table 6.64) in 2011. Census 1971 enumerated more than 21 lakhs and 29 lakhs immigrants in West Bengal who previously resided in different states in India and also jointly in Pakistan and Bangladesh respectively. Over the year there were some fluctuations in immigrations pattern in West Bengal which were also observed in the following figure 6.115.



**Figure 6.115 Immigrants in West Bengal (by POLR) between 1971 and 2011**

## Immigration in West Bengal

There were around 22 lakhs immigrants in West Bengal who stayed lastly outside states of West Bengal (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115) in 1971. The estimated number of emigrants from different states in India slightly increased in 1981 (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115). The 1991 census reflected a declining trend in immigration which enumerated little more than 20 lakhs immigrants from outside states of West Bengal (Table 6.64). since 2001 the number of emigrants from outside states rapidly increased and denoted more than 24 lakhs migrants which again increased in 2011 and reached its value by more than 27 lakhs immigrants stayed in West Bengal who were previously displaced from different states in India (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115).

In 1971 Pakistan and Bangladeshi immigrants together contributed more than 29 lakhs immigrants to West Bengal (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115). After that, the estimated number of immigrants declined over the years and in the 1981 census, there were around 29.86 lakhs immigrants in West Bengal who previously resided in Bangladesh and Pakistan jointly (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115). Census 1991 and 2001 also enumerated estimated numbers of Bangladeshi and Pakistani migrants were 26.42 lakhs and 25.35 lakhs respectively (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115) and in the latest census 2011, there were only little more than 19 lakhs immigrants in West Bengal arrived from Bangladesh and Pakistan together (Table 6.64, Figure 6.115).

After Bangladesh Liberation War and Indo-Pakistan conflicts the numbers of emigrants from these regions gradually declined. From 1981 there were no major incidents occurred in these countries which would disperse large-scale migration to the adjacent nation. Several economic, social, and sometimes natural disasters influenced these immigrations and in most cases, migrants chose their neighboring regions for movement. It was also assumed that strong government policies and laws also restricted cross-border illegal migration which might be reduced immigration in West Bengal.

# **Chapter7 - Immigration of East Pakistan Refugees in West Bengal**

## Refugees in West Bengal

According to the census 2011, presently there are more than 46 lakhs immigrants in West Bengal who left their place of origin either from different states in India or from outside India (Census 2011). Movement is a natural phenomenon that instigates people to displace their origin and settle in a new place. West Bengal also witnessed large-scale displacement since the beginning of its formation in 1947 when undivided Bengal was segregated into two entities. The British province of India got independence on 15 August 1947 and was divided into two nations; India and Pakistan based on religion. Hindu-dominated India and Islam-dominated Pakistan appeared as new territory. Partition also involved the segregation of three regions in India such as Assam, Bengal, and Punjab based on the majority of Hindu and Muslim populations. The Islam-dominated Pakistan was formed with two wings; the western wing was known as West Pakistan and the eastern wing was named East Pakistan which was 1000 miles away from its main territory of Pakistan and also located adjacent to the eastern part of India (Chatterji et. al. 2015).

Several years ago, news about the separation of British India was circulated and in March 1946, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced the transfer of powers to the Indians which created tensions among the existing political parties in India. The Congress party and the Muslim League were the two leading organizations at that time in which the former was one of the national organizations dominated by Hindus and later was another nationalist organization representing the Muslim minorities which constituted 25 percent of the total population in India. Both the organizations had a clear idea regarding the future of Indian administration (Claude, 2007, *The Calcutta Riots of 1946*, SciencesPo). Initially, British India wanted a fair agreement between the Muslim League and Congress Party, and they were also against favor of Partition. They did not mention the exact date of power transformation and planned for an interim government with the representatives of Congress, Muslim Leagues, and other parties. This statement was announced on 16 May 1946 in which as per British Government, Congress got an extra one seat in the interim government than the Muslim League. It created tensions among the members of the Muslim League and they objected to the decision of British India. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, leader of the Muslim League declared the resolution on 29 July 1946 and announced 'The Direct Action Day' on 16 August 1946 all over India (Claude, 2007, *The Calcutta Riots of 1946*, SciencesPo). The Direct Action Day was observed from 16 May 1946 to 19

## Refugees in West Bengal

May 1946 all over India and it created massive violence and destruction all over Bengal. Despite the presence of the British army and their assurances of peaceful transition, the situation got worse in Bengal and it resulted in the killing of 5000-10000 people in Kolkata in the name of 'The Great Calcutta Killing'. Hussain Suhrawardy, the Chief Minister (Then Premier) of undivided Bengal, and his government failed to control the situation in Calcutta and despite the declaration of peaceful movement; Calcutta witnessed a massive scale of violence. Even Islam dominated Punjab region remain calm and quiet during the Direct Action Day (Claude, 2007, The Calcutta Riots of 1946, SciencesPo).

The news of the Direct Action Day reached East Pakistan with false propaganda in which it was stated that the Muslims were brutally killed by Hindus in Calcutta and retaliation would be successful if the same incident would repeat in East Pakistan. The violation immediately started in Dacca followed by the Noakhali and Tippera districts of East Pakistan respectively (Sinha and Dasgupta, 2011). Noakhali riots were a semi-organized massacre in which killing, looting, rape, abduction, conversion to Islam, and arsons of Hindu properties were common in the Noakhali districts of the Chittagong division in East Pakistan. The incident was started on 10 October 1946, on the day of the Kali Puja (Roy, 1947) and around 5000 people were killed, (Khan, 2017; India: Written in Blood". Time. 28 October 1946), hundreds of women were physically assaulted and thousands of people were converted to Islam (Gumaste, 2 June 2011, Fatal Flaw in Communal Violence Bill). When the situation was getting worse day by day, the government officials took the initiative to rescue the victims but despite their prolonged efforts the situation never changed. On 16 October 1946, Bengal Prime Minister Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy conducted a press meeting and accepted the violence that occurred in Noakhali and Tippera (Sinha and Dasgupta, 2011).

As the government officials failed in their duty to restore the peace and harmony in Noakhali, now Gandhiji tried to look after the matter through his non-violence movement. He visited Noakhali on 6 November 1946 at the request of then Chief Minister Bidhan Chandra Roy and tried to control the situation. His presence on Noakhali infuriated the Muslims of Noakhali and they boycotted his peace meeting (Majumder, 1975). Finally, Gandhi decided to withdraw from his mission of Noakhali on 2 March 1947 and started his journey toward Bihar. After receiving a letter from

# Refugees in West Bengal

the Noakhali congress workers on 7 April 1947 which described the critical conditions of the Hindus, Gandhiji stated that the present situation of Noakhali was not favorable for the Hindus and gave two suggestions; either they would leave their country or dissolve their lives in East Pakistan (The New York Times. Associated Press. 8 April 1947).

In early 1947 the British Prime Minister, Atlee appointed Lord Louis Mountbatten as the last Viceroy of British India and gave him the responsibility of India's independence by June 1948. Due to ever-increasing violence and communal riots changed the decision of Mountbatten and he decided to prepone the date of power transfer (Ziegler, 1985; Jalal, 1994; Talbot, 2009). Later on 3 June 1947, Mountbatten announced the exact date of power transfer and it would be held on 15 August 1947. This announcement was known as the 3 June Plan or Mountbatten Plan. This plan provided a poll regarding the future of Sylhet whether it would be a part of Assam or incorporated with Pakistan. Finally, on 6 July 1947, a referendum was in favor of Pakistan in which Assam lost one of its important districts rich in tea, lime, and cement industries (The Partition, Partition Museum-Amritsar, 2022).

## **7.1 Immigration of Refugees in West Bengal (1946-1971)**

The exodus of the East Pakistan refugees started after the Noakhali and Tippera riots and it became massive after the partition of India. The Hindus started to cross the international border and poured in large numbers. During this period migration hit West Bengal like waves and gradually it became tricked down but it was never stopped. This displacement occurred in several phases.

The first phase of migration initiated in 1946 before the partition of India and it was occurred due to riots in the Noakhali and Tippera districts of East Pakistan. Displacement of Hindus and transfer of their assets were beginning at this time. Sengupta( 2017) stated that there was no large-scale massacre and killing in East Bengal which forced the migrants to leave their country; rather the emigration became trickle down after the declaration of Independence. Migration mainly occurred due to mental and emotional torture subjected to the Hindus by the Muslim community. This phase of migration was mainly confined to the upper and middle-class Hindus and they left their place of origin and shifted to West Bengal. The immigration rate increased after Partition and it reached 2.46 lakhs at the end of 1947 (Sengupta,



## Refugees in West Bengal

2016). The population influx again accelerated during 1948, when Hyderabad Police Action was started in the name of 'operation polo'. The Indian administration was divided into several princely states before partition and Hyderabad was one of them. All the princely states were given an ultimatum to incorporate themselves either with India or Pakistan. Hyderabad Nizam signed in a 'standstill Agreement' after prolonged efforts on 29 November 1947. This agreement denoted to maintain the existing administrative arrangement of the British and Nizam would be cooperative with the government of India (Menon, 1956). The agreement was breached due to various reasons and the government of India invaded Hyderabad on 17 September 1948 (Raghavan, 2010). This pogrom created tensions among the upper and middle class 'bhodrolak' of East Pakistan and they started to leave their country for permanent settlement in West Bengal (Chakrabarty, 1999). The Central Rehabilitation Minister stated that by March 1948 there were a million migrants in West Bengal and it swelled to 1.1 million by June 1948 as per the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner of West Bengal. Among them 3.5 lakhs were urban middle class, 5.5 lakhs were rural middle class, little more than 1 lakhs were agriculturists, and little less than 1 lakhs were artisans (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 12-03-1948). There were 10 thousand to 12 thousand refugees who entered West Bengal regularly until mid of 1948 (Choudhury, 1983). The following table 7.1 reflects the rate of admission of refugees in government camps of West Bengal.

**Table 7.1 The Rate of Admission in the Government Camps**

Year	Month	Number of Refugees admitted to Government Relief camps
1948	July	8408
	August	19109
	September	18638
	October	9182

**Source: Bandhopadhya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999**

There were around 13 to 15 lakhs Hindu refugees in West Bengal by the end of 1948 (Choudhury, 1983). It increased with time and in 1949 there were around 19.5 lakh refugees in West Bengal. Among them, more than 19 lakhs Hindu refugees entered Calcutta and 6.5 lakhs were distributed in different districts of West Bengal (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 27-08-1949, Sengupta, 2017). Partition of India also involved two

## Refugees in West Bengal

ways of migration in which Hindus from East Pakistan and Islam from West Bengal changed their place of residence but the first phase of migration was mainly confined to the Hindu migrants from East Pakistan. After entering West Bengal a group of refugees took shelter at government camps and by the end of 1949, there were around 70 thousand camp dwellers in West Bengal (Chakrabarty, 1999).

The second phase of migration was started in January 1950 when the Namasudra community faced widespread violence by the Muslims of Khulna districts of East Pakistan and it spread over the larger regions of Rajshahi, Dacca, and Faridpur. This phase of the movement was mainly confined to the lower-class peasants and artisans. They lost everything during the riots and took shelter in West Bengal (Singh 2003). This massacre refuged 30 thousand Hindu migrants from Khulna and they arrived in West Bengal (Nehru, 1992). Both the community of Hindus and Muslims were involved in this phase of immigration and all of them shifted their place of origin in search of peace and harmony. It was two ways movement in which Hindus from East Pakistan entered West Bengal and Muslims from West Bengal moved to East Pakistan respectively. After entering West Bengal these Hindu immigrants largely concentrated in Nadia (Sibnath Bannerjee 16 February 1950, First Session, Assembly Proceedings, Vol. II, No. 1, p. 28; Choudhury, 1983). The following table 7.2 reflected the numbers of refugees sheltered in government camps during this period.

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.2 The Rate of Admission in the Government Camps**

Year	Month	Number of Refugees admitted to Government Relief camps
1950	January	1150
	February	1002
	March	75596
	April	14960
	May	27440

Source: Bandopadhya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999

Refugees arrived in West Bengal like waves and their numbers reached around 56 thousand within the first Fifty-three days of 1950 and it further increased to 1.5 lakhs within the first three months. Daily arrivals of refugees were registered as 15 thousand. Apart from the registered migrants, several non-registered refugees were taken sheltered in various private camps and colonies by their initiatives (Chakrabarty, 1999).

After arriving in West Bengal the refugees were gathered in Sealdah station which was one of the transit points for the refugees. The station became crowded in the second week of March 1950 (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21-04-1950). There were 8 thousand registered refugees in Sealdah station on 7 April 1951 (TOI, 8-04-1950). It increased to 9 thousand by 27 June (TOI, 28-06-1950) and reached around more than 12 thousand on 22 July (TOI, 23-07-1950).

The immigration rate of East Pakistan refugees temporarily declined after the Nehru-Liaquat treaty (Popularly known as Delhi Pact). It was signed on 8 April 1950 between then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. The treaty was signed in favour of displaced people that allowed both sides of the refugees to return to their homeland. This treaty also assured the migrants to return their immovable properties which they left during crossing the border. The treaty also assured the migrants return of their minority rights as well as molested and abducted women were also able to return to their country (Chandra et al., 2008; Chakrabarty, 1999). The agreement had minimal effect on migrants and from April 1950, every month around 25 thousand refugees were getting shelter in various government camps in West Bengal (Chakrabarty, 1999). The following table

## Refugees in West Bengal

7.3 highlights the numbers of refugees sheltered in government camps after the Delhi Pact.

**Table 7.3 The Rate of Admission in the Government Camps**

Year	Month	Number of Refugees admitted to Government Relief Camps
1950	October	8754
	November	9543
	December	6549
1951	January	4399
	February	4215
	March	5117

Source: Bandopadhyaya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999

Despite its minimal effect the Delhi Pact encouraged a group of migrants to return to their country of origin. Both Hindus and Muslims were involved in this movement. According to the Committee of Review of Rehabilitation Report (COR) of West Bengal, the numbers of returnees were greater than their displaced people from West Bengal to East Bengal and vice versa (Chakrabarty, 1999) but the following table stated that the numbers of displaced Hindu people from East Pakistan to West Bengal were more than their returnees and a similar view was also observed for Muslim migrants (Sengupta, 2016).

**Table 7.4 Displaced Persons in both Directions**

From West Bengal to East Pakistan	
(From 9 April 1950 to 4 November 1950)	
Hindus	Muslims
1158715 (Returnees)	656982 (Displaced)
From East Pakistan to West Bengal	
(From 9 April 1950 to 4 November 1950)	
Hindus	Muslims
1826276 (Displaced)	519523 (Returnees)

Source: Sengupta, 2016

There were around 20.99 lakhs refugees in West Bengal by the end of 1950 (Chakrabarty, 1999). Some sources documented around 3 million Hindu refugees in West Bengal (Census 1951, Chatterjee, 2007). The population influx suddenly increased from mid of 1951 when around 9800 refugees entered the government

## Refugees in West Bengal

camps in June and it increased to 9900 in July 1951 (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999).

