

An Analysis of Spatial Patterns of In-Migrants in North -Western India

Jagdeep Kumar¹

Research Scholar,

Dr. Gaurav Kalotra²

Associate Professor & Chairperson

Abstract

Migration has been acknowledged as a process of equalization of population settlements. It has been credited with being a significant determinant of population change observed in a given spatial system besides the two parameters of fertility and mortality. Migration has been attributed to be an essential factor in the organization of regional and urban spaces in India. In this research paper, an attempt has been made to study the volume of in-migration in North western India by residence that is Rural or Urban Centre residence in other regions (States and Union Territories of India). This study makes an attempt to study the inflow of population into a particular region in this case the rural or urban areas of the North Western region. The main source of data is the Census 2001 and 2011 reports using the D-2 migration Tables of the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh Union Territory, Haryana, Rajasthan and NCR Delhi. The researcher has been examining how the resident in-migrants in North-western India have come majorly from the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar especially in the urban and rural areas of North western India during the census years of 2001 and 2011 and how their patterns of residence have shifted.

The study will examine the spatial inflows of migrants to the North-Western regions to determine the patterns of in-migration taking place especially from certain specific States. It will also examine the trends of actual influx of the in-migrants to specific locations whether urban or rural. There will be an effort to determine the focal reasons that drew these in-migrants to specifically those areas during particular time periods. Large number of in-migrants have reportedly come from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in 2001 and Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in 2011.

Keywords: In-Migration, influx, census, residence, Rural, Urban, inflow, population, migration, equalization

Introduction

The history of migration is as old as human civilization. In India migration has been associated with the progress and development of agriculture and industry since the beginning of the 20th century. Migration from one area to another in search of improved living conditions and livelihoods has been a key feature of most population movement across sea and land in history. The volume and magnitude of these vast movements of human populations have captured the research interests of several scholars. It is an acknowledged fact that while some regions and sectors fall behind in their

¹ Jagdeep Kumar, Research Scholar, Department of Geography, CAS-II, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160014
Email: jgulia89@gmail.com Ph: 9988516677

² Dr. Gaurav Kalotra, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Email Id: gauravkalotra@pu.ac.in Ph: 9872979948

capacity to support populations, others move ahead and people migrate to access the better living conditions and make the most of emerging opportunities. Migration has been accepted as a universal phenomenon in modern times largely because of the expansion of transport and communication, it has become virtually synonymous with the worldwide process of urbanization, industrialization and globalization. Thus, economic development of a region have been accompanied by large-scale movements. These movements have been characterized by movements towards villages to towns and from small towns to bigger towns and ultimately to big cities across the country.

Migration has been known to influence the size, composition and distribution of populations. A significant aspect of migration is that it directly and in-directly influences the social, political and economic life of the people. In some cases even the cultural and religious mores of a population are impacted upon. It is also true that a number of economic, social, cultural and political factors are responsible for the decision making involved in the movement of populations. These have been designated as the 'push' and 'pull' factors. The impact of these to move populations has been observed to vary over time and place. The need for such arises because analysing the migration patterns is important to understand the changes taking place in the composition and character of populations within the country. Thus, migration has been considered a vibrant aspect. It is sensitive to numerous factors like economics, political background and cultures (Singh 1998).

There are several socio-economic factors that contribute to greater regional inequality in the social and economic growth of the country. The North western region of India is not an omission to this aspect. This region includes Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi States and Union Territories. North western India experienced the shifting of millions of persons across new national borders during the Partition in 1947. In the aftermath the people moved within the region wherever the government settled them. This region is also one of the most advanced regions of the country in the context of agriculture and industry. Haryana and Punjab have been the highly progressive agrarian States of India. The industry has also advanced in many parts of this region with the upgrading of the industry especially along the N-H No. 1. Migration of skilled people has been focussed on the National Capital Region (NCR) with the inclusion of Faridabad, Gurugram, and other districts of Haryana in the NCR. Much developmental activity began in these districts which proved to be an attractive 'pull' factor for in-migrants. With the coming up of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, many national and international manufacturing companies have come into these SEZ's which also simultaneously attract in-migrants to this region for better opportunities. Now with time, the conversion of land use from agriculture to industrial and residential has created several developmental activities in manufacturing. Since construction and manufacturing itself is a labor demanding activity it depends upon manpower. It has also attracted more in-migrants for lucrative livelihoods as compared to what they have in their places of origin.

