

Impact of Migration on Family Members of In-Migrants: A Case of Asansol City, West Bengal

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To cite this article: Thakur, P., & Sinha, B.R.K. (2024). Impact of migration on family members of in-migrants: A case of Asansol City, West Bengal. *Population Geography*, 46(2), 91–114.

Abstract

Migration impacts people and places alike. Migrants undergo positive and negative impacts with variations across gender and age groups. In this spirit, this paper aims to analyse the age- and sex-wise impact on socio-cultural and economic aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol. This study is based on the primary data collected through a field survey in 2021, wherein the period of stay of the in-migrants at the destination spans from 1960 to 2021. For this, a well-designed questionnaire was prepared. A total of 2365 respondents were selected based on purposive random sampling technique. Analysis was done using two-way and three-way cross-tabulation using SPSS. The findings suggest that most females migrated to Asansol City because of marriage. Asansol city is no longer attractive for male migration because of the lack of lucrative employment opportunities. The closure of many coalfield plants and the absence of new investment plants are the main causes of poor conditions in the economic sectors of the study area.

Keywords: migration, Asansol city, socio-cultural aspects, economic aspects, in-migrants, positive and negative impacts of migration.

Introduction

The impact of migration is an important aspect of human mobility in population geography. The major reason behind the movement of a person or group of people from a resource-deficient area to a resource-rich area is to earn a better and more

sustainable livelihood and to seek a better lifestyle. Apart from this, several socio-cultural, political, and environmental factors also compel the migrants to move from one place to another. Topographically, Asansol City is a plain region where human factors related to social, cultural and economic aspects have mainly shaped

Article:

Received: 10.09.23

Reviewed: 02.09.24

Accepted: 29.10.24

the migration pattern. Therefore, in this study, the researchers have primarily focused on migration's positive and negative impact on the socio-cultural and economic aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol City. The period of stay of the in-migrants in Asansol city spans from 1960 to 2021. Several scholars have already worked on the impacts of migration. However, the approach of their study is different from that of this study because some of them have considered only the positive aspects of socio-cultural background.

In contrast, others have highlighted the adverse impacts of migration. Kipgen and Panda (2019, p.343) have highlighted the social relations in which an individual strengthens a social base, leading to a healthy social life. Social networks such as peer groups, family, relatives, and other social communities provide all possible support to the migrant so that they can easily cope with the initial difficulties in the alien environment (Zhang et al., 2023, pp.7-8; Wen & Hanley, 2016, p.84). Due to busy work schedules and longer working hours, many migrants cannot establish regular communication with their families residing in their birthplace. Because of prolonged separation from their place of origin, migrant's families face loneliness, emotional difficulties and psychological isolation (Fellmeth et al., 2018, p.2574; Som, 2022, p.119; Alm et al., 2019, p.8). Sometimes, the poor mental and physical conditions of migrants give birth to many infectious diseases that

lead to prolonged illness. So, the emergence and re-emergence of many infectious diseases are very common phenomena at the place of in-migration. In short, it can be said that the migrants sometimes carry some infectious diseases that can pose a risk to the local population (Barnett & Walker, 2008, p. 1447). The change in food habits of migrants in new places plays a very significant role in their health. According to Ottesen and Wandel (2012, p. 9), many migrants from Southeast Asia have changed their dietary patterns after arriving in European countries. Instead of consuming traditional foods like cereals, legumes and tubers, they consume unhealthy diets like fatty and fast food, due to which they are very prone to diseases like hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Kaur et al. (2011, p.462) opine that if migrants get decent jobs which provide them higher wages, job security, occupational prestige, and better and sustainable living opportunities, even then, they have to face many difficulties.

It is crucial to recognise the importance of education and training for migrants. Moreover, without higher educational qualifications and technical skills, migrants often find themselves in low-profile jobs with little job security and low pay, leading to poverty and misery (Wial, 1991, pp. 401-402; Benach et al. 2011, p. 2). Therefore, migrants need proper educational qualifications and proper training for the job at their destination. A reasonable educational qualification leads to stable wages,

but massive job competition between the locals and the migrants at the destination creates job-related problems (Raphael & Ronconi, 2007, pp. 429-430; Dadush, 2014, p.1).

Objectives

Objectives of the study are to: i) analyse the age and sex-wise multiple positive impacts on socio-cultural aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol city; ii) examine the age and sex-wise multiple negative impact on socio-cultural aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol city; iii) highlight the age and sex-wise multiple positive impact on economic aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol city; and iv) look at age and sex-wise multiple negative impact on economic aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol city.

Methodology

The present study is entirely based on the primary data collected through a well-prepared objective-based questionnaire in 2021. In this study, the number of respondents depended on the number of migrants who in-migrated to the concerned household and stayed between 1960 and 2021. At the time of the field survey, it was found that some households had one in-migrant and others had more than one. During the personal field survey, investigators considered not only one in-migrant from the respective selected household but also more than one in-migrant or the number of in-migrants available in the households. In this study, the focus is on in-migrants; we considered only those households which had at least

one in-migrant. Finally, surveying the households, the total number of respondents (by selecting one respondent from each household) became 1250, who furnished information about 2365 in-migrants. This number is based on the purposive random sampling technique to serve the study's objectives. The collected data were processed, arranged, coded, and tabulated to meet the objectives. Data were analysed using two three-way cross-tabulations to see the impact of migration on the socio-cultural and economic aspects of in-migrants family members.

Study Area

Asansol City is located between 23° 24' and 23° 53' north latitude and 86° 48' and 87° 32' east longitude. It has an area of 125 square kilometres. As per the Census of India, 2011, the total population of Asansol City was 563917, out of which 292387 were males and 271530 were females.