The passport system was introduced unilaterally on 15 October 1952 by the Pakistan government which again accelerated the immigration flow in West Bengal. As immigration was never stopped so average rate of refugees entered in the government camps was 2060 from January 1952 to July 1952 (Chakrabarty, 1999). There were around 25 lakhs refugees in West Bengal till May 1952 (Choudhury, 1983). The news about the introduction of the passport system increased the refugee flows in West Bengal. Table 7.5 reflects the numbers of refugees enumerated in the government camps before and after the introduction of the passport system.

**Table 7.5 Rate of Admission in the Government Camps**

Year	Month	The rate of admission to Government Camps
1952	July	11600
	August	7800
	September	10654
	October	31753
	November	1715
	December	755

Source: Bandopadhyaya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999

The above table easily represented that from July 1952, the number of refugees began to accelerate and it reached its highest in mid-October. On 14 October, the day before the introduction of the passport system around 1 lakh refugees arrived in West Bengal (Sengupta, 2016).

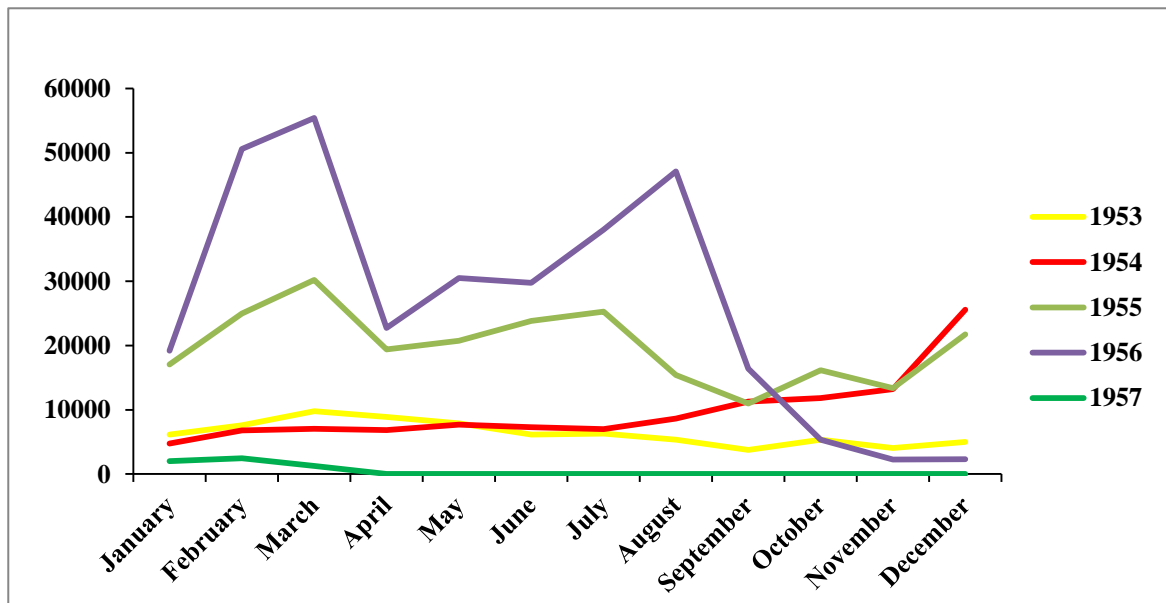
Communal disturbances again accelerated the refugee flow between 1955 and 1960. Ministry of Rehabilitation enumerated the immigration data on monthly basis and published it with meticulous details from 1953 to 1957.

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.6 Influx of Displaced Persons from East Pakistan (1953 to March 1957) to West Bengal**

Month	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
January	6164	4769	17058	19206	2005
February	7582	6792	24983	50593	2470
March	9756	7035	30187	55381	1266
April	8870	6849	19376	22752	-
May	7882	7685	20738	30493	-
June	6123	7300	23816	29754	-
July	6268	6989	25271	38033	-
August	5330	8612	15412	47065	-
September	3774	11289	10966	16411	-
October	5336	11824	16148	5344	-
November	4041	13232	13342	2265	-
December	4997	25555	21734	2329	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>76123</b>	<b>117931</b>	<b>239031</b>	<b>319626</b>	<b>5741</b>

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Annual Report, 1958, p. 39; Dasgupta, 2016



**Figure 7.1 Influx of Displaced Persons from East Pakistan (1953 to March 1957) to West Bengal**

## Refugees in West Bengal

The above table 7.6 and figure 7.1 reflected that from 1953 the influx of refugees started to rise in a fluctuating manner. It increased sharply from 1953 and continued up to August 1956. It occurred due to the introduction of the migration certificate by the Indian government to check the refugee flow in West Bengal (Chakrabarty, 1999; Dasgupta, 2016).

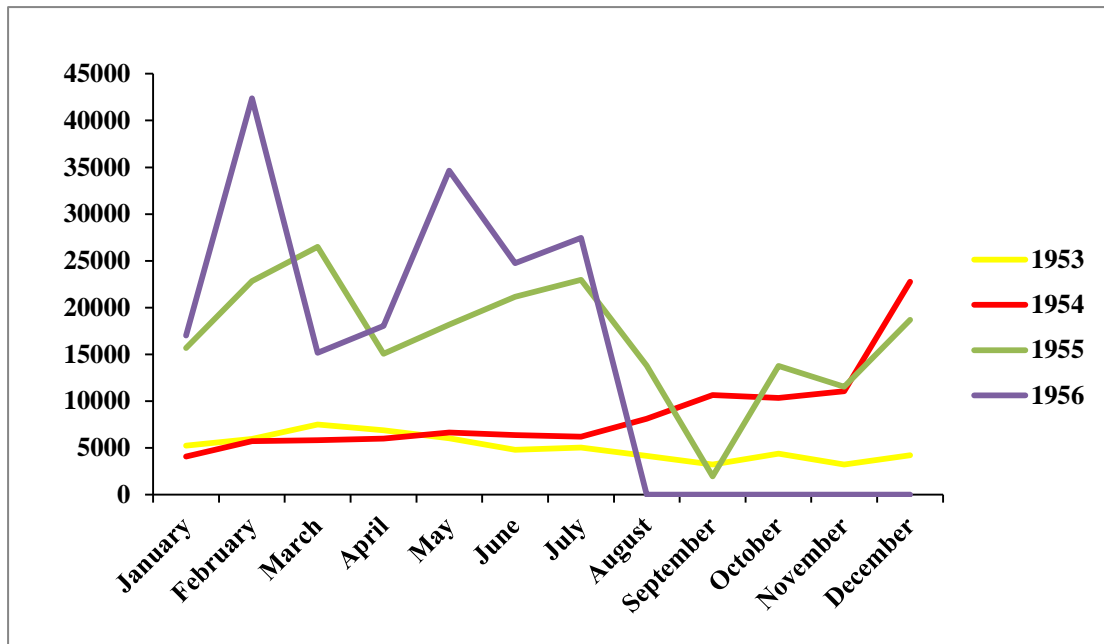
Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced persons in West Bengal also published the refugee data on monthly basis from 1953 to 1956 (Table 7.7).

**Table 7.7 Month-Wise Break up of Refugee Influx to West Bengal**

<b>Month</b>	<b>1953</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>1956</b>
<b>January</b>	5248	4077	15674	17011
<b>February</b>	5961	5710	22848	42360
<b>March</b>	7507	5821	26503	15167
<b>April</b>	6900	6002	15070	18039
<b>May</b>	6032	6656	18190	34657
<b>June</b>	4798	6354	21146	24734
<b>July</b>	5026	6208	22957	27442
<b>August</b>	4147	8127	13813	-
<b>September</b>	3223	10644	1971	-
<b>October</b>	4379	10352	13757	-
<b>November</b>	3212	11073	11535	-
<b>December</b>	4214	22776	18709	-
<b>Total</b>	60627	103800	209573	179410

**Source: Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced persons in West Bengal (Calcutta: Home [Pub.] Department, Government of West Bengal, 1956); Roy Chaudhury, 2009).**

## Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.2 Month-Wise Break up of Refugee Influx to West Bengal**

Though there was no consistency in both the sources of information but more or less similarity is observed. Both the sources expressed the refugee influx in West Bengal from 1953 with fluctuations which gradually increases from 1953 to 1956.

The rate of influx again increased from 1958 and it was estimated that in 1960 there were more than 30 lakhs refugees in West Bengal (Sengupta, 2016). Census 1961 also reflected a similar estimation (Table 6.10, 6.13) in which more than 3 million non-Muslim immigrants arrived in West Bengal from East Pakistan (Chatterjee, 2007).

After arriving in West Bengal refugees were taking shelter in different government camps and colonies. Till 1958, there were 152 government camps and 416 government colonies in West Bengal which absorbed more than 2.30 lakhs and 2.40 lakhs, refugees, from East Pakistan respectively. More than 2.77 lakhs refugees were living outside government camps and colonies (Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in West Bengal, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1958; Choudhury, 1983). They did not depend on the government for their survival but rather arranges their accommodations. The following table 7.8 reflects the total numbers of refugees in different government camps and colonies in West Bengal in 1958.



## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.8 District Wise Refugee Concentrations in Government Camps and Colonies of West Bengal, 1958**

Districts	REFUGEE POPULATION					
	In Camps & Homes		In Government Colonies		Outside Camps and Colonies	Total Refugee Population
	a	Population	b	Population		
<b>24 Parganas</b>	45	43284	209	105345	714161	862790
<b>Nadia</b>	7	53160	32	61640	539730	664530
<b>Kolkata</b>	7	5059	-	-	571555	576614
<b>Coochbihar</b>	1	1159	12	6550	220118	227827
<b>Dinajpur (North and South)</b>	1	989	11	3865	158095	162949
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	-	-	9	7850	142306	150156
<b>Burdwan</b>	30	43127	8	6895	108481	158503
<b>Bankura</b>	7	11165	2	50	4796	16011
<b>Hooghly</b>	11	18013	38	21580	65017	104610
<b>Howrah</b>	7	7779	16	7575	75781	91135
<b>Murshidabad</b>	8	12709	21	9945	53443	76097
<b>Malda</b>	-	-	12	2939	69994	72924
<b>Medinipur</b>	11	16838	11	4390	22654	43882
<b>Darjeeling</b>	-	-	2	3375	26668	30043
<b>Birbhum</b>	17	17400	6	1775	4375	23550
<b>Purulia</b>	-	-	-	-	1332	1332
<b>Total</b>	152	240682	389	243765	2778506	3262952

Source: Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in West Bengal-Statement issued by Government of West Bengal, December 15th 1958; Choudhury, P, 1983

N.B. : a- No. of Camps and Homes

b- No. of Colonies

# Refugees in West Bengal

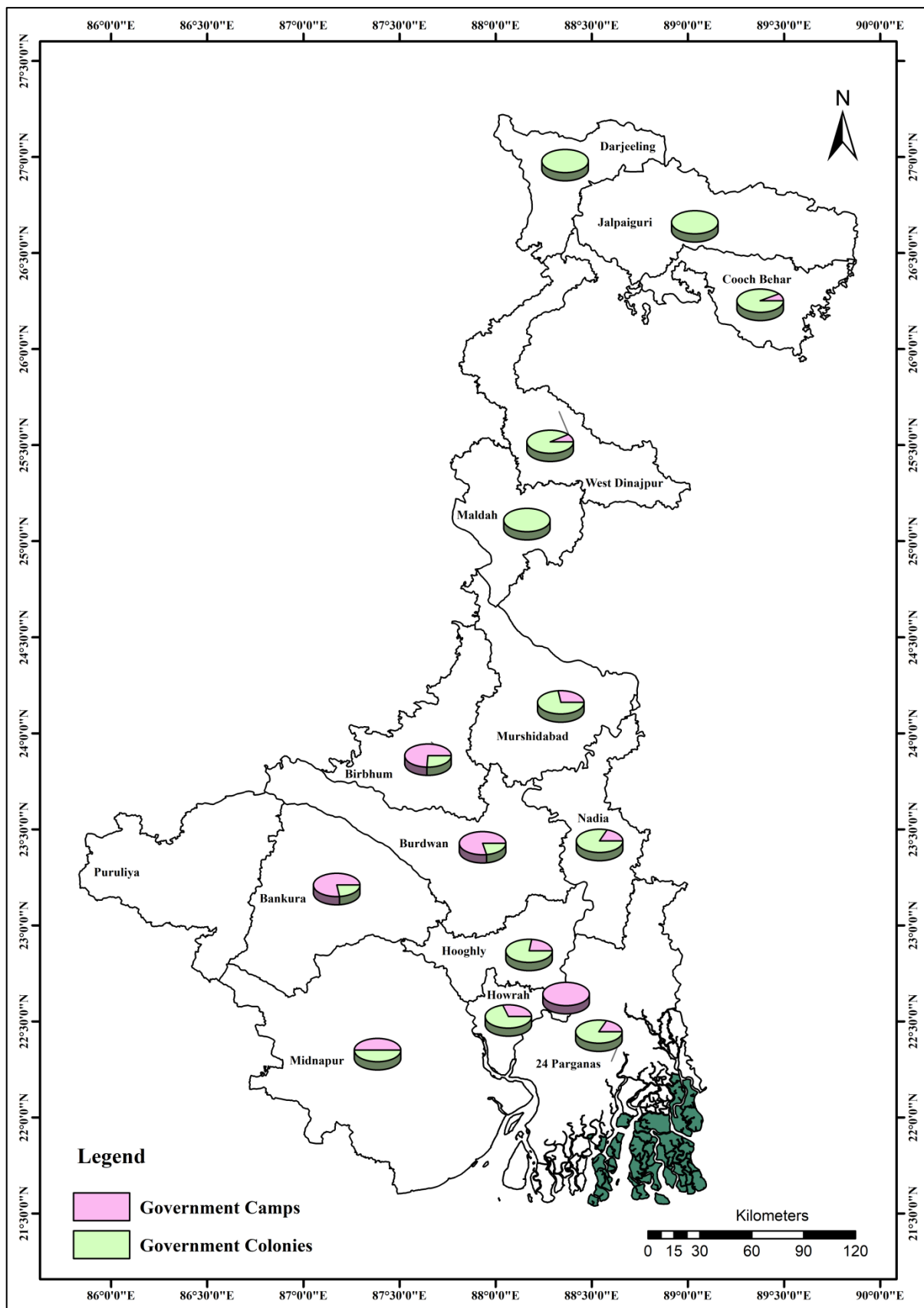
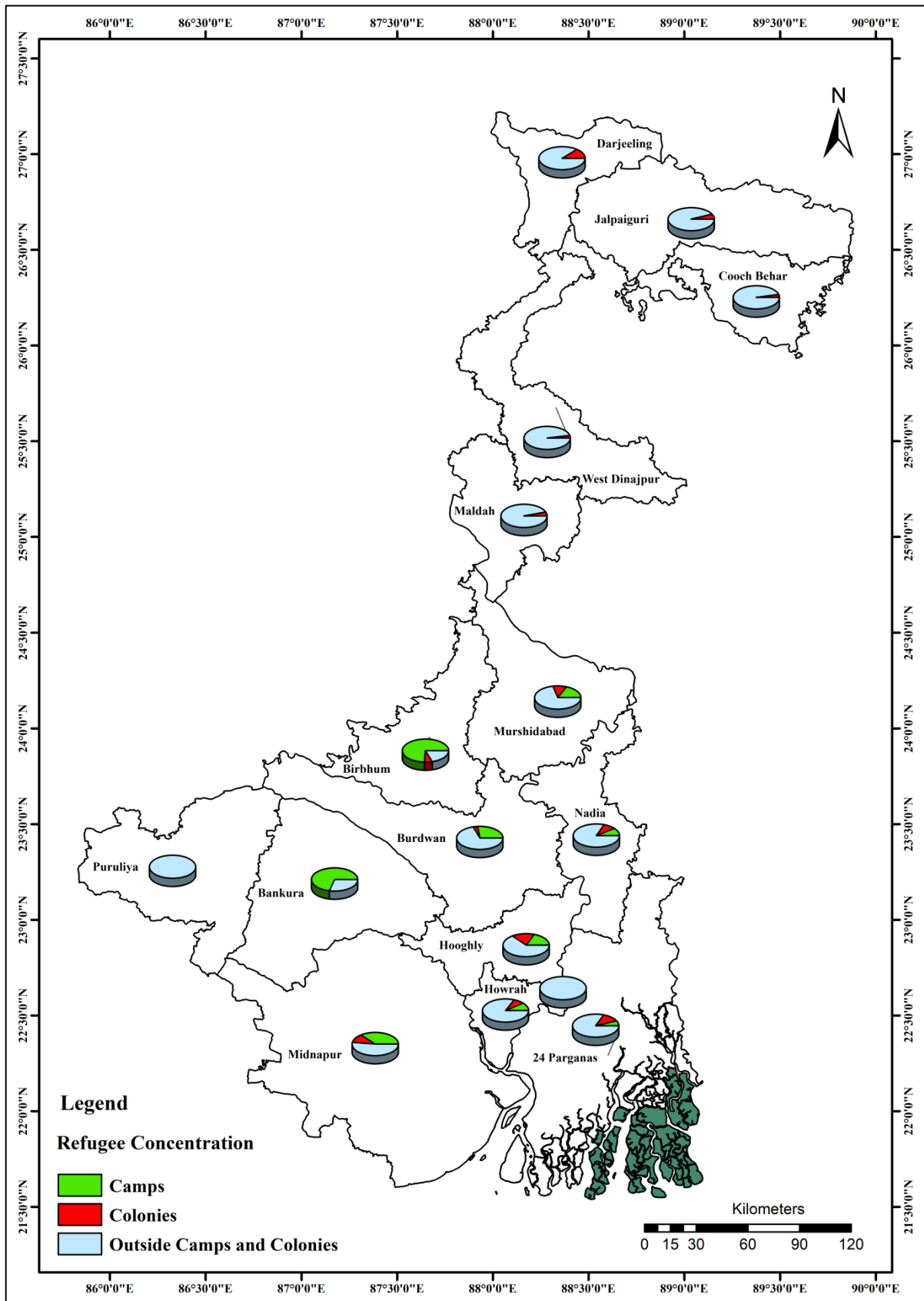