Objectives and Methodology

The research paper throws light on in-migration in North western India by residence. The Census data has been analyzed for the Census years 2001 and 2011 to show the patterns of in-migrants in North western India from other States and Union Territories. Data has been computed by taking

entries from the Migration Table of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi States and Union Territories.

The significance of patterns of migration can be best understood when examining the concentrations of in-migrants in the destination sites. The impact on the population can be best assessed only in terms of first determining the magnitude of the influx and finally assaying settlement patterns in rural and urban areas.

Volume of In-Migrants by Residence

Examining the trends of in-migration in the censal years of 2001 and 2011 it was observed that there had been gradual and steady growth in the rural areas with the figures being 1739846 in the 2001 Census and rising to 1872907 in 2011. The urban residence increase was comparatively much higher because the volume of in-migrants went up from 6198858 in the Censal year 2001 to 8516515 in the Censal year 2011. There was observed an increase of 133061 in the rural in-migrants and an increase of 2313657 in the urban areas. The in-migration was 7.1 percent while the increase in the urban destinations of the in-migration was observed to be 27.2 percent.

Table-1: North-Western India: Volume of In-Migrants by Residence,2001-2011

Sr. No.	Census	Rural	Urban
1	2001	1739846	6198858
2	2011	1872907	8516515

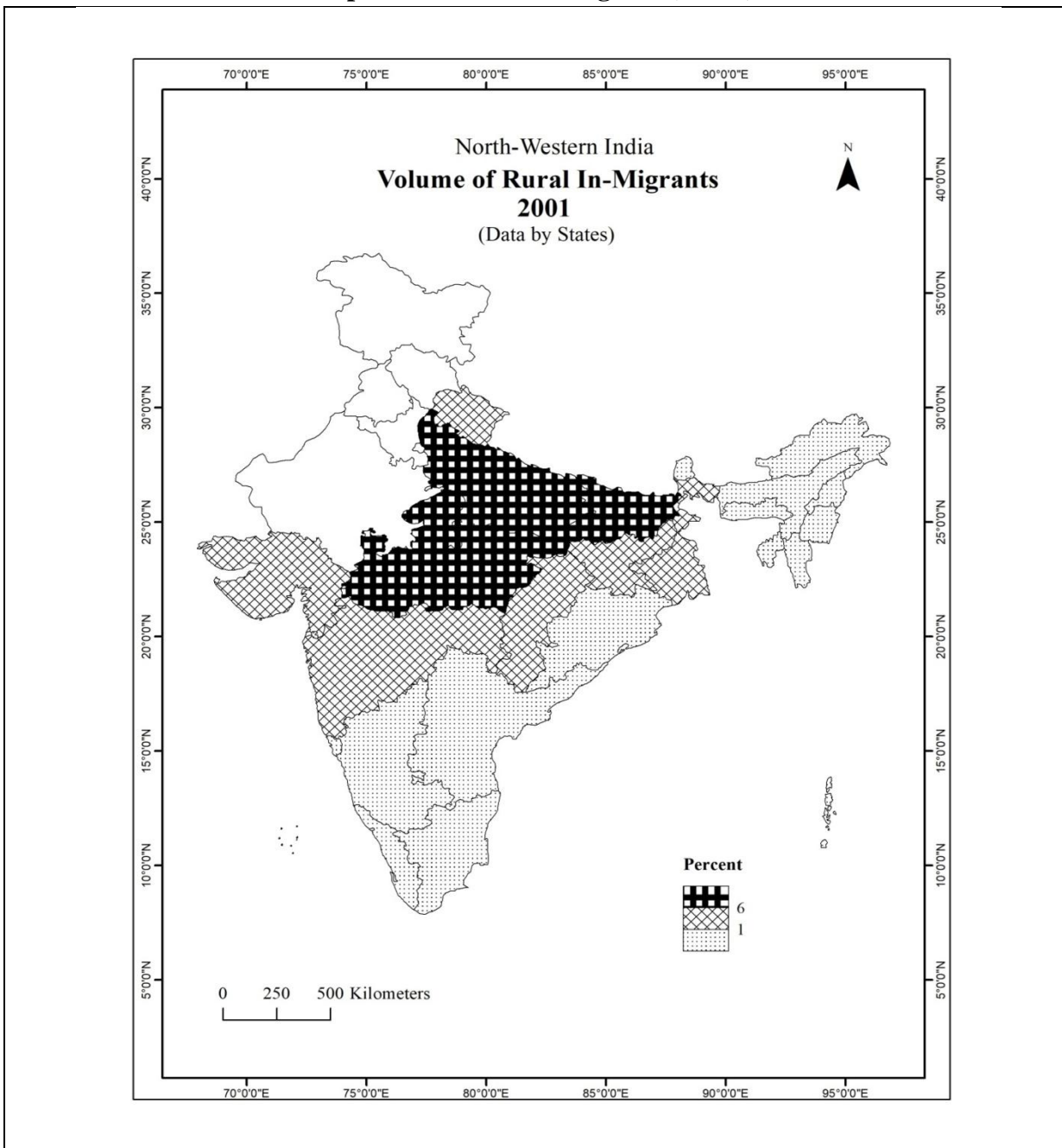
Thus, it can be seen that the trends were changing more in favour of urban sites as a destination. While there was influx to the rural areas the actual increase favoured urban destinations for the in-migrants in 2011. Table-1 depicts the rural versus Urban preferences of the in-migrant population to North western regions of India.