The city is situated on the lower Chota Nagpur Plateau, which consists of meta-based rocks of Precambrian age, Rajmahal basalt, and Gondwana sedimentary rocks. The sediments of the Upper Tertiary age lie between the Damodar and Ajay rivers. Another river, the Barakar, joins the Damodar near Dishergarh, and a smaller river, the Nunia, flows through Asansol. Asansol is surrounded by a mineral-rich region, which affects its migration pattern. The other major reasons affecting the migration pattern in Asansol city are moderate climate, high level of urbanisation and industrialisation,

better educational facilities, political stability and security.

Asansol City has fifty wards, number 13 being the least populated and number 33 being the most populated. The reference map (Fig. 2) illustrates the locational aspects of the study area and methodological aspects concerning each ward's distributional pattern from the sample survey perspective. Of the 50 wards of Asansol, 25 households were selected from each ward. The selection was based on social group representation, with five households chosen from the General, OBC, SC, ST, and Muslim social groups. This sampling approach ensures diversity and inclusivity across various social categories, providing a comprehensive understanding of the demographic structure of the study area.

As the second-largest urban agglomeration in West Bengal after Kolkata, Asansol has boasted a diverse or multi-cultural population, significantly shaped by decades of in-migration. Its growth has been driven by its key industrial and commercial status. The city has a relatively young population, with a large portion of the population in the working-age group, highlighting its role as an economic centre. However, this also points to a high dependency ratio in some families, where younger members often rely on income from out-migrant workers.

While Asansol's industrial base provides employment, there are notable income disparities, with a significant portion of the population

in the lower-income group. Differences in educational levels between native residents and migrants have impacted social integration and economic mobility, particularly for migrants' families. Migrants typically have settled in communities based on their origin, forming ethnic or linguistic enclaves. This cultural diversity has enriched Asansol but also posed challenges for social cohesion, as different groups have strived to maintain their distinct identities while integrating into the broader urban society.

The 1,250 surveyed households contained 7,714 family members; 3440 males and the remaining 4274 females. Males have out-migrated from the study area for employment. Most of the population was from within the 15-34 age group. Among them, 667 males and 792 females belonged to the general caste, 717 males and 829 females to the OBC category, 814 males and 1,136 females were Muslim, followed by SC and ST groups.

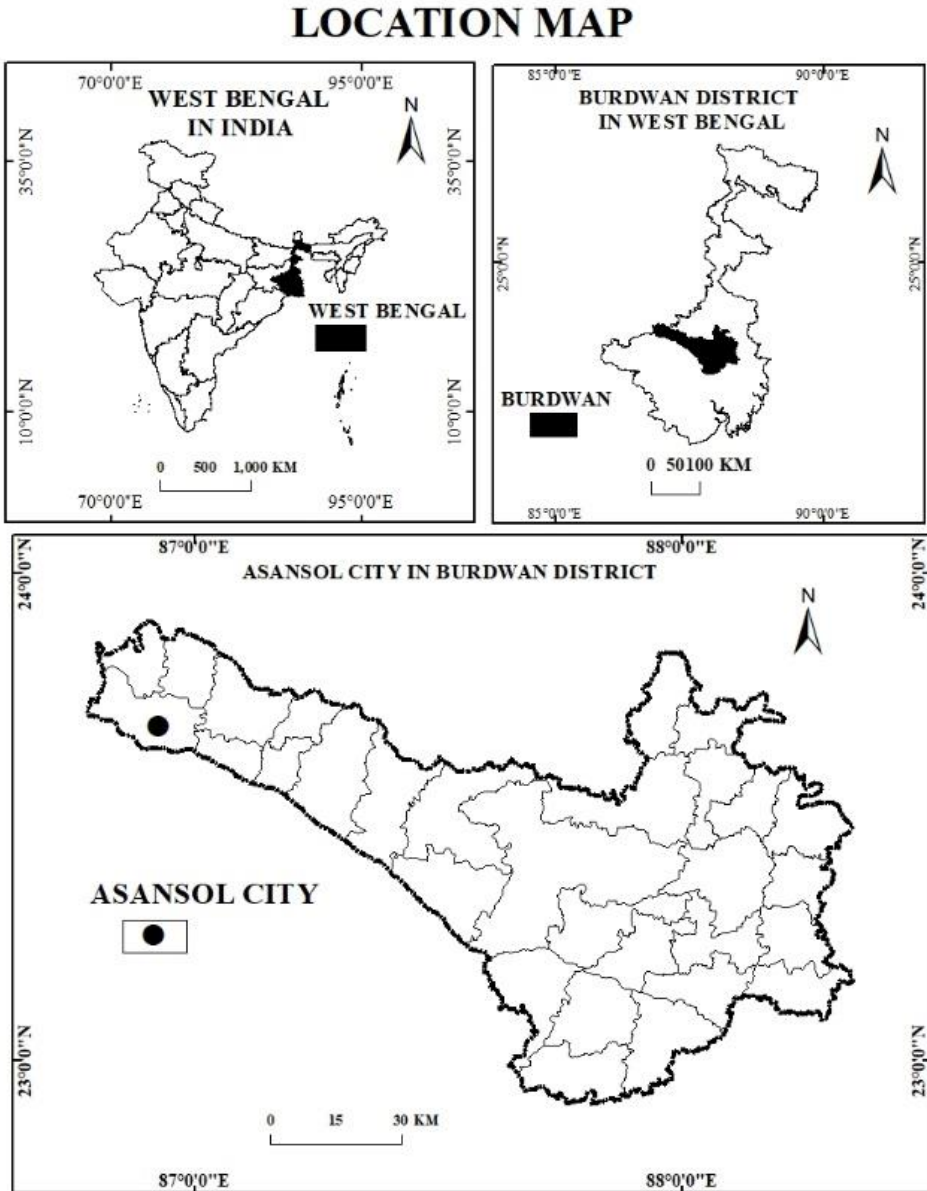
Of the total population (7714), 2213 were working males, and 422 were working females engaged in different economic activities. The total number of non-working males and females were 1227 and 3852, respectively. The majority of the working population's per capita earnings varied from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000.