Figure 7.3 District wise Refugee Camps and Colonies in West Bengal, 1958

# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.4 District Wise Refugee Concentrations in Different Camps, Colonies and Outside Camps & Colonies in West Bengal, 1958**

## Refugees in West Bengal

According to the Relief and Rehabilitation Department, GOWB in 1958 there were 152 government camps and 389 government colonies in West Bengal that accommodated more than 4.8 lakhs refugees from East Pakistan (Table 7.8 a). More than 27 lakhs refugees resided outside camps and colonies. Jointly there were more than 32 lakhs immigrants in West Bengal in 1958 (Table 7.8a).

Among these 152 government camps, the majority were opened in the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal which covered around 30 percent of total Government camps. It was followed by Burdwan and Birbhum with 20 percent and 11 percent of total government camps opened in West Bengal till 1958 respectively (Table 7.8).

These 152 government camps sheltered more than 2.40 lakhs immigrants from East Pakistan. Large numbers of these migrants were concentrated in Nadia, North 24 Parganas, and Burdwan with 22 percent, 17.98 percent, and 17.91 percent of total refugees in the government camps (Table 7.8).

Estimated numbers of 389 government colonies were opened in and around West Bengal. Large numbers of these colonies were opened in the 24 Parganas district which accounted for more than 53 percent of total government colonies in West Bengal till 1958 (Table 7.8b). It was followed by Hugli and Nadia which constituted more than 9.70 percent and 8.20 percent of total government colonies in West Bengal, in 1958 (Table 7.8b).

There were 2.43 lakhs refugees getting shelter in the 389 government colonies in West Bengal in 1958. Among them, large numbers of refugees concentrated in 24 Parganas district which estimated more than 1 lakhs immigrants from East Pakistan. It constituted 43 percent of total refugees who stayed in colonies in West Bengal, in 1958. It was followed by Nadia and Hooghly with 25.28 percent and 8.90 percent of total government colonies refugees in West Bengal (Table 7.8).

There were more than 27.78 lakhs refugees who stayed outside government camps and colonies in West Bengal (Table 7.8) and large numbers of them (more than 7 lakhs or 26 percent of total outside government camps and colonies) were chosen 24 Parganas for their destination. Kolkata and Nadia were the next major districts of West Bengal that accommodated large numbers of outside government camps and colonies refugees and it estimated more than 5.71 lakh and 5.39 lakh refugees. These populations accounted for 21 percent and 19 percent of total refugees sheltered outside camps and colonies respectively (Table 7.8).

## Refugees in West Bengal

Figure 7.3 represents the district-wise government refugee camps and colonies in West Bengal, in 1958. The government camps and colonies were opened in all districts of West Bengal for the East Pakistani refugees till 1958. Concerning the total government accommodation, large numbers of camps were opened in Birbhum, Burdwan, Bankura, and 24 Parganas districts than in the colonies. The reverse picture was observed in the remaining districts where the numbers of colonies were higher than the number of camps to the total government accommodation (Figure 7.3). There were no camps in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Malda till 1958 (Table 7.8a, Figure 7.3). Immigrants from East Pakistan settled in different districts of West Bengal in 1958 and the majority of them settled by their own choices and avoids government accommodation (Figure 7.4). Concerning the total refugees, all the districts of West Bengal witnessed a majority of refugees from outside government camps and colonies except Bankura and Birbhum where large numbers of immigrants took shelter in government camps (Figure 7.4). Based on total refugees, significant numbers of colony refugees were settled in Darjeeling, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Hooghly, Medinipur, Howrah, and 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal till 1958.

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.9 District wise Distribution of Camps and Homes. Number of Population (End of October 1858)**

Districts	Rehabilitation and Transit Camps		Homes and Infirmaries		Total	
	No. of Camps	Population	No. of Camps	Population	No. of Camps	Population
<b>24 Parganas</b>	39	40115	6	3169	45	43284
<b>Nadia</b>	1	25986	6	37174	7	63160
<b>Kolkata</b>	2	2965	5	2094	7	5059
<b>Cooch Bihar</b>	1	1159	-	-	1	1159
<b>Dinajpur (North and South)</b>	1	989	-	-	1	989
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Burdwan</b>	28	41248	2	1879	30	43127
<b>Bankura</b>	6	9874	1	1291	7	11165
<b>Hooghly</b>	8	14438	3	3575	11	18013
<b>Howrah</b>	6	7534	1	245	7	7779
<b>Murshidabad</b>	8	12709	-	-	8	12709
<b>Malda</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Medinipur</b>	9	13969	2	2869	11	16838
<b>Darjeeling</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Birbhum</b>	17	17400	-	-	17	17400
<b>Purulia</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	126	188368	26	52296	152	240682

Source: Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in West Bengal-Statement issued by Government of West Bengal, December 15th 1858; Choudhury, P, 1983

# Refugees in West Bengal

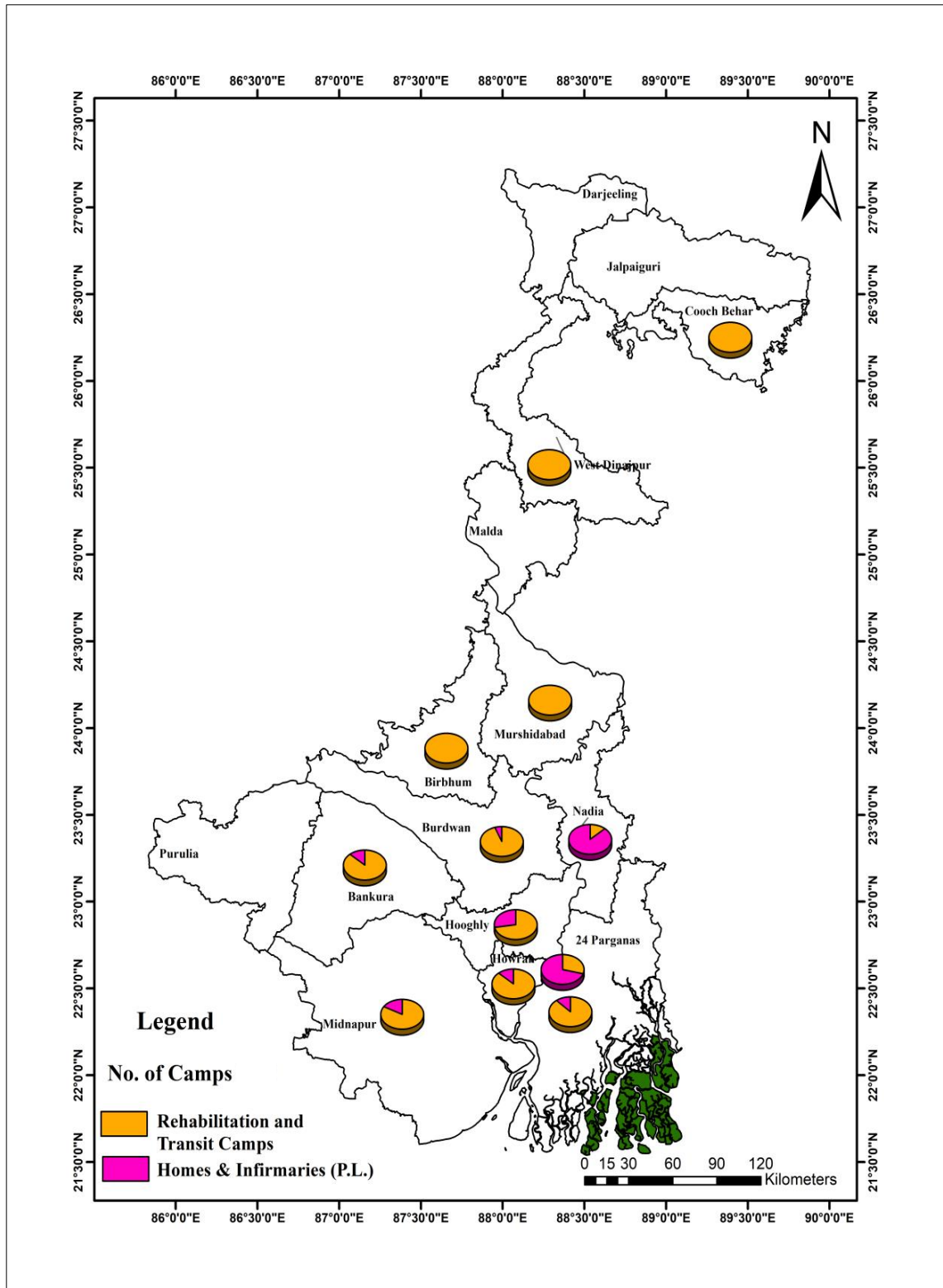


Figure 7.5 District wise Distribution of Camps and Homes in West Bengal

# Refugees in West Bengal

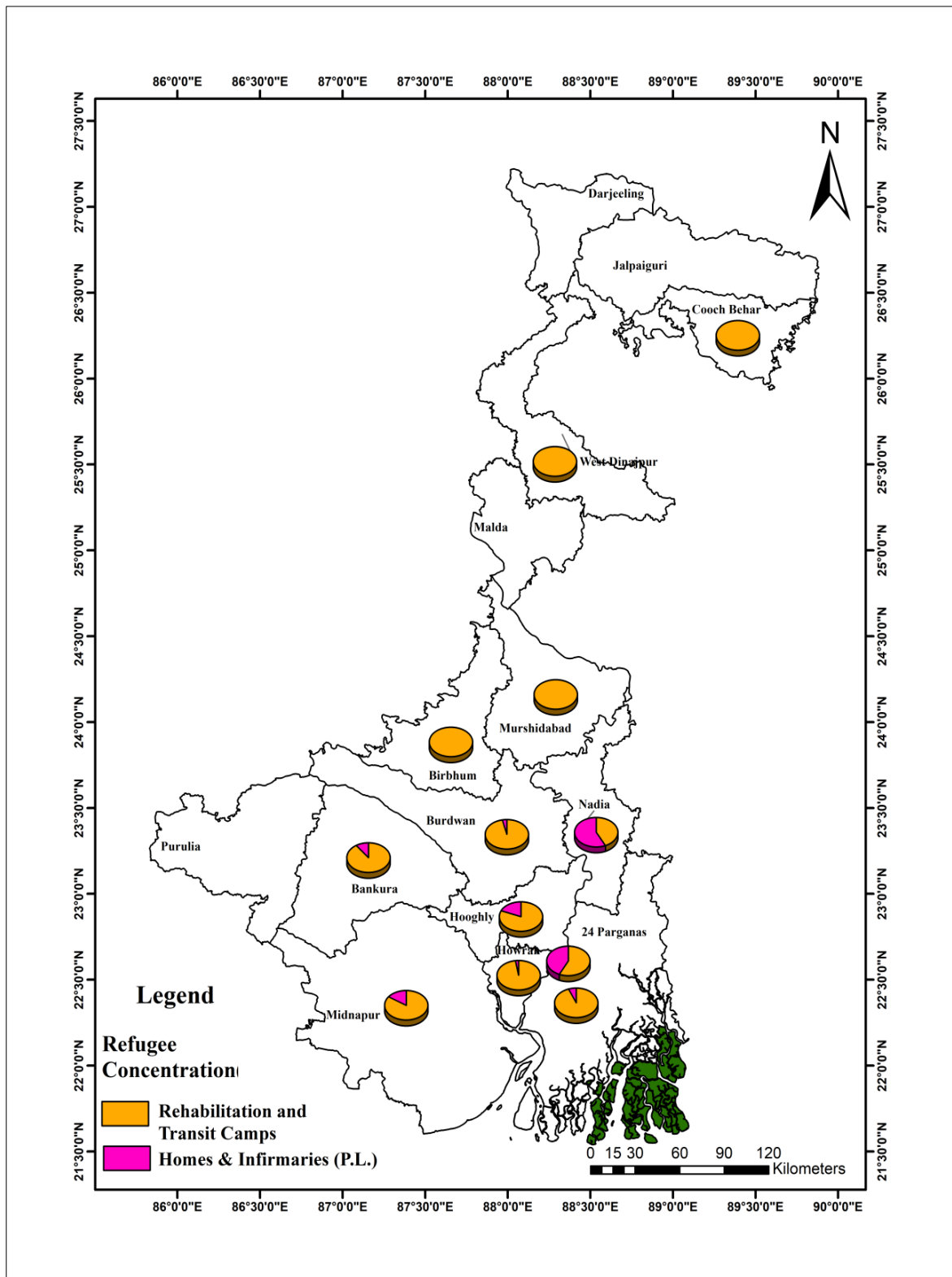


Figure 7.6 District wise Concentrations of Refugees in Camps and Homes in West Bengal



## Refugees in West Bengal

The government of West Bengal classified the camps into types; Rehabilitation and Transit camps and Homes and Infirmaries. The former camps were opened for all kinds of refugees who took shelter in various government camps. This group of migrants did not have enough resources to settle by their own choices. After arriving in West Bengal they were taken to the transit camps temporarily; from there they were shifted to the different rehabilitation camps in West Bengal (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999; Choudhury, 1983). The second type of camp was opened for those refugees who were physically and psychologically unable to receive any kinds of rehabilitation benefits. The government opened special types of camp for them which was known as Homes or permanent liability camps or infirmaries. These were mainly for old and widows, single mothers with their children, and gurdianless women. Homes were mainly opened for orphan boys and girls below 18 years (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999; Choudhury, 1983).