So, it can be said that the socioeconomic conditions attract many in-migrants from the surrounding and remote rural areas.

The continuous movement from its surrounding rural areas to Asansol city affects the physical, socio-cultural, economic, political, and

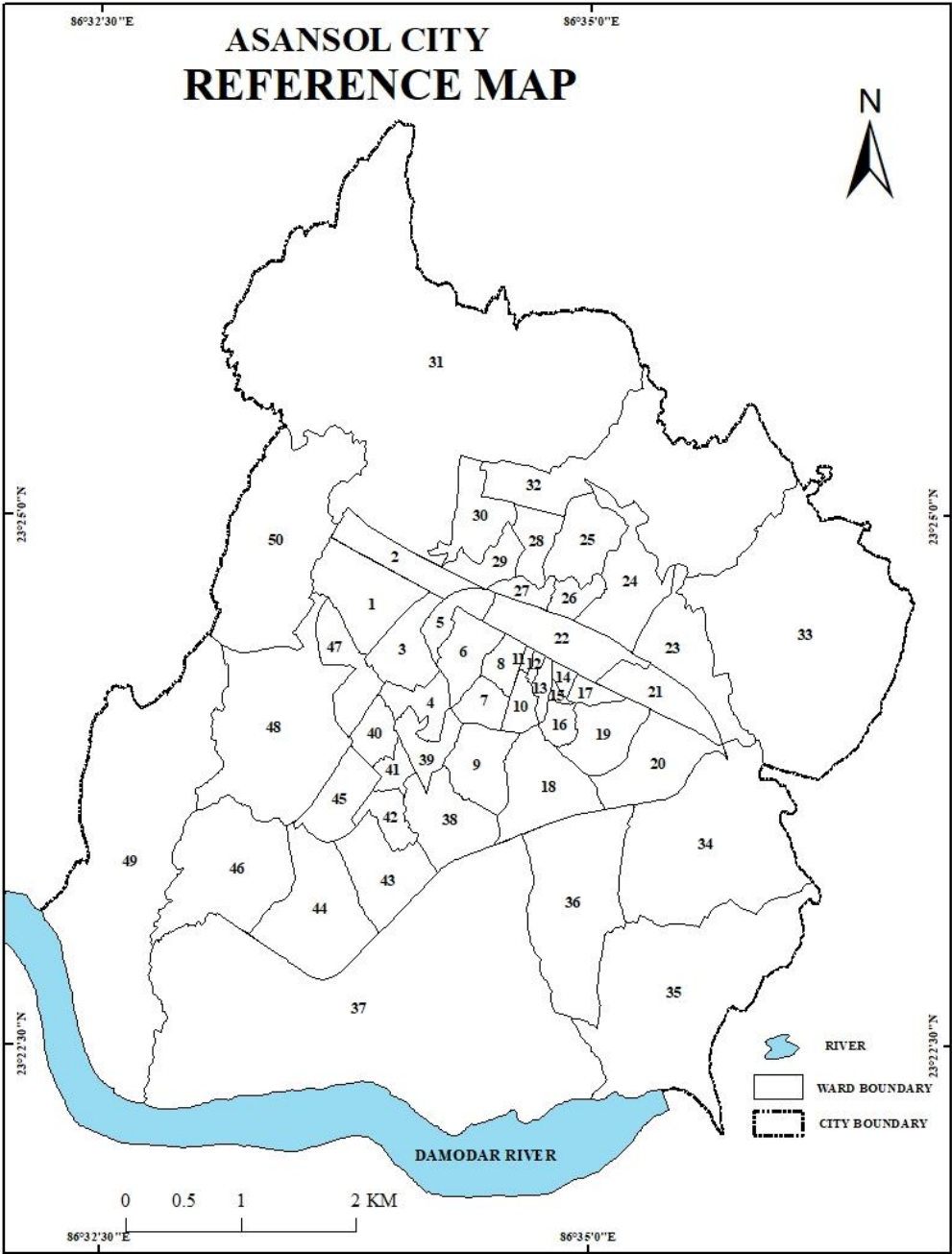
demographic aspects of the origin and recipient regions. Therefore, the city of Asansol has been selected for the present study.

Figure 1
Location Map



Source: Prepared by the investigators based on the census's information (2011).

Figure 2
Asansol City: Reference Map



Source: Prepared by the investigators based on the Asansol Municipal Corporation data

Analysis

This section deals with the different age groups and sex-wise positive and negative impacts of migration on the socio-cultural and economic aspects of family members of in-migrants in Asansol City.

Age and Sex Composition of In-migrants in Asansol City

While discussing the impact of migration in Asansol City, it becomes important to discuss the

demographic structure of respondents based on age and sex, as this is one of the most fundamental characteristics of an area's population at a given time, playing an important role in any society's social, cultural and economic development.

Table 1 shows the migration pattern according to age group and sex. At the aggregate level, the distribution pattern of in-migrants across age groups and sex appears to favour females.

Table 1

Age Group and Sex-wise Pattern of In-Migrants

Age Group	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
0-4	1	-	1
	100.0*	-	(0.04) ⁺
5-14	9	12	21
	42.9	57.1	(0.88)
15-34	105	676	781
	13.4	86.6	(33.02)
35-59	359	943	1302
	27.6	72.4	(55.05)
60 and above	123	137	260
	47.3	52.7	(10.99)
Grand Total	597	1768	2365
	(25.2)	(74.8)	(100.0)

Source: Author's field survey, 2021

Note: *Unbracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total males or females of respective age group

+Bracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages of total male or female In-migrants

Only one male child (infant) from the 0–4 year age group was reported in the category of in-migrants during the sample survey, which may be due to the movement of his parents. In the case of school-going children of 5–14 years, the percentage of girls was higher than boys. This may be

because educated parents are less biased toward their girls and move with them to the city from the surrounding areas for better schooling. In other words, this can be attributed to the socio-cultural environment of West Bengal, particularly in Asansol, where

gender-based discrimination is relatively low. This is due to the effective implementation of various government schemes like Sikshashree, Sabooj Sathi, Sabla, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana. These initiatives have promoted gender equality by providing education, financial support, and opportunities for girls and young women. (Saha and Sarkar, 2022, p.119; Basu, 2021, pp.6-7). Most (55.05%) immigrants fall within the 35–59 age group because younger people are generally more mobile (Kummitha et al. 2020, pp.80–81).

Among the age groups of 15-34 and 35-59, the percentage of female in-migrants significantly exceeds that of males. This is mainly due to marriage migration. Even in the 60 and above age group, the proportion of female in-migrants is higher, possibly because of past marriage migrations and the fact that women tend to live longer than men (Baum et al. 2021, pp.16–17; Ostan et al.

2016, pp. 1712–13). Most in-migrants in the city belong to the 35-59 and 15-34 age brackets.

Age and Sex-wise Positive Impact on Socio-cultural Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants

In migration, the origin and destination places lose and gain something. Table 2 shows the multiple positive age and sex-wise impacts (regarding gain) on socio-cultural aspects of family members of in-migrants at their destination (Asansol City). 56.2% of women and 63.7% of men in the age group of 35-59 feel that women's status has improved after migration (Table 2).

The United Nations also highlights the rising status of women in the post-migration process. This may be due to their autonomy in decision-making and access to socio-cultural resources for their bright future (<https://www.un.org>).

Table 2
Age and Sex-wise Positive Impact on Socio-cultural Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants at their Destination Place

Positive Impact on:	Age Group								Total Responses of Respondents	
	5-14		15-34		35-59		60 and above			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Status of Women	6	7	71	413	288	639	87	78	452	1137
	1.3*	0.6	15.7	36.3	63.7	56.2	19.2	6.9	(9.3)+	(8.8)
Care of Elderly Persons	10	12	102	663	353	932	123	134	588	1741
	1.7	0.7	17.3	38.1	60.0	53.5	20.9	7.7	(12.1)	(13.5)
Care of Child	10	12	84	523	346	919	123	132	563	1586
	1.7	0.8	14.9	33.0	61.5	57.9	21.8	8.3	(11.6)	(12.3)
Social Network	1	1	55	126	268	277	89	13	413	417
	0.2	0.2	13.3	30.2	64.9	66.4	21.5	3.1	(8.5)	(3.2)
Health	6	8	88	565	337	894	122	131	553	1598
	1.1	0.5	15.9	35.4	60.9	55.9	22.1	8.2	(11.4)	(12.4)

Positive Impact on:	Age Group								Total Responses of Respondents	
	5-14		15-34		35-59		60 and above			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Education	8	11	76	432	333	893	116	128	533	1464
	1.5	0.8	14.3	29.5	62.5	61.0	21.8	8.7	(11.0)	(11.3)
Adaption to Local Environment	9	12	102	661	354	935	123	135	588	1743
	1.5	0.7	17.3	37.9	60.2	53.6	20.9	7.7	(12.1)	(13.5)
Environmental Cleanliness	9	12	94	626	345	888	120	129	568	1655
	1.6	0.7	16.5	37.8	60.7	53.7	21.1	7.8	(11.7)	(12.8)
Changing Religious Belief	1	6	18	123	92	205	19	20	130	354
	0.8	1.7	13.8	34.7	70.8	57.9	14.6	5.6	(2.7)	(2.7)
Abating Orthodox	3	4	70	373	249	572	78	89	400	1038
	0.8	0.4	17.5	35.9	62.3	55.1	19.5	8.6	(8.2)	(8.0)
Promoting Inter-caste Marriage		1	11	76	34	86	17	13	62	176
		0.6	17.7	43.2	54.8	48.9	27.4	7.4	(1.3)	(1.4)
Grand Total Responses of Respondents	63	86	771	4581	2999	7240	1017	1002	4850	12909
	(1.3)	(0.7)	(15.9)	(35.5)	(61.8)	(56.1)	(21.0)	(7.8)	(100.0)	(100.0)

Source: Author's field survey, 2021

Note: *Unbracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total responses of respondents of respective positive sociocultural aspects

+Bracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total responses of male or female respondents