There were 126 Rehabilitation and Transit camps in West Bengal in 1958 and the majority of them were opened in 24 Parganas and Burdwan with 31 percent and 22 percent of total Rehabilitation and Transit camps in West Bengal, in 1958 respectively (Table 7.9). It was followed by Birbhum and Midnapur with 13 percent and 7 percent of total camps in West Bengal, in 1958 (Table 7.9).

More than 1.8 lakhs refugees stayed at different rehabilitation and transit camps in West Bengal (Table 7.9). The majority of these refugees settled in Burdwan and the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. It accounted for 22 percent and 21 percent of total camps refugees respectively (Table 7.9). It was followed by Nadia and Birbhum with 14 percent and 9 percent of total refugees sheltered in different rehabilitation and transit camps respectively (Table 7.9).

Till 1958, there were only 26 homes and infirmaries in West Bengal and among them, 6 homes were opened in 24 Parganas and Nadia which covered more than 23 percent of total homes and infirmaries in West Bengal (Table 7.9). Kolkata only had 5 homes and infirmaries which covered more than 19 percent of total homes. There were no homes and infirmaries opened in the northern districts of West Bengal and Burdwan (Table 7.9).

These homes and infirmaries were occupied by more than 52 thousand refugees in West Bengal, in 1958 (Table 7.9). Among them, more than 70 percent were concentrated in Nadia and the remaining refugees were distributed in different districts of West Bengal (Table 7.9).

## Refugees in West Bengal

Concerning the total government camps and homes, the majority of the districts witnessed maximum numbers of rehabilitation and transit camps than the homes & Infirmaries except in Nadia and Kolkata. Here numbers of homes were higher than in the rehabilitation and transit camps (Figure 7.5). Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, and Malda had no rehabilitation and transit camps for refugees. Similar also observed for homes & infirmaries where all the districts of North Bengal including Murshidabad and Birbhum witnessed an absence of homes & infirmaries till 1958 (Figure 7.5).

To the total refugee concentration in different government camps, rehabilitation and transit camps absorbed large numbers of refugees than the homes & infirmaries except for Nadia (Figure 7.6). Here, the majority of the refugees take shelter in government homes & infirmaries.

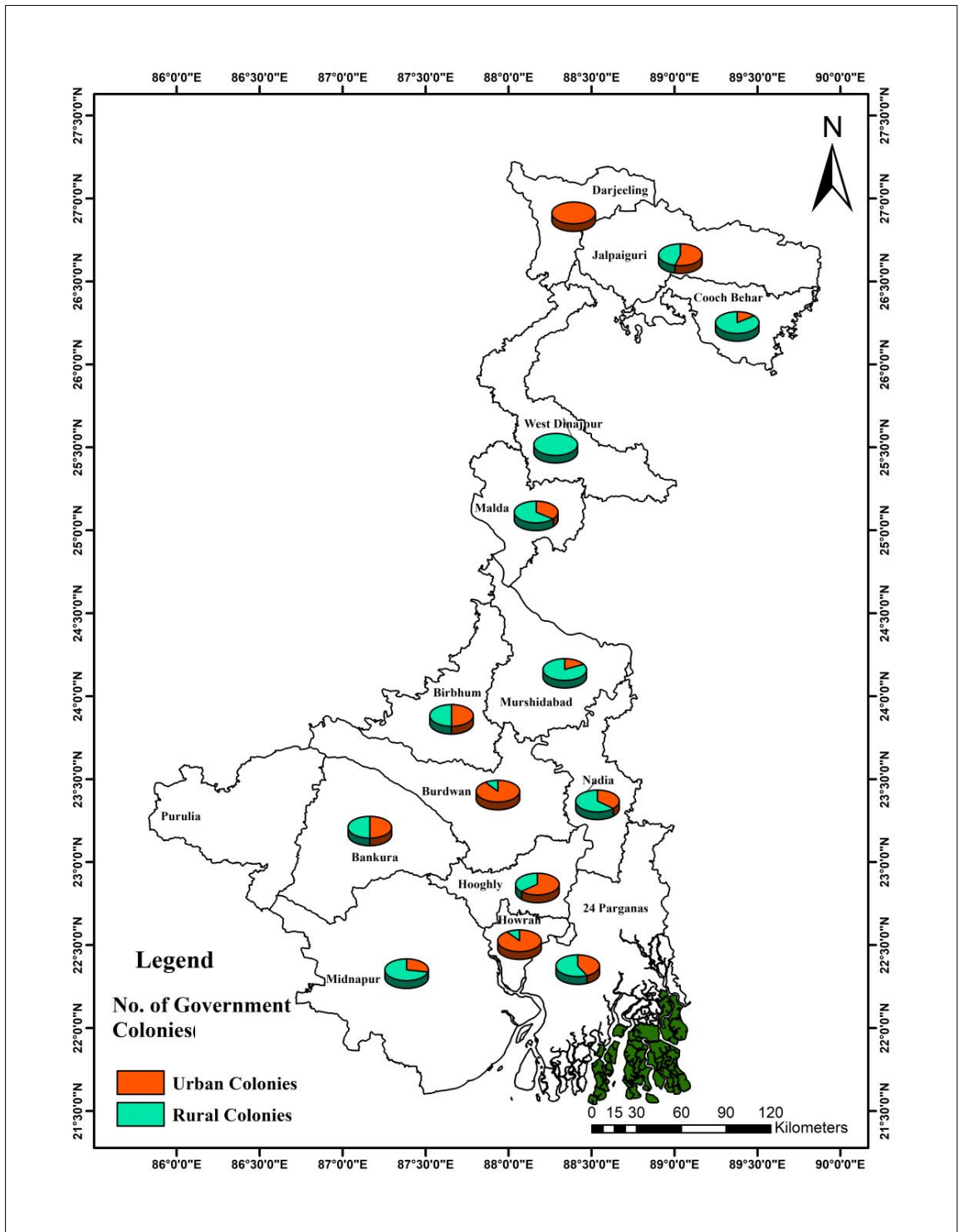
## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.10 Number of Government Sponsored Colonies and their Population in the Districts of West Bengal 1958**

<b>Government-Sponsored Colonies</b>						
<b>Districts</b>	<b>Urban Colonies</b>		<b>Rural Colonies</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>No. of Colonies</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>No. of Colonies</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>No. of Colonies</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Burdwan</b>	7	6735	1	180	8	6895
<b>Birbhum</b>	3	1265	3	510	6	1775
<b>Bankura</b>	1	50	1	0	2	50
<b>Midnapur</b>	3	2815	8	1575	11	4390
<b>Hooghly</b>	25	14760	13	6820	38	21580
<b>Howrah</b>	14	7380	2	195	16	7575
<b>24 Parganas</b>	85	65250	124	40095	209	105345
<b>Calcutta</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Nadia</b>	11	43900	21	17740	32	61640
<b>Murshidabad</b>	4	1650	17	8295	21	9945
<b>Malda</b>	4	1520	8	1410	12	2930
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	0	0	11	3865	11	3865
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	5	5470	4	2380	9	7859
<b>Darjeeling</b>	2	3375	0	0	2	3375
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	2	695	10	5855	12	6550
<b>Purulia</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	166	154865	223	88900	389	243765

Source: Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in West Bengal-Statement issued by Government of West Bengal, December 15th 1958; Choudhury, P, 1983

# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.7 District Wise Distribution of Government Sponsored Colonies in West Bengal, 1958**

Baral, 2019

# Refugees in West Bengal

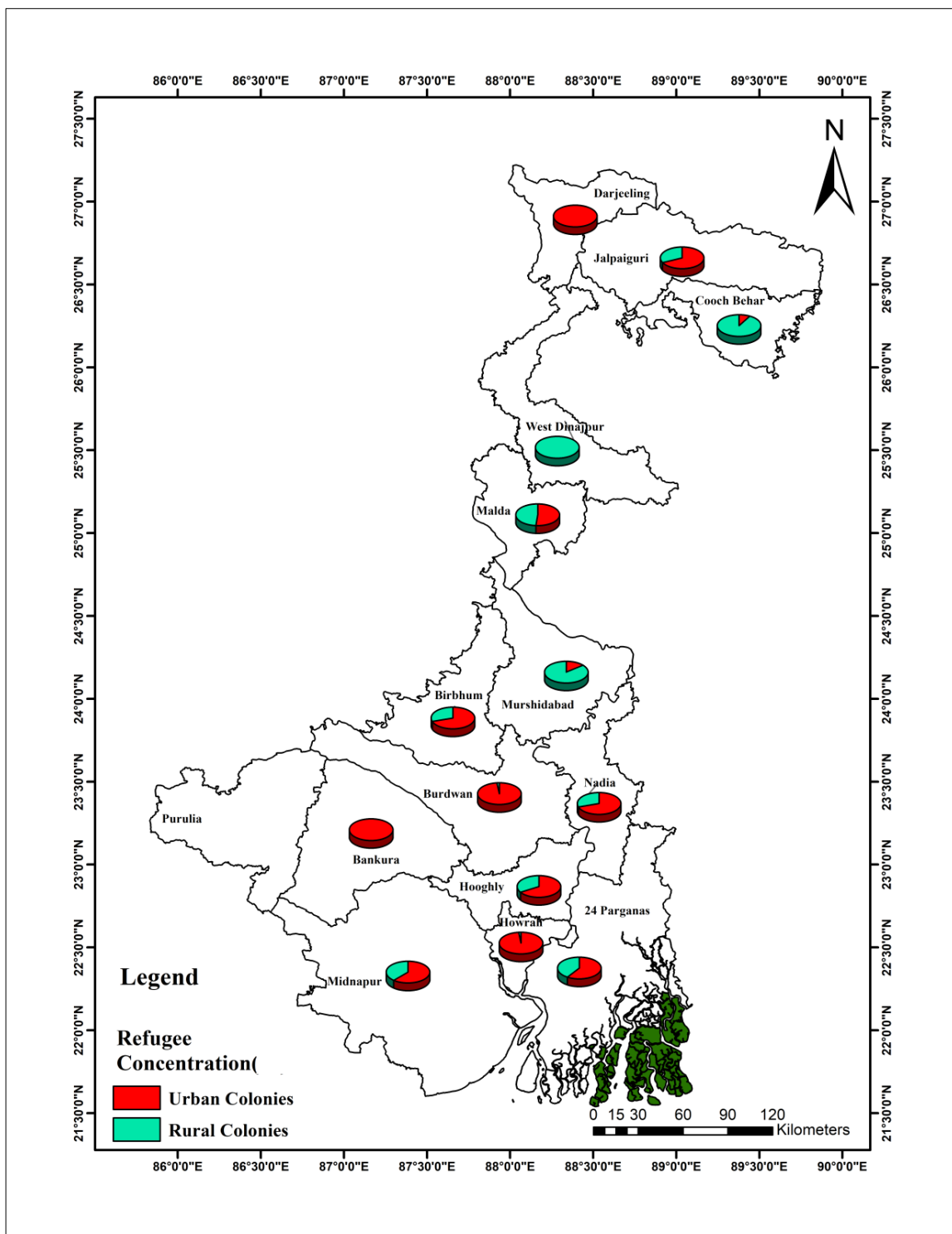


Figure 7.8 District Wise Concentrations of Refugees in West Bengal, 1958

Baral, 2019

## Refugees in West Bengal

There were 389 government colonies in West Bengal till 1958 which accommodated 2.43 lakhs, immigrants, from East Pakistan (Table 7.10). These colonies were categorized into urban colonies and rural colonies based on their location.

Estimated numbers of 166 urban colonies were opened in different districts of West Bengal which accounted for 43 percent of total government colonies in West Bengal till 1958 (Table 7.10). Large numbers of urban colonies were established in the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal with more than 50 percent of total urban colonies in West Bengal (Table 7.10). It was followed by Hooghly and Howrah with more than 15 percent and 8 percent of total urban colonies opened in West Bengal respectively (Table 7.10).

These 166 urban colonies absorbed more than 1.5 lakhs refugees in West Bengal and the majority of these were concentrated in the 24 Parganas and Nadia districts of West Bengal. It accounted for more than 42 percent of total urban colonies refugees in West Bengal (Table 7.10). It was followed by Nadia and Hooghly with 28 percent and 10 percent of total refugees staying in urban colonies in West Bengal respectively (Table 7.10).

Estimated numbers of 223 rural colonies were opened in different districts of West Bengal and they covered the remaining 57 percent of total government colonies in West Bengal till 1958 (Table 7.10). More than 50 percent of rural colonies were opened in 24 Parganas district of West Bengal and it was followed by Nadia and Murshidabad which accounted for more than 9 percent and 8 percent of total rural colonies opened in West Bengal till 1958 respectively (Table 7.10).

These 223 rural colonies sheltered around 89 thousand refugees in West Bengal (Table 7.10). Majority of these refugees concentrated in rural colonies of 24 Parganas which accounted for more than 45 percent of total refugees in rural colonies. It was followed by Nadia and Murshidabad with 20 percent and 9 percent of total refugees settled in different rural colonies of West Bengal respectively (Table 7.10).