In the case of caring for the elderly, women from almost all age groups tend to shoulder a larger share of household and family responsibilities (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016, pp.50-51). Likewise, in child care, the percentage of responses of female respondents from the younger age group is relatively higher than that of male respondents. This is mainly because most married women have children, and young male respondents are college-going students or still unmarried. Further, slightly above 11 per cent of the total responses of male respondents and 12 per cent of total responses of female respondents opined that migration has helped

them to get better healthcare facilities for their children and families (World Economic Forum, 2017, p. 126). Strong social networks help migrants while facing various social and cultural challenges in an unfamiliar environment. It also promotes a sense of self-confidence among migrants by reducing the feeling of emotional and psychological dilemmas such as stress, sadness, isolation, anxiety, depression, and apprehension (Kipgen and Panda, 2019, p.343). The table also shows that females have more social network affiliations than males across all age groups. This may be due to women's more communicative nature, as they tend to actively connect with those around

them (Szell and Thurner, 2013, pp. 4-5), while men often form social networks that are more work or business-oriented. Additionally, access to better healthcare and fewer socio-cultural restrictions at the destination has positively impacted the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of the migrants (Virupaksha et al., 2014, pp. 236-237). In the clean environmental category, the lowest percentage of female responses was observed in the cells of older respondents and school-going children. In contrast, the highest proportion was observed in the age group of 35-59 years. On the other hand, the highest percentage of male responses is found in the older age group, followed by the old group, young age group, and school-going children.

The post-migration process also helps migrants to adopt other religious beliefs at their convenience (Jurado et al. 2017, p.51). Migration allows individuals to escape orthodox beliefs and socio-cultural issues like religious superstition and caste discrimination, which are often rigid in rural areas. By moving to the study area, in-migrants gain freedom of choice and experience greater openness, exposure to diverse cultures, and a more inclusive, tolerant way of living (Rao, 2010, pp. 141-142). Only 2.7 per cent of total female and 2.7 per cent of total male responses in the study area indicate a change in religious beliefs after reaching the destination. A higher proportion of responses are from the

older age group. The proportion of female respondents in the older age group is highest, followed by the proportion of young age group, aged group, and school-going children. A similar pattern can also be seen for all age groups in adapting to the local environment and environmental cleanliness at the destination.

In other words, more young women believe in inter-caste marriages than their male counterparts. This trend is becoming more common among younger generations due to increased social cohesion, frequent social interactions, and closer cultural exchanges (Singh and Siddique, 2020, p.94). However, the total number of data related to inter-caste marriages constitutes very little, so it plays a less significant role in society. This is because caste, religious endogamy, and clan exogamy still play very important roles in Indian culture.

Age and Sex-wise Negative Impact on Socio-cultural Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants

Table 3 shows the age and sex-wise pattern of multiple negative impacts on the sociocultural aspects of in-migrants at their destination.

In the category of living conditions, respondents from 35-59 year age group reported a higher percentage of deterioration in their living conditions. However, the percentage of young women is higher than that of young men in their respective age groups. The absolute number of female respondents is

greater than that of males, primarily due to the overall contribution of female migration to total migration being significantly higher than that of male migration (Lobo, 2001, p.309).

The change in food habits after migration signifies the mixing of two cultures. However, the post-migration process increases the consumption of ultra-processed and refined foods loaded with

unnecessary harmful nutrients like fat and sugar. Moreover, the increased consumption of snacks, soft drinks, meat, and dairy products as compared to the high fibre, antioxidant, and micronutrient content of plant-based foods like fresh fruits and vegetables invites many harmful lifestyle-borne diseases in human life (World Economic Forum, 2017, p.34).

Table 3

Age and Sex-wise Negative Impact on Socio-cultural Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants at their Destination Place

Negative Impact on:	Age Group								Total Responses of Respondents	
	5-14		15-34		35-59		60 and above			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Living Condition	1	3	34	211	71	260	25	31	131	505
	0.8*	0.6	26.0	41.8	54.2	51.5	19.1	6.1	(8.6)+	(12.5)
Cultural Deterioration	6	8	63	281	210	445	75	76	354	810
	1.7	1.0	17.8	34.7	59.3	54.9	21.2	9.4	(23.3)	(20.0)
Food Habits	5	5	53	233	174	370	66	67	298	675
	1.7	0.7	17.8	34.5	58.4	54.8	22.1	9.9	(19.7)	(16.6)
Care of Child						1				1
						100.0				(0.0)
Care of Elderly Persons					4	3	1		5	3
					80.0	100.0	20.0		(0.3)	(0.1)
Alcoholic Habit or Addiction among Children				3	40	151	53	58	93	212
				1.4	43.0	71.2	57.0	27.4	(6.1)	(5.2)
Family Relationship	1	3	27	14	119	46	62	20	209	83
	0.5	3.6	12.9	16.9	56.9	55.4	29.7	24.1	(13.8)	(2.0)
Disease Transmission				7	23	63	18	33	41	103
				6.8	56.1	61.2	43.9	32.0	(2.7)	(2.5)
Anxiety for Left Behind Family	9	9	79	649	235	890	62	118	385	1666
	2.3	0.5	20.5	39.0	61.0	53.4	16.1	7.1	(25.4)	(41.1)
Grand Total Responses of Respondents	22	28	256	1398	876	2229	362	403	1516	4058
	1.6	0.6	17.6	35.8	58.4	54.5	22.3	9.1	(100.0)	(100.0)

Source: Author's field survey, 2021

Note: *Unbracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages of total responses of respondents of respective negative sociocultural aspects.

+Bracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages of total responses of male or female respondents.

These lifestyle-borne diseases result from the so-called modern urban lifestyle that migrants adopt after migration to their destination (Ottesen & Wandel, 2012, p. 9). The table shows that the overall response of the respondents to the respective category is higher among older men (58.4%) than older women (54.8%). On the other hand, the percentage of responses of old age group males is fairly higher than that of the young age group males, whereas this is reversed in the case of females. The percentage of responses of respondents below 15 years of age is very low compared to the responses of other age group respondents. Caring for children and the elderly is not a major concern among the respondents. However, in-migrant families often face inadequate elderly care and limited family time due to their demanding and low-paying work schedules (Bonizzoni, 2009, p.96). In the case of alcoholism among children, a higher proportion of 60 above year male respondents reported that their children are addicted to alcohol. In comparison, a higher proportion of females from 35–59 years of age said that their sons are involved in alcoholism.

In the case of poor family ties, a higher proportion of older migrants said they have almost no connection to their families at their place of origin, followed by 60 years and above, 15–34 years, and 5–14 years age group respondents. It may be because of the separation of the joint

family. Low levels of family ties create stress or anxiety that leads to poor mental health conditions.

Among family members of migrants at the destination (Alm et al. 2019, p.8). Regarding migrant concerns among families left behind, 53.5 per cent of older women and a comparatively higher proportion (61 per cent) of older men were told that their left-behind families are always concerned for their well-being. As a result, anxiety creates isolation, sadness, depression, and low self-confidence among families left behind, which turn into a feeling of rejection and inferiority. A lower proportion of respondents are under 15 years of age group and 60 years and above.

Migration is often considered a factor in the spread of infectious diseases, primarily due to the poor socio-economic conditions that many migrants face at their destination (Barnett and Walker, 2008, p. 1447). In transmitting an infectious disease due to migration, it is significant to note that 2.5 per cent of total female responses and 2.7 per cent of total male responses fall into this category.

Age and Sex-wise Positive Impact on Economic Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants in Asansol City

Migration is very much related to migrants' economic aspects as it often helps them get a job or start a business, improve income, improve the standard of living, repay loans,

provide employment to others, enhance purchasing power, increase saving amounts, and acquire movable assets, houses, or land (Table 4). This table exhibits the age and sex-wise pattern of multiple positive impacts on the economic aspects of the family members of immigrants in Asansol City.

From the Table, it is clear that the highest percentage of responses from male in-migrants in the 35–59 age group regarding getting a job or starting a business is from male in-migrants of 60 years and above and the 15–34 age group (Adger et al. 2023, p.1).

Among the women respondents, older married women show the highest tendency to remain employed consistently, followed by younger and aged women respondents (Palermo et al. 2024, p. 316). The low-cost migrant workers at the destination maintain construction and manufacturing activities. In-migrants serve the office in industries by providing an unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled workforce (James et al., 1998, p.187). Almost a similar situation is observed in the category of improving income. 72.1 per cent of women and 64.4 per cent of men from the 35–59 year age group reported that migration provided them with better opportunities to increase their earnings to some extent (Amare et al. 2012, pp.10-11; Vengtachalapati, 2011).

The standard of living is largely dependent on high income. Most respondents from the 35–59 year age group felt that their relatives and friends' standard of living has increased due to higher pay after migration. This has changed their lifestyle to a great extent (Chitra, 2012, p.2). In the repayment of loans, the overall responses of male respondents are higher than the total responses of female respondents. Furthermore, age group-wise data shows that females dominate male respondents proportionally, but in terms of absolute numbers, male respondents outnumber female respondents. In employing others, the percentage of older and younger female migrants is higher than that of male respondents of the same age group. This is because a higher proportion of female migrants have hired local people as male/maidservants for their household chores. 4.4 per cent of female and 21.6 per cent of male respondents from the age group of 60 and above provided jobs to people as shopkeepers in their shops. The table also shows that increased purchasing power reflects the prosperity and happiness of any individual or a whole society (Ottesen and Wandel, 2012, p. 9). The proportion of young and older female migrants is greater than that of males. Still, the proportion of responses from older female respondents decreased compared to older male respondents.

Table 4*Age and Sex-wise Positive Impact on Economic Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants at their Destination Place*

Positive Impact on:	Age Group						Total Responses of Respondents	
	15-34		35-59		60 and above		M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Getting Job/ Starting Business	9 6.6*	3 12.0	106 77.9	21 84.0	21 15.5	1 4.0	136 (3.8) +	25 (1.8)
Improving Income	80 14.8	57 26.0	347 64.4	158 72.1	112 20.8	4 1.8	539 (15.1)	219 (16.0)
Improving Standard of Living	80 14.9	57 26.0	346 64.4	158 72.1	111 20.7	4 1.8	537 (15.1)	219 (16.0)
Repaying Loan	12 9.8	3 12.0	78 63.9	22 88.0	32 26.2	- -	122 (3.4)	25 (1.8)
Providing Jobs to Others	26 9.2	35 25.7	196 69.3	95 69.9	61 21.6	6 4.4	283 (8.0)	136 (9.9)
Enhancing Purchasing Power	79 14.9	58 26.1	343 64.6	160 72.1	109 20.5	4 1.8	531 (14.9)	222 (16.2)
Increasing Saving Amount	55 13.1	45 27.3	274 65.4	116 70.3	90 21.5	4 2.4	419 (11.8)	165 (12.0)
Purchasing Movable Property	80 14.9	57 26.0	346 64.4	158 72.1	111 20.7	4 1.8	537 (15.1)	219 (16.0)
Purchasing/Constructing House	37 10.2	29 22.3	217 60.1	97 74.6	107 29.6	4 3.1	361 (10.1)	130 (9.5)
Purchasing Land	2 2.1	2 18.2	44 46.8	8 72.7	48 51.1	1 9.1	94 (2.6)	11 (0.8)
Grand Total Responses of Respondents	460 (12.9)	346 (25.2)	2298 (64.5)	993 (72.4)	804 (22.5)	32 (2.3)	3562 (100.0)	1371 (100.0)

Source: Author's field survey, 2021

Note: *Unbracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total responses of respondents of respective positive economic aspects +Bracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total responses of male or female respondents