The majority of the government colonies were opened in rural areas. Concerning the total government colonies, 7 districts witnessed a majority of colonies opened in rural areas. These were mainly founded Cooch Bihar, West Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, 24 Parganas, and Medinipur (Figure 7.7). Among them, no urban colonies were found in West Dinajpur till 1958 (Figure 7.7). There were 5 districts in West Bengal that witnessed large numbers of urban colonies than rural ones and these were

## Refugees in West Bengal

located in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Burdwan, Hooghly, and Howrah (Figure 7.7). Darjeeling had no rural colonies until 1958 (Figure 7.7).

Despite having more numbers of rural colonies in West Bengal till 1958, the majority of the refugees settled in urban colonies (Table 7.10; Figure 7.8). Concerning the total refugees settled in different government colonies, the majority of them settled in different urban colonies in West Bengal. All the districts of West Bengal witnessed the same where large numbers of refugees were from urban colonies except Cooch Bihar, West Dinajpur, and Murshidabad where maximum numbers of refugees lived in rural colonies in respect to the total refugees settled in government colonies in West Bengal (Figure 7.8). In West Dinajpur, there was no urban colony for refugees (Table 7.10; Figure 7.8). Similarly, there was no rural colony opened for refugees in Bankura (Figure 7.8).

The next phase of migration started in 1962-1963 in which many Hindu migrants entered Murshidabad and Malda due to the Rajshahi riots. There were around 55 thousand migrants in West Bengal arrived in West Bengal between 1958 and 1963.

The total number of refugees settled in West Bengal was estimated at around 35 lakhs by 1963 (Chaudhury, 1983). In 1964, an estimated number of 18172 persons were settled in West Bengal due to communal disturbances in Khulna, Jessore, Dacca, and other places of East Pakistan (Abha Maity, 20<sup>th</sup> February, Thirty-eighth Session, Assembly Proceedings, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1, p. 392; Chaudhuri, 1983). The numbers of immigrants still increased over the years and in 1965-66 there were more than 40 lakhs refugees in West Bengal which again accelerated and as per government records, there were 4259604 refugees who stayed in West Bengal in 1970 (Chaudhuri, 1983).

The final phase of migration occurred during Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. During this period around 10 million migrants were crossing the international border and arrived in India (Nicholas et. Al, 1972; Vyas, 2001) among them 8 million were Hindus (Kennedy, 1971; Vyas, S, 2001).

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.11 Refugee Influxes in West Bengal 1946-71**

Year	Number of Refugees (in lakhs)
	West Bengal
1946-52	25.18
1953	0.16
1954	1.04
1955	2.12
1956	2.47
1957	0.04
1958 (till 31 March)	0.01
1958 (1 April to 31 December)	0.04
1959	0.05
1960	0.09
1961	0.1
1962	0.13
1963	0.14
1964	4.19
1965	0.18
1966	0.04
1967	0.05
1968	0.04
1969	0.04
1970	2.23
1971 ( up to 25 March 1971)	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.41</b>

**Source: Ministry of Rehabilitation (MOR), Government of India (1981:39); Nakatani, 2000; Dasgupta, 2016**

There were 38.41 lakhs refugees in West Bengal till the mid of 1971 (Nakatani, 1994; Dasgupta, 2001). Around 40 lakhs of immigrants were registered between October 1946 and March 1971 (Chakrabarty, 1999). Later on, Hindu genocides in East Pakistan instigated 1016000 refugees in West Bengal between 20 March and 30 April 1971 and 14500 refugees arrived in West Bengal from Khulna and Jessore on 1 May 1971 (Ananda Mohan Biswas, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1971, Fifty-first Session, Assembly Proceedings, Vol. L1, No. 1, P. 227; Chaudhuri, 1983). According to Edward Kennedy's report, around 9.5 million refugees arrived in India in October 1971 and



## Refugees in West Bengal

the average influx was around 19645 per day in October 1971 (Kennedy, *Crisis in South Asia*, 1971; Vyas, 2001). According to the Refugee and Rehabilitation Department, there were around 6 million refugees concentrated in West Bengal in December 1973 (Table 7.9) Chatterjee, 2007) and among them, 9 lakhs lived in Kolkata (Chaudhury, 1983, Chatterjee, 2007).

According to MOR Report, Government of India, around 6 lakhs refugees were residing in West Bengal, enumerated between 1964 and 1971 which were very less in numbers. The actual numbers of refugees were greater than the estimation of MOR. There were large numbers of squatter colonies in West Bengal which were excluded by the surveyors of the MOR. Many refugees did not take shelter at government camps but rather choose empty houses of Muslim evacuees who deserted their shelter during the riots and moved to East Pakistan. Some refugees forcefully sheltered themselves in many vacant lands; some of them squatted in government barracks or open lands. These groups of migrants were not counted by the MOR, the government of India (Government of West Bengal 1981:2). The familiar picture is also observed in the work of Dasgupta (2016) in which he mentioned the Census Report of 1971 and estimated around 74 lakhs refugees in West Bengal (Dasgupta, 2016). This report also excluded the squatters and those refugees who took shelter in their relatives' houses.

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.12 District-wise Distribution of Refugees**

District	Column 1	Column 2
	Number of Refugees (1958)	Number of Refugees (1971)
<b>24 Parganas (North and South)</b>	862790	910223
<b>Nadia</b>	664530	534816
<b>Calcutta</b>	576614	286740
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	227827	285299
<b>Dinajpur (North and South)</b>	162949	197266
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	150156	237989
<b>Burdwan</b>	158503	162598
<b>Bankura</b>	16011	15314
<b>Hoogli</b>	104618	133800
<b>Howrah</b>	91135	56212
<b>Murshidabad</b>	76097	75308
<b>Malda</b>	72924	69202
<b>Medinipur</b>	43882	41686
<b>Darjeeling</b>	30043	43831
<b>Birbhum</b>	23550	20238
<b>Purulia</b>	1332	7670

**Source: Column 1, Choudhury, 1983"; Relief and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons in West Bengal, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 1958 and Column 2, Census 1971**

# Refugees in West Bengal

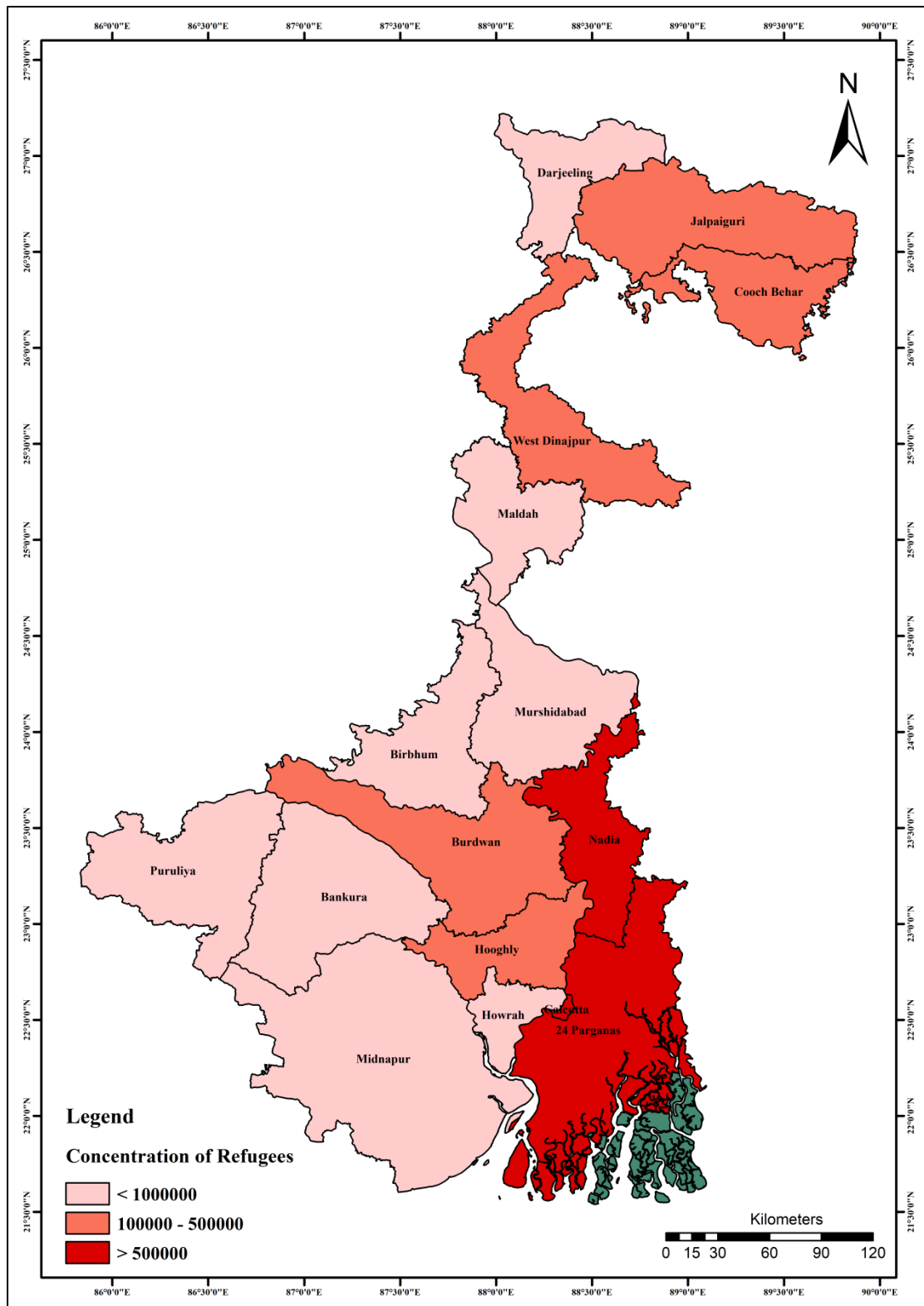


Figure 7.9 Concentration of Refugee Population in West Bengal, 1958

Baral, 2019

## Refugees in West Bengal

In 1958 there were more than 32 lakhs refugees in West Bengal (Table 7.12 Column 1). Most of them were concentrated in three districts of West Bengal such as Nadia, 24 Parganas, and Kolkata (Figure 7.9). The availability of vacant lands, employment opportunities, and concentration of the Hindu population influenced the Hindu refugees to settle there. Refugee concentration was highest in the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal due to the availability of vacant lands which was followed by Nadia and Kolkata. The former region was characterized by abundant cultivable lands which attracted agricultural migrants and later was well-known for its non-agricultural activities. Various formal and informal industries in Kolkata attracted the refugees to choose Kolkata as their destination.

In 1971 there were more than 70 lakhs refugees in West Bengal (Table 7.12 Column 2) and among them; the majority were concentrated in Nadia, North 24 Parganas, and Bankura (Figure 6.31). During this time immigration rate was slightly decreased in Kolkata as most vacant lands and employment opportunities were already saturated and the Government of India decided to shift excessive numbers of refugees to outside states of West Bengal.

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.13 Refugee Concentrations in West Bengal 1973**

Districts	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Total
	No. of Refugees	No. of Refugees	No. of Refugees
<b>24 Parganas</b>	895950	754050	1650000
<b>Nadia</b>	375175	1125575	1500750
<b>Calcutta</b>	900000	0	900000
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	37155	405345	442500
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	37735	254765	292500
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	37335	211665	249000
<b>Burdwan</b>	73800	166200	240000
<b>Hooghly</b>	104219	54781	159000
<b>Howrah</b>	101305	42695	144000
<b>Murshidabad</b>	55620	79380	135000
<b>Malda</b>	25500	102000	127500
<b>Midnapur</b>	28552	34448	63000
<b>Darjeeling</b>	29800	18200	48000
<b>Birbhum</b>	15480	16020	31500
<b>Bankura</b>	6725	9025	15750
<b>Purulia</b>	585	390	975
<b>Total</b>	2724936	3274539	5999475

**Source: Proposals for Allocation of Special Funds for Refugee Concentrated Areas in West Bengal in the Fifth Five Year Plan- Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department, February 1974, Chaudhuri, 1983**

# Refugees in West Bengal

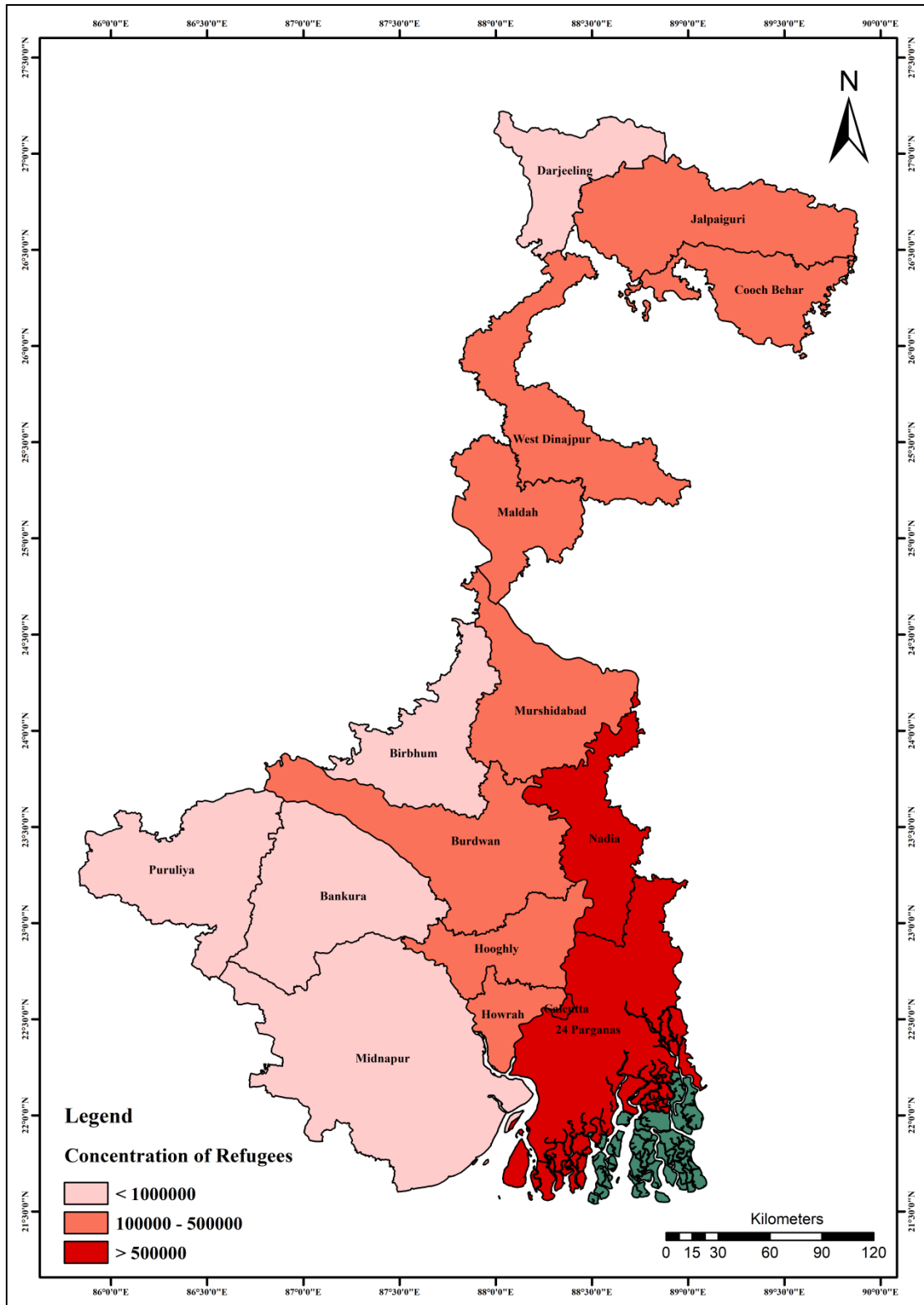
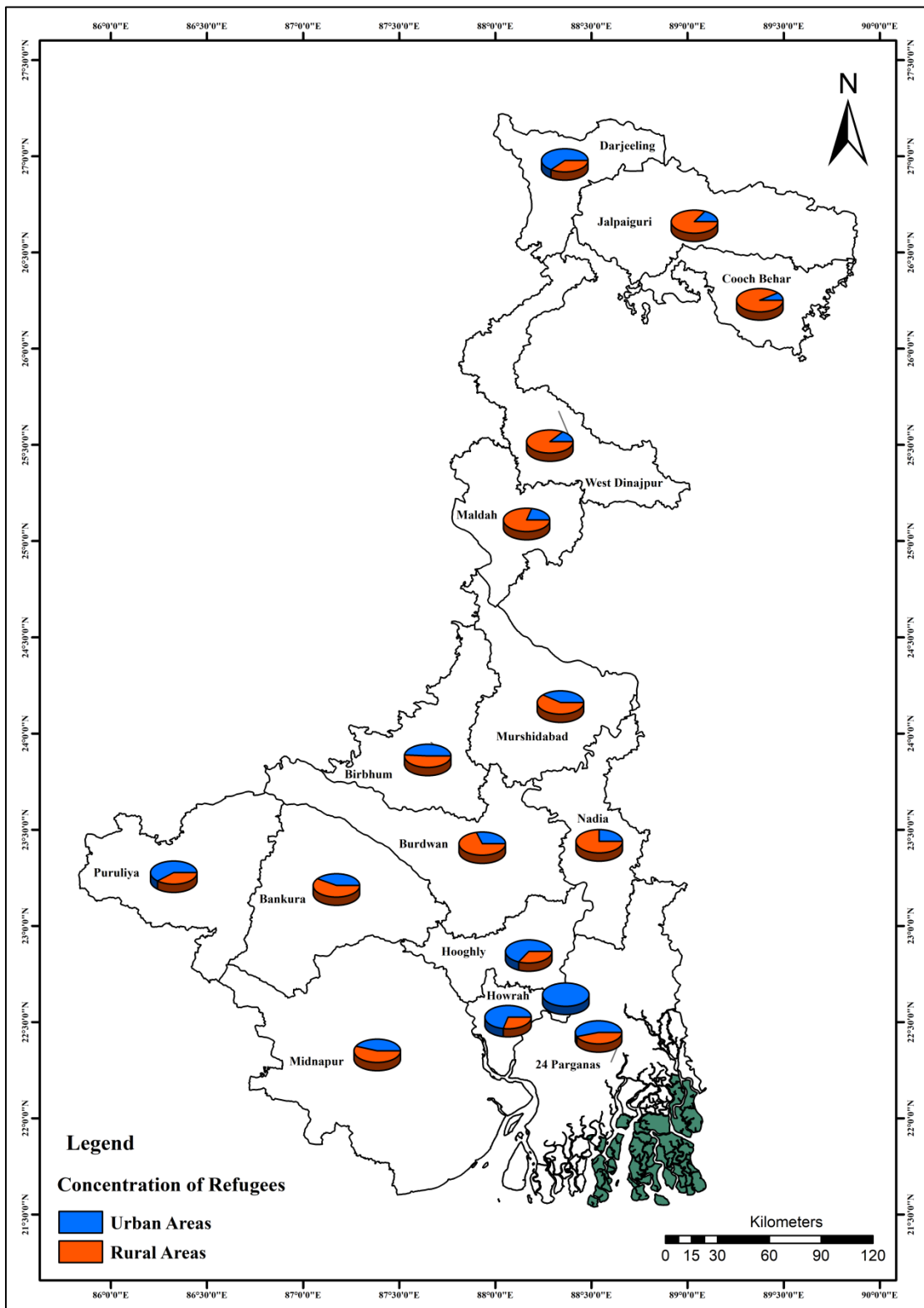


Figure 7.10 Concentrations of Refugees in West Bengal, December 1973

# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.11 Concentrations of Refugees in Urban and Rural Areas of West Bengal, December 1973**

Baral, 2019

## Refugees in West Bengal

There were around 60 lakhs refugees in West Bengal in 1973 (Chatterjee, 2007; Table 7.9). The majority of them were settled in rural areas which accounted for around 55 percent of total refugees in West Bengal, in 1973. The remaining 45 percent were settled in urban areas (Table 7.13).

More than 27 lakhs refugees settled in urban areas until 1973 and among them majority were concentrated in Kolkata and 24 Parganas which covered 33.03 percent and 32.88 percent of total immigrants in urban areas respectively (Table 7.13). Nadia secured the third position with more than 13 percent of total urban refugees in West Bengal, in 1973. The remaining 21 percent of refugees chose different districts for their settlement (Table 7.13).

More than 32.74 lakhs refugees were registered in rural areas until 1973 (Table 7.13). The majority of them were concentrated in Nadia and 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal which accounted for more than 34 percent and 23 percent of total rural areas refugees in West Bengal. It was followed by Cooch Bihar and West Dinajpur with little more than 12 percent and 8 percent of total rural refugees in West Bengal till 1973 (Table 7.13).

Until 1973, around 60 lakhs of refugees lived in West Bengal and the majority of them were concentrated in the southern portion of the state (Figure 7.10). Among the 16 districts of West Bengal, large numbers of refugees were concentrated in 24 Parganas, Nadia and Calcutta. It accounted for 28 percent, 25 percent, and 15 percent of total refugees concentrated in West Bengal till 1973 respectively (Table 7.13). Employment opportunities, secure livelihood, and locations near the border area encouraged the refugees to settle in these districts of West Bengal.

All the districts of West Bengal witnessed large numbers of refugees from East Pakistan and they settled in both urban as well as rural areas. Concerning the total migrants, the majority of the districts observed that more numbers of refugees preferred to settle in rural areas than the urban (Figure 7.11) except Darjeeling, Hugli, Howrah, Purulia, 24 Parganas, and Kolkata where the majority of migrants settled in urban areas. Kolkata was the only district in West Bengal where no rural colonies were formed; all the refugees were settled in urban areas (Figure 7.11).



# Refugees in West Bengal

In 1974, the Government of West Bengal submitted a report to the Planning Commission and estimated the numbers of refugees were 5999470 or 60 lakhs but the Refugee and Rehabilitation Commission estimated the value around 80 lakhs which was one-sixth of the total population of the state (Chakrabarty, 1999). The Refugee Rehabilitation Committee (RRC) was founded in December 1978 and prepared a detailed report on refugee issues. They estimated that in 1981 around 74.4 lakhs refugees were residing in West Bengal and around 2.1 lakhs refugees were taking shelter in various squatter colonies in West Bengal. In addition, around 76.5 or near about 80 lakhs refugees were residing in West Bengal in 1981.

## **7.2 Immigration of Squatters and their settlement in West Bengal**

The partition and pre-partition immigrants in West Bengal were classified into 3 types according to their socioeconomic status (Chakrabarty, 1999). A group of refugees had some pre-partition links and they settled in West Bengal by their efforts. These well-off migrants did not depend on the government for their survival. The next group of migrants was hapless people who left everything in East Pakistan due to riots and came to West Bengal. They were fully dependent on the government for their survival. The third group of refugees had inadequate resources to settle by their choices but had enough willpower and determination which led them to forcefully occupy the vacant lands and houses. They were known as 'squatters' (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970; Chakrabarty, 1999). They had self-esteem and self-respect which resisted them to take any help from the government. Vacant and deserted houses, military camps, etc. were occupied by these people (Chakrabarty, 1999).

They arrived in West Bengal during the 1946 riots and started to live under the sun of West Bengal. Initially, they were facing the problems of accommodation and the government did not provide it properly. At the same time, the tragic conditions of the government camps and their insufficient numbers directed them to forcefully occupy the vacant lands and houses for their accommodation. It created a major problem for land owners as well as the government (Chakrabarty, 1999).

Land speculators became active during this period. They sold the lands at higher prices to the wealthy refugees after purchasing from its owner at lower values (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 24 August 1947). Most of the refugees were unable to purchase the

## Refugees in West Bengal

lands at higher prices and forcefully occupied them. An incident happened in East Upper Circular Road where 80 refugee families forcefully occupied 50 flats after failing to pay a high amount of salami (Amrita Bazar Patrika, 14 October 1947).

During this period several organizations were formed to tackle the refugee issues in West Bengal. Nikhil Vanga Bastuhara Karma Parishad (NVBKP) or All Bengal Refugee Council of Action was of such leading organizations working for accommodation and other problems for squatters. It was founded in September 1948 and in April 1949 the executive of NVBKP decided to occupy unauthorized and fallow and waste lands for the squatters. They collected some fallow lands in Sodepur and formed the first squatter colony in West Bengal known as Desbandhu Nagar (Chakroborty, 1999).

Another squatter colony was established in Jadavpur named as Bijoygarh colony. The founder of this colony was Sri Santosh Dutta, one of the leaders of Jugantor in Faridpur. This place was used as barracks for the soldiers during the World War and later it was allotted for the construction of a refugee colony. This place was also forcefully occupied by the squatters. It was assumed that the government permitted them to construct colonies for the refugees but there was no official documentation. After receiving the verbal permission the colonies were formed. This colony was also known as the first squatter colony as it was formed by the initiative of the refugees (Bandhopadhya, 1970). No financial support was provided by the government. The controversy was arisen due to the proximity of then Chief Minister Bidhan Chandra Roy and Santosh Dutta which might be helped to open the Bijoygarh colony and regularised it quickly (Chakrabarty, 1999). In some cases after the construction of the colonies, the hoodlums of the landowners and Zamindars destroyed it forcefully and it was reconstructed by the efforts of the refugees. Bijoygarh colony experienced the same. Sometimes local party members or university students helped them to reconstruct the building (Chakrabarty, 1999).

After the formation of colonies, the emphasis was given to constructing roads, educational institutions, medical sectors, drinking water facilities, etc. These were controlled by a committee formulated by the refugees. Bijoygarh colony was an example of such squatter colonies that practiced these facilities (Datta, 2001).

## Refugees in West Bengal

Most of the squatter colonies experienced police or hoodlum oppression every day which forced them to go to court to solve the matter. Initially, the court was in favor of refugees and declared that if a person acquired a place for more than three months, no criminal charges would be granted. Only a civil suit could apply to him. It became problematic for the landowners as civil suits incorporated the payment of court fees which was 12.5 percent of the total value of his land (Ganguly, 1997; Chakroborty, 1999). Later on, a bill was in favor of the landowners and known as “The Eviction of Persons of Unauthorized Occupation of Land Bill’. Refugees protested against the land bill and the government also decided to regularise the squatter colonies to settle the issues. The bill also had a provision that government should provide alternative accommodation for the refugees; if not the possible government had to acquire more vacant lands for the squatters (Choudhury, 1983).

The squatter colonies were started to form in 1949 and most of them were completed within 1950. Initially, the government decided to regularise those colonies which were formed within October 1950. The state government surveyed those colonies and calculated there were 133 colonies in West Bengal formed within 31 October 1950 within which more than 21 thousand families were living (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970).

All the squatter colonies were constructed with proper planning and procedure without any financial support from the government which benefited the government as no extra money was invested to take care of these groups of migrants. The squatters forcefully lived on the properties which belong to others but to construct those colonies the former also spent a large amount of money. They would not get any loan after mortgaging those properties in the future. After observing such a situation, the government decided to regularise those colonies by compensating the land owners. In such a way the government’s right over these lands would be established and it would also withdraw the land owners’ claim over their lands (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970). The government compensated land owners; regularised the colonies and gave ‘Arpannama’ to the squatters (Choudhury, 1983).

The government also faced some difficulties to regularise the squatter colonies; first, those properties belong to the land owners, and refugees forcefully occupied those properties. Secondly, the squatters were not Bonafide refugees, and thirdly, the ceiling