It is observed that there are proportionately more females than males in each age group except the older respondents from 35-59 years. But in absolute numbers, male respondents outnumber females. In the case of saving money, proportionally more women tend to save money across most age groups except among older individuals. This discrepancy may be attributed to men

utilising a wider variety of savings options, such as life insurance and provident funds, and having a higher risk tolerance, which increases their likelihood of saving regularly (Fisher, 2010, p.22). Also, some of the migrants tend to lend money at a higher rate of interest to save their money for future needs. On the other hand, the low number of women participating in savings is the onus of

saving on their husbands or sons (Lobo, 2001, p.297). 35–59 year age group constitutes the highest percentage of migrants buying movable assets, followed by the age group of 15–34 years and so on. In the related aspect, the proportion of older women informants is less than 2 per cent. Regarding buying or building houses, the percentage of male and female respondents is almost equal. Also, the proportion of migrants who purchase land is relatively low compared to the rest of the economic impacts. This may be due to the high market value of land, so most people need help to buy land.

Age and Sex-wise Negative Impact on Economic Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants in Asansol City

Table 5 shows age and sex-wise multiple negative impacts on the economic aspect of family members of in-migrants in Asansol City. It can be seen that most people in the study area have migrated because of the better employment opportunities. The high demand for labour in the labour market and the growing prospect of skilled livelihoods have created job competition among migrants and natives of the study area. As a result, unemployed or unskilled workers suffer from a lack of social security, widespread social discrimination, poor sanitation, and lack of access to cooking fuel, which adversely affects the lives of migrants

at the destination. Also, retrenchment and accountability of workers in the coal field plants and in other factories have made life more difficult for plant workers and daily wage earners (Khan & Arokkiaraj, 2021, pp.4-5; Som, 2022, p.119; Benach et al. 2011, p. 2).

In the case of the economic aspect of difficulty in finding a suitable job, 55.7 per cent of older men and 72.9 per cent of older women were still looking for better customary jobs like blue-collar jobs, accountants and clerical jobs because these jobs offer better job security, higher pay, equal opportunity, and more potential for long-term economic growth and development (Wial, 1991, pp. 401-402). Out of the respondents' total responses, 17.1 per cent of the male and 20 per cent of the female migrants reported facing job competition. Migrants need higher education and job training before moving to their destination. Because of the low level of educational qualification, massive labour job competition and unemployment among locals cause stagnant wages for migrants (Dadush, 2014, p.1).

Low per-capita monthly income and excessive expenditure on daily uses are indicators of the poor economic status of in-migrants (Nath et al. 2016, p. 73; Bonizzoni, 2009, p.96).

Table 5*Age and Sex-wise Negative Impact on Economic Aspects of Family Members of In-Migrants at their Destination Place*

Negative Impacts on:	Age Group						Total Responses of Respondents	
	15-34		35-59		60 and above		M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Finding Proper Job	49 17.1*	29 24.6	160 55.7	86 72.9	78 27.2	3 2.5	287 (14.9)+	118 (14.7)
Job Competition	56 17.0	42 26.1	193 58.5	115 71.4	81 24.5	4 2.5	330 (17.1)	161 (20.0)
Day to Day Expenditure	76 14.3	58 26.4	344 64.9	158 71.8	110 20.8	4 1.8	530 (27.5)	220 (27.4)
Burden of Loan	17 11.4	15 28.8	114 76.5	36 69.2	18 12.1	1 1.9	149 (7.7)	52 (6.5)
Receiving wage	45 16.7	36 28.6	151 55.9	88 69.8	74 27.4	2 1.6	270 (14.0)	126 (15.7)
Income	24 8.0	7 3.4	100 8.5	22 3.8	44 9.7	2 10.5	168 (8.7)	31 (3.9)
Saving	29 21.6	15 22.4	78 58.2	51 76.1	27 20.1	1 1.5	134 (6.9)	67 (8.3)
Child Labour	5 8.2	2 7.1	35 57.4	24 85.7	21 34.4	2 7.1	61 (3.2)	28 (3.5)
Grand Total Responses of Respondents	301 (15.6)	204 (25.4)	1175 (60.9)	580 (72.2)	453 (23.5)	19 (2.4)	1929 (100.0)	803 (100.0)

Source: Author's field survey, 2021

Note: *Unbracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total responses of respondents of respective negative economic aspects

+Bracketed lower decimal figures are the percentages to total responses of male or female respondents

Low per-capita monthly income and excessive expenditure on daily uses are indicators of the poor economic status of in-migrants (Nath et al. 2016, p. 73; Bonizzoni, 2009, p.96). Due to exorbitant expenditures on daily items or basic needs, migrants are often forced to take out loans at steep interest rates to cover educational expenses and to acquire movable or immovable assets for their families. This situation exists especially among the migrants who are daily wage earners. Regarding an increase in daily expenditure, the percentage share of respondents in

the age group 35-59 (64.9% male and 71.8% female) was higher than the rest.

In the category of receiving low wages, a higher proportion of male and female respondents was from older age groups, while the remaining were from younger and old age groups (Benach et al. 2011, p. 2).

The negative impact of in-migration on income has also been noted. Some of the family members of in-migrants misuse the money to purchase cigarettes and alcohol and participate in gambling. In this case, the response of men from each age

group is higher than that of women. This may be because most of the migrants have a low level of educational qualification, and they easily get addicted to the above activities. They often suffer from stress, anxiety, psychological separation, and feelings of loneliness. Intoxicated gamblers lose control over their betting habits and lose most of their income from gambling (Taype-Rondan et al. 2017, p.2; Aung and Hong, 2019, p. 4).