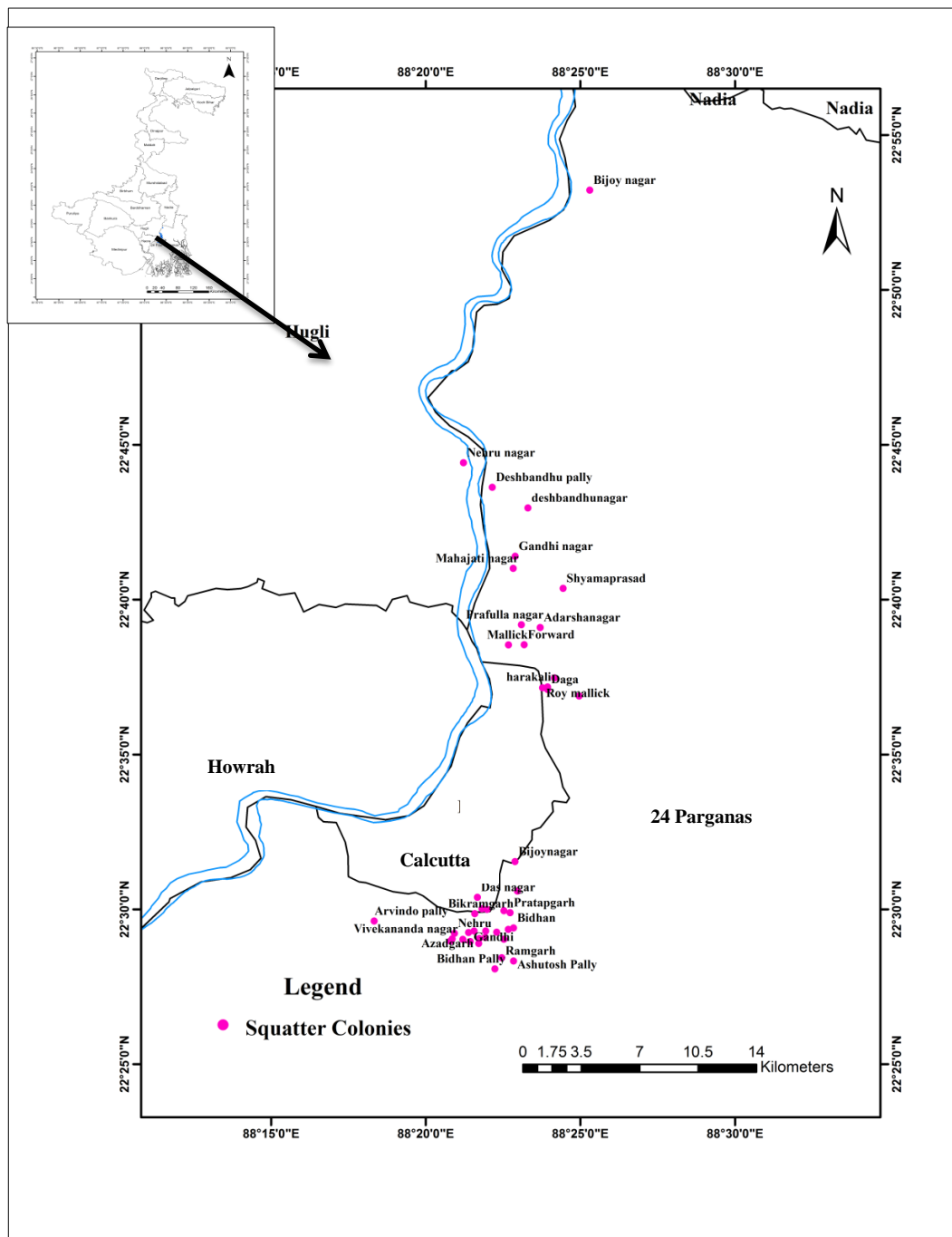
## Refugees in West Bengal

prices of the lands created a difficulty for the government. The central government had fixed a specific amount of money for the lands but the land prices in Kolkata were much higher. Such situations became an obstruction to regularising those colonies. Initially, 120 colonies were regularised and 21 colonies were regularised within 1956 (Renuka Roy, 13 March 1956, Fourteen Session, Assembly Proceedings, Vol. XIII, No. 3, PP. 151-158; Choudhury, 1983). In 1957 another 69 colonies were receiving regularisation (Samar Mukhopadhyaya, 10 July 1957, Seventeenth Session, Assembly Proceeding, Vol. XVII, No. 3, PP. 276; Choudhury, 1983). Within August 1964, except 5 colonies all the pre-1950 squatter colonies were regularised (Abha Maity, 21 August 1964, Thirtynineth Session, Assembly Proceedings, Vol. XXXIX, No. 1, pp-1414; Choudhury, 1983). There were 144 pre-1950 squatter colonies in West Bengal formed within 31 December 1950 (Choudhury, 1983).

The agitation again started when the government decided to regularise only those colonies which were constructed within December 1950. In the early 1970s' several difficulties were arising to distinguish between regularise and non-regularise squatter colonies. The government then decided to give land titles and rights to all post-1950s squatters of West Bengal and like pre-1950 squatter colonies; they were also provided additional facilities. Finally, the regularisation procedure was started for post-1950 squatter colonies (Choudhury, 1983).

Pre-1950 squatter colonies were mainly located in Kolkata and the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. Both the banks of the Hooghly River also sheltered the majority of the squatters' populations. There were 147 pre-1950 squatter colonies in West Bengal which reached more than 800 colonies in post-1950. During this period colonies were not only confined among then Kolkata and its surroundings rather they were spread throughout all the districts of West Bengal (Choudhury, 1983).

# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.12** Location of Pre 1950 Squatter Colonies in Kolkata and 24 Parganas district of West Bengal

Baral, 2019

## Refugees in West Bengal

**Table 7.14 District-wise break up of Post-1950 squatters' colonies in West Bengal**

Districts	Number of Colonies	Number of Families
<b>Burdwan</b>	49	4035
<b>Birbhum</b>	29	1445
<b>Bankura</b>	44	3237
<b>Midnapur</b>	10	1250
<b>Hooghly</b>	49	2868
<b>Howrah</b>	55	683
<b>24 Parganas</b>	305	28435
<b>Calcutta</b>	63	5712
<b>Nadia</b>	73	7040
<b>Murshidabad</b>	57	4551
<b>Malda</b>	38	3629
<b>West Dinajpur</b>	1	59
<b>Jalpaiguri</b>	13	1065
<b>Darjeeling</b>	12	1287
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	9	1616
<b>Purulia</b>	0	0

**Source: Government of West Bengal, Relief and Rehabilitation, Committee Report 1981-82, Pg. 30. ;**

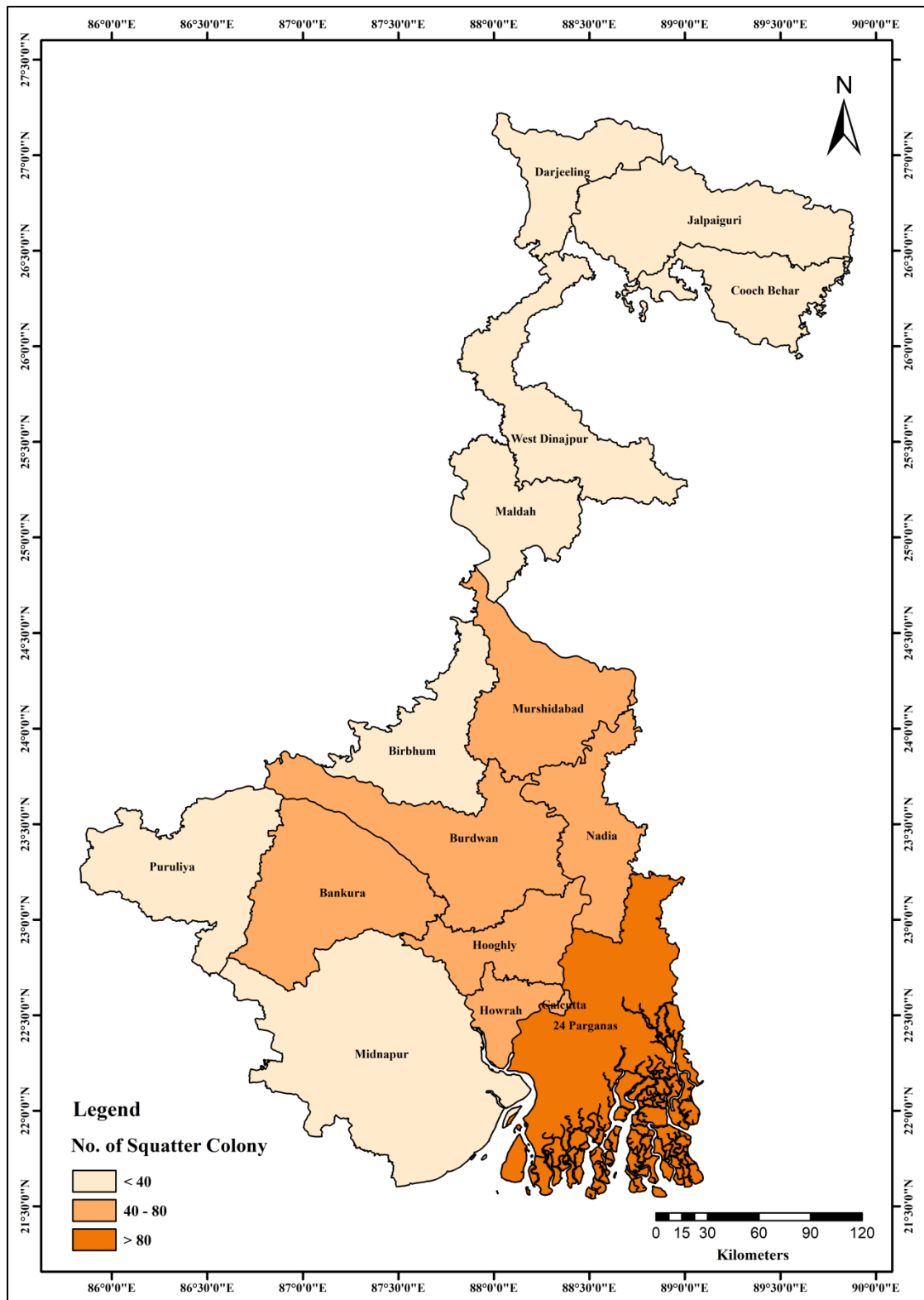
[http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/163897/8/08\\_chapter%203.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/163897/8/08_chapter%203.pdf)

In the post-1950 more than 800 squatter colonies were opened in West Bengal (Table 7.14). Large numbers of it were concentrated in 24 Parganas (Table 7.14; Figure 7.13) which accounted for around 38 percent of total post-1950s squatter colonies (Table 7.14). It was followed by Nadia and Calcutta with 9 percent and 8 percent of total squatter colonies opened in West Bengal in the post-1950s' respectively (Table 7.14). Figure 7.13 reflects that large numbers of post-1950s squatter colonies were concentrated in the southern and central regions of West Bengal especially 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, Nadia, Bankura, Burdwan, and Murshidabad. There were more than 40 colonies were formed in these districts of West Bengal (Figure 7.13) and northern, western and south-western regions of West Bengal witnessed very fewer numbers of squatter colonies (less than 40) (Table 7.14). It occurred due to their position and lack of facilities which influenced the squatters to settle there. The abundance amount of vacant lands mainly attracted the refugees which might be unavailable in these regions.

## Refugees in West Bengal

More than 66 thousand families were living in Post 1950s' squatter colonies of West Bengal (Table 7.14). Among them, the majority were concentrated in 24 Parganas (Figure 7.14) which accounted for more than 42 percent of total post-1950s squatter families in West Bengal. It was followed by Nadia and Kolkata with 11 percent and 9 percent of total squatter families living in West Bengal after the 1950s' respectively (Table 7.14). Northern regions and south and south-western districts of West Bengal witnessed very low numbers of squatter families (less than 3000 families). Irrespective of large numbers of colonies the Howrah and Hooghly absorbed very low numbers of post-1950s squatter populations; on the other hand, only 38 post-1950s squatter colonies of Malda occupied more than 3 thousand families of total post-1950s squatter families (Table 7.14).

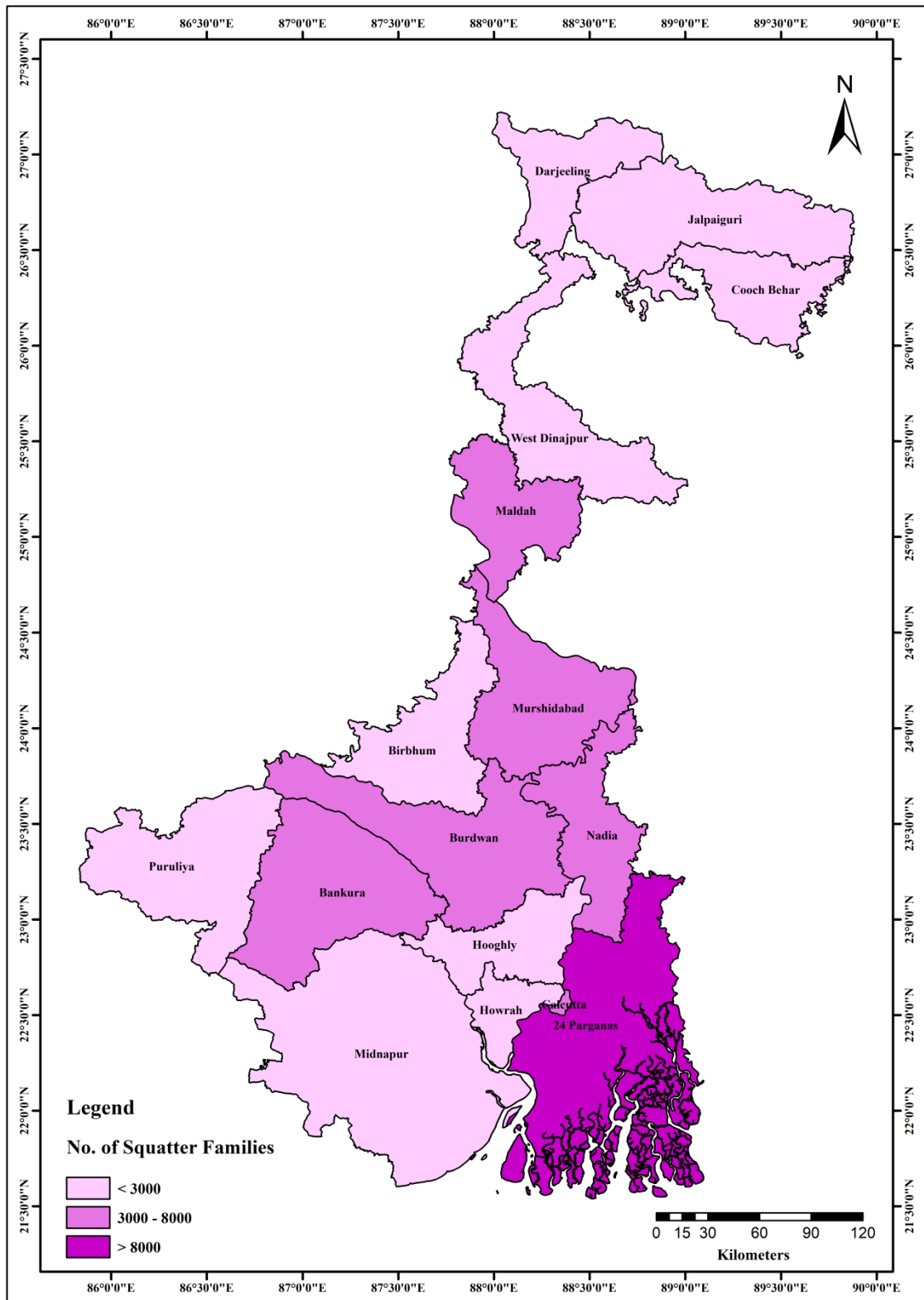
# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.13 Concentration of Post-1950 Squatter Colonies in West Bengal**



# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.14 Concentration of Post-1950 Squatter population in West Bengal**

## 7.3 Trails of East Pakistan Immigrants in West Bengal

After Noakhali and Tippera riots when immigrants poured into West Bengal from East Pakistan they usually choose the nearest border location for their displacement. The emigrants from Tripura and Chittagong districts of East Pakistan entered India through the Indian state of Tripura. Hindu migrants from the Srihatta district of East Pakistan entered in Cachar district of Assam. Similarly, Hindu emigrants from the Mymensingh division arrived in North Assam (Figure 7.15). Cooch Bihar and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal accommodated migrants from Rangpur in East Pakistan (Figure 7.15). People from Eastern Dinajpur entered in nearest West Dinajpur in West Bengal and migrants from Rajshahi arrived in Malda (Figure 7.15). Some people living in the central part of East Pakistan entered West Bengal through Banpur transit points and south-western migrants choose Bongaon point for their displacement in West Bengal (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970). Migrants stayed beside the border area crossing the border by walk. Some wealthy migrants arrived in West Bengal via airways from Dhaka to Dumdum (Figure 7.15). Several parts of East Pakistan did not have proper rail connectivity such as the Bakharganj district and some parts of the Faridpur district. The government of India arranged waterways for these refugees. It moved through Sundarban of Khulna district and arrived in Indian Sundarban of 24 Parganas. Then it crossed the Patharpratima and moved via Namkhana River between Fraserganj thana and Kakdwip and reached Sagar Island. From there it arrived in Calcutta where several 'ferry ghats' on both sides of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River were used as points where refugees were shifted to different camps after receiving border slips (Bandhopadhyaya, 1970).

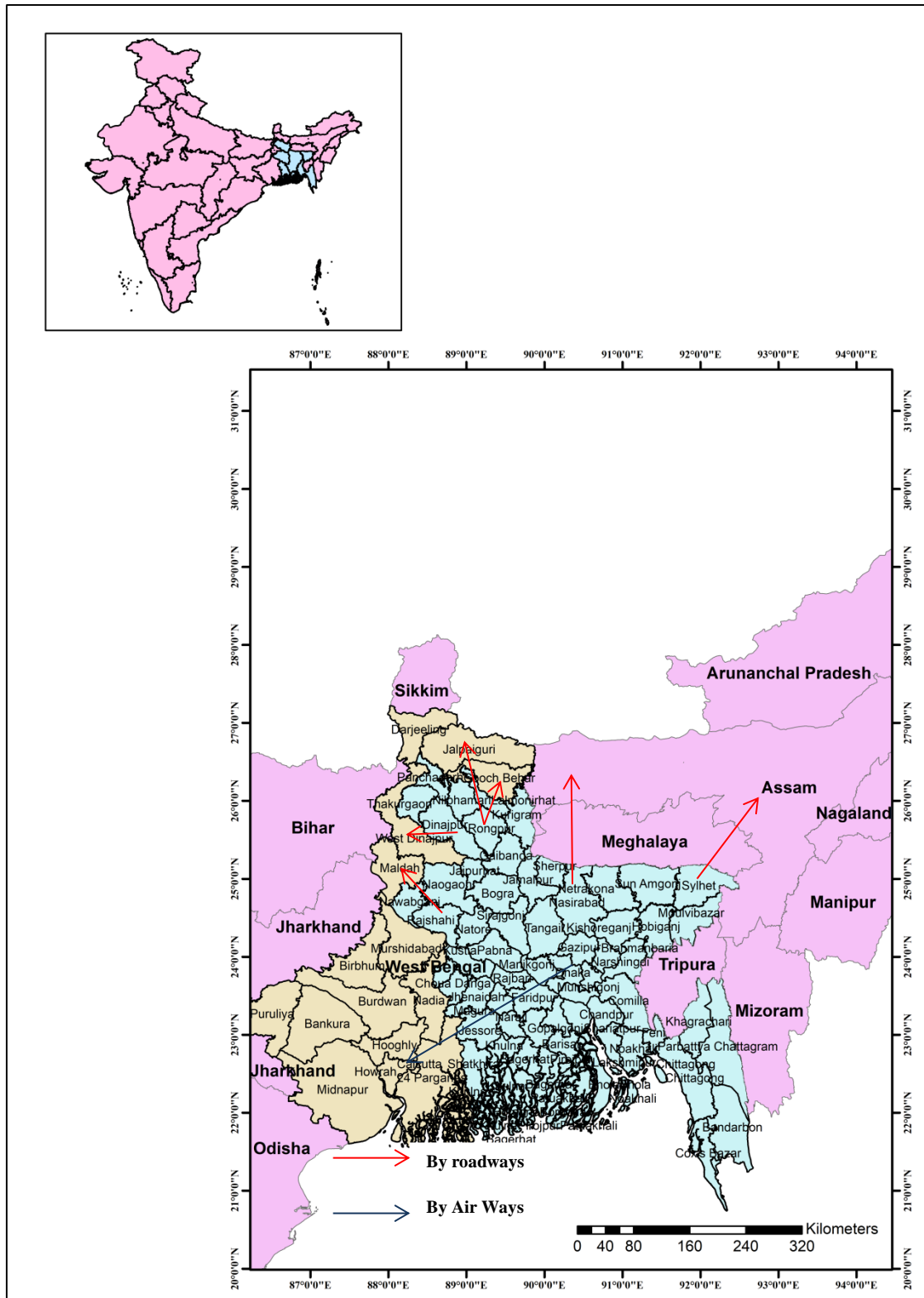
There were several transit points opened in border districts of West Bengal; refugees entered West Bengal through these transit points. There were located at Sealdah, Hasnabad, Petropol, Bonpur, Malda, Balurghat, Berhampore, Cooch Behar, Raiganj, Jalpaiguri, Canning, Aliporeduar, etc. (Figure 7.16). In these transit points, refugees were given border slips that denoted them as bonafide refugees. This slip helped the refugees to receive governmental support (Dasgupta, 2016). Sealdah station was one of the important transit points for those refugees who arrived in West Bengal by Train. They gathered at the station premises and the government provided doles until they had shifted to the government camps. Every day thousands of immigrants

## Refugees in West Bengal

reached the station; they formed makeshift camps and started to live together (Chakrabarty, 1999).

In official documents transit points were addressed as interception or reception points which were situated at the border areas. These points acknowledged the new migrants and provided temporary accommodation. The officers of these points checked the documents of the refugees and interrogated them to check their authenticity. Sometimes the refugees were given Tuberculosis and Cholera vaccines at the transit points and transferred to the transit camps in different districts. After that, they were transferred to the relief camps. The government had notified four reception centers such as Banpur, Petrapol, Sealdah, and Hasnabad (Figure 7.16) which absorbed a maximum number of refugees. the remaining transit points were known as interception centers (Dasgupta, 2016).

# Refugees in West Bengal



**Figure 7.15** Arrival of Hindu Migrants from East Pakistan to West Bengal and Other States

Baral, 2019

# Refugees in West Bengal

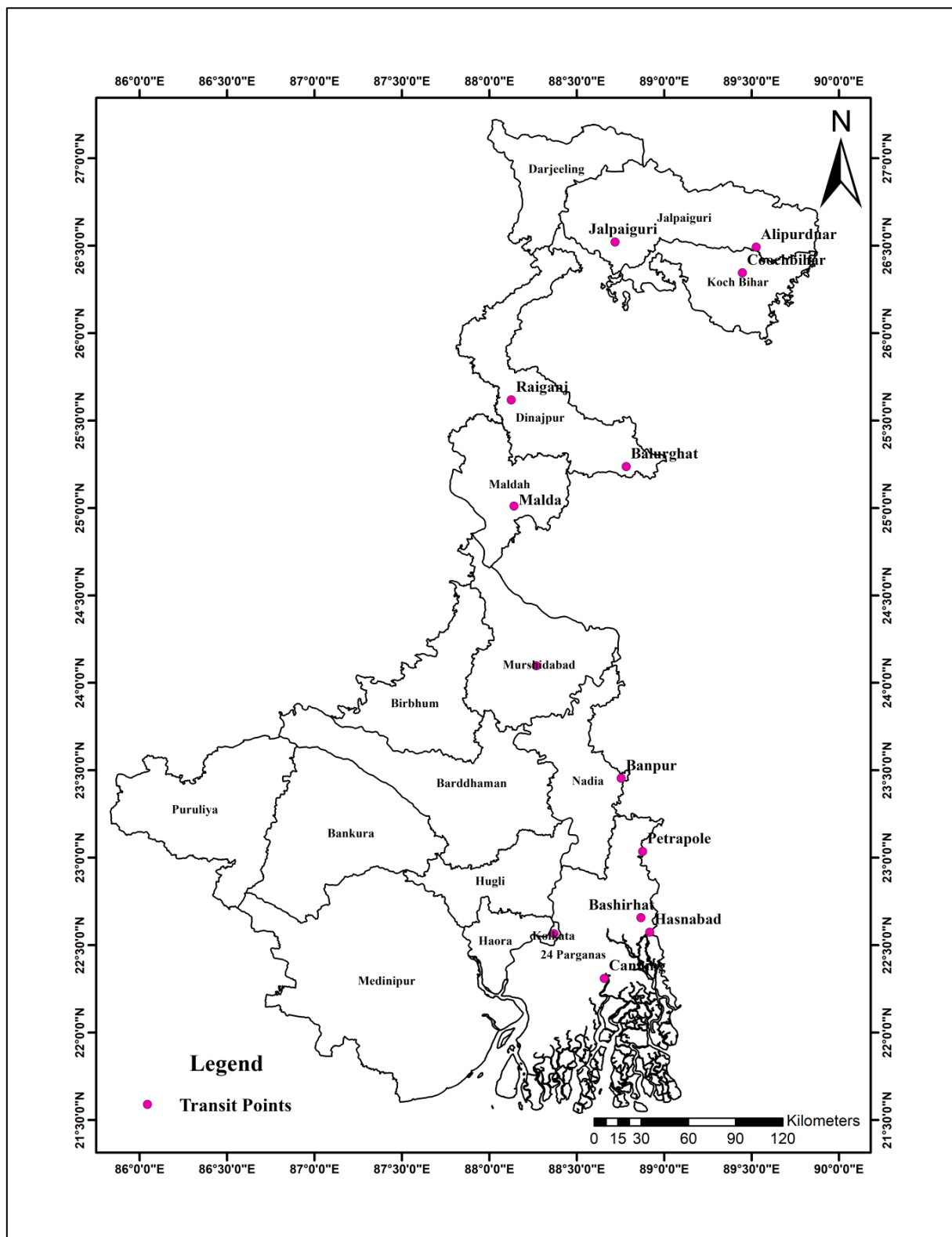


Figure 7.16 Entry and Transit Points of Refugees in West Bengal

Source: Dasgupta, 2016

# **Chapter 8 - Conclusion**

## Conclusion

Human migration is an age-old phenomenon, witnessed by every society differently. It refers to a regional displacement of the population across a definite border for permanent or semi-permanent settlement. The United Nations Migration Agency defines the migrant as a person who is displaced across an international boundary or within a state of his/her place of the previous residence. In the population dynamics, it is the third major component after fertility and mortality that is impacted the economy of a society. Several factors determine the choice of migration which may be voluntary or forced migration or involuntary or spontaneous migration. Economic challenges, amplified magnitude of the disaster, extreme poverty or political conflicts, etc. are the prime factors of voluntary displacement of the human being. In recent years, the Covid-19 pandemic situation also displaced many people from their origin. Some push and pull factors also instigate the migrants to change their place of habitat permanently or temporarily. Push factors compel a people to out-migration in which a people leave their place of residence and move to other places due to socio-economic reasons, lack of development of their place of residence or political instability of a particular location, etc. Pull factors attracts a person to in-migration to a new place in which availability of rudimentary or high-level facilities, employment opportunity, better lifestyle, etc. are the prime factors for the displacement.

According to World Migration Report 2020 (WMR), more than 280 million international migrants are accounting for 3.5 percent of the total global population; among them, large numbers of international migrants are recorded in Europe and Asia which represents 31 percent and 30.51 percent of total global migrants respectively.

According to World Migration Report, Asia contributes more than 85 million international migrants in 2020 and secures the second position in global migration after Europe. The WMR, 2020 also reflects that Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation, and the United Arab Emirates in Asia secured third, fourth, and sixth top destination countries for international migration.

By 2020, India secures the leading position of top origin country of international migration and the fourteenth top destination country of international migration. More than 48 lakhs immigrants entered India globally in 2020 which majority of them emigrated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal which accounts for more than 51

## Conclusion

percent, 17 percent, and 15 percent of total emigrants registered in India. Several states of India witnessed immigration flow outside countries of the world and these immigrants mainly concentrated in different metropolitan cities located in different states in India.

West Bengal, one of the major states of India witnessed the immigration flow since the beginning of its formation in 1947 (Before that it was undivided Bengal). During this period immigrants mainly arrived in West Bengal outside India, especially from Pakistan and the newly formed East Pakistan. The independence of India and the resultant partition of Bengal, Punjab, and Assam uprooted millions of migrants in India and they started to cross the border to maintain religious homogeneity. Religious-based partition and resultant new border displaced millions of Hindus and Muslim migrants from their country of origin and they settled in a new place. Bengali Hindu immigrants entered India especially in West Bengal from East Pakistan and Muslim immigrants left West Bengal for East Pakistan. Displacement also occurred from different states and union territories to West Bengal. At the end of 1951, West Bengal witnessed more than 26 lakhs migrants from Pakistan and similar numbers of in-migrants from outside states entered West Bengal. The influence of partition persisted till 1971 when the Indo-Pakistan conflicts and Bangladesh Liberation War created a massive flow of migration in West Bengal. The former Pakistani territory became independent and appeared as a distinct territory known as 'Bangladesh'. After 1971, the influx in West Bengal continued till 1981 and after that, the immigration flow in West Bengal from Bangladesh and Pakistan jointly declined from 30.79 lakhs in 1991 to 22.30 lakhs in 2011. This group of immigrants was born in Bangladesh. In the case of POLR immigrants, Pakistan and Bangladesh immigrants jointly contributed 26.42 lakhs in 1991 and 19.03 lakhs in 2011.

The influx in West Bengal also occurred from outside states of West Bengal. The immigrants from these states and union territories were enumerated in West Bengal since the independence of India. Large numbers of these immigrants were enumerated mainly from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Delhi. The estimated numbers of these immigrants were increasing over the time in which 1951 and 2011 census enumerated more than 18 lakhs and 24 lakhs, immigrants, by birth but their rate of the influx was fluctuating over the years. It might occur due to the return of migrants to



## Conclusion

their place of origin or they might be shifted to other places. A similar view was also observed in the case of POLR migrants from states in India beyond the West Bengal which was estimated at more than 21 lakhs immigrants in 1951 and reached 27 lakhs in 2011 in a fluctuating manner. Return of migrants to their POLR or any other places or their demises also included in these values. So till 2011, the West Bengal registered more than 46.70 lakhs, immigrants, by birth from different states in India beyond West Bengal and as well as from outside India. Similar numbers of POLR immigrants from outside states in India beyond West Bengal and outside countries were documented in West Bengal which was registered for 46.46 lakhs population.

The influx in West Bengal in 1951 was based on the partition of India which displaced millions of migrants between India and Pakistan. Hindu people from East Pakistan started to arrive in West Bengal and the majority of them settled in Kolkata, Nadia, and 24 Parganas. According to the government and their official literature, these immigrants were named refugees and they mainly left their lands due to political and regional conflicts. They were receiving all kinds of rehabilitation benefits from the government. Some of them were also settled by their initiatives after forcefully occupying vacant lands and houses. In the literature, they were named 'squatters'. The influx of refugees was confined to several phases as the Noakhali and Tippera riots, the Delhi Pact, the introduction of the passport system, Khulna riots, etc. instigated the new scale of displacement over the time and it continued until 1971 when East Pakistan was appeared as a distinct country of the world and renamed as Bangladesh. The effect of partition and its resultant displacement was stopped after 1971 and from 1971 the influx in West Bengal mainly occurred due to socio-economic and environmental purposes in which marriage, employment opportunities, family movement, education, movement with households, natural disasters, etc. forced the people to left their place of residence and enumerated in West Bengal permanently or semi-permanently.

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