Out of the total responses of the respondents, 3.2 per cent of the total male and 3.5 per cent of the total female in-migrants reported utilisation of child labour in their household chores, which is against the law of the Indian Constitution. About 86 per cent of older women and 57.4 per cent of older men reported using child labour in their offices, homes, and shops. This is followed by the second and third highest proportion of respondents from 60 years and above and 15-34 years. It was also observed that the school dropout children were engaged in carpet or garment weaving, embroidery, domestic services, food and refreshment services, horticulture, fisheries, etc. This is due to social norms of inequalities or disparities, poverty, lack of good employment opportunities, and seasonal employment schemes at the destination (<https://www.unicef.org>).

Variation in the total responses of the respondents across different tables is due to multiple responses

given by the concerned respondents about his/her lifestyle, such as food habits, chewing, smoking, drinking, yoga, and exercise. For example, if respondent 'A' falls under the lifestyle categories of chewing, smoking, and drinking, their total responses would be 3; if respondent 'B' has only one lifestyle habit of chewing, their total response would be 1. Thus, the total number of responses of the respective in-migrants would naturally differ depending on the respondents' lifestyle habit(s) and as they reported. Therefore, variation in the total responses of the respondents from Tables 2 to 4 is the result of the single or multiple responses given by the respondents during the personal field survey in 2021.

Conclusion

From the above analysis, it can be concluded that a higher proportion of in-migrants belongs to the older age group, followed by youth who are older and younger than 15 years of age. Once, the study area was known for its high employability potential, but now the situation is unfavourable for the working age group population. Due to a gradual decline in job opportunities and poor economic conditions, people want to leave the city for better employment, higher education, etc. Out of the total respondents, the percentage of female in-migrant respondents was the highest. This is due to the high proportion of marriage migration of females in the study area.

Most female respondents take proper care of their elders and easily adapt to their surroundings. Some

positive impacts of migration are found in terms of the cleanliness of the environment, improvement in health conditions, proper care of children, rising status of women, looking for prospective areas, etc. Almost the same pattern remains in the case of male responses in the category of socio-cultural aspects.

In the case of a negative impact on the socio-cultural aspects of the family members of in-migrants, it is noticed that a high proportion of respondent's responses belongs to the concern for families left behind at their origin places, cultural degradation and adoption of poor food habits, after arrival at their destination. However, a significant proportion of respondents also responded about poor family relationships, poor living conditions, alcoholism among children, etc. In the case of positive impact on economic aspects of in-migrant's family members, the highest proportion of male respondents reported that their income and living standard improved and they purchased movable properties for their families after migration. Similarly, women in the majority reported an increase in their purchasing power, an enhancement in their wages or pay, and an improvement in their living standards after they migrate to the destination. Finally, it can be said that both the positive and negative aspects of migration are important to understanding the impact of migration on the study area. Out of the total responses of male

respondents, 27.5 per cent responded in favour of an increase in expenditure on daily purchases but not any increase in their wages. The majority of migrants reported facing the problem of job competition, and some of them reported not having stable and high-paying jobs.

The migration pattern also encompasses factors such as the duration of migration, the distance travelled by migrants, the living conditions at their place of origin, and the location of the respective place of origin of the migrants. Our other research paper discusses the patterns of in and out-migration and the impact of in and out-migration on both the origin and destination places. This research paper focuses solely on the effects of in-migration to make the study more emphatic, meaningful, and explicit.

Suggestions

- In today's time, the rapid growth of industrialisation and urbanisation has created functional relationships among families. People always look for a better job and life outside their native place to help each other on important occasions like marriage or house building and in case of financial crisis. Therefore, it is suggested that the family should be organised functionally rather than structurally. Correct plans and policies of the local authority for creating jobs and better education not only for minorities but also for other weaker sections of the villagers and related fellowship programs sponsored

for rural students can prevent migration from various rural areas to the study area.

- The relatively low participation of women migrants in economic activities compared to men reflects the underutilisation of women's potential capacity for economic development. To solve this, equal participation of women in economic development in rural areas should be ensured to achieve a high economic growth rate and ensure proper participation, which may halt women's movement to the city.
- There is a need to promote socio-cultural and economic opportunities to reduce ill sanitation, insecurity, social discrimination, unemployment or underemployment and to enhance educational and health facilities in rural areas. This will also check rural-urban migration.
- Agriculture and natural resource-based cottage industries can be viable options for rural economic development to stop in-migration into the city. Local governments can develop some strategies to lower the cost of food production through the reform of land tenure rights. Additionally, business loans at affordable rates for rural residents will help support new land buyers and small businesses. This may also control the movement of people into the city. Overall, a sincere effort and realistic strategy to make the villages smart, ideal, and liveable with all the necessary amenities,

services, and infrastructure at par with the city would be a workable way to curb the large-scale migration of people from rural to urban areas.

Researcher's Contribution

By examining the personal and familial impacts, our study has offered a more humanised view of migration, shedding light on changes in family dynamics, the emotional well-being of family members, and their adaptation to a new socio-cultural environment. This work can deepen the understanding of how migration fosters cultural continuity and change within family units and how these dynamics contribute to the broader cultural landscape of Asansol. Our work has highlighted both the positive and negative socio-economic outcomes for family members, offering a more nuanced understanding of the costs and benefits of migration. This also includes how family members navigate from economic hardships or gain opportunities, thereby informing future policy interventions. By incorporating gender and generational perspectives, our study can add a deeper understanding and novel ideas to the discourse on in-migration, highlighting the diverse ways family members are impacted and how they contribute to the adaptation process of migration. The findings obtained from our study can also provide a basis for advocating improved migration policies, focusing on family reunification, social welfare schemes, and economic assistance for families directly impacted by the process of in-migration.

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