Table-2: North-Western India:Volume of In-Migrants by Residence,2001 (Data by States)

Sr. No.	Region/States	Rural	Percentage	Region/States	Urban	Percentage
I	North-Western India	1739846	100.00	North-Western India	6198858	100.00
1	Uttar Pradesh	802454	46.12	Uttar Pradesh	3335599	53.81
2	Bihar	277625	15.96	Bihar	1071108	17.28
3	Madhya Pradesh	250147	14.38	Uttaranchal	417115	6.73
4	Gujarat	95909	5.51	West Bengal	280800	4.53
5	West Bengal	60146	3.46	Madhya Pradesh	275444	4.44
6	Uttaranchal	57049	3.28	Jharkhand	137784	2.22
7	Chhattisgarh	50246	2.89	Maharashtra	126775	2.05
8	Maharashtra	33255	1.91	Kerala	96392	1.55
9	Jharkhand	32858	1.89	Gujarat	94392	1.52
10	Remaining States&Uts	80157	4.61	Remaining States & Uts	363449	5.86

Table 2 gives a depiction of the in-migration towards the North-Western States and Union Territories from various places of origin in 2001. The targeted distribution sites are rural and urban. It can be seen that among the rural and urban destinations the positioning of the States of origin varied. While for rural targeting in-migration destination sites Uttar Pradesh at 46.12 percent took the lead followed by Bihar which dropped to a low 15.96 percent. An almost equal thrust was observed for Madhya Pradesh (14.38 percent). The volume for the rural regions dropped much further for Gujarat (5.51 percent) which was standing almost equal to West- Bengal (3.46 percent) and Uttaranchal at 3.28 percent. These were followed by Chhattisgarh (2.89 percent) Maharashtra (1.91 percent) and Jharkhand (1.89 percent). All other States and Union Territories together contributed towards 4.61 percent of the flow of in-migration to rural destinations in 2001 in North western India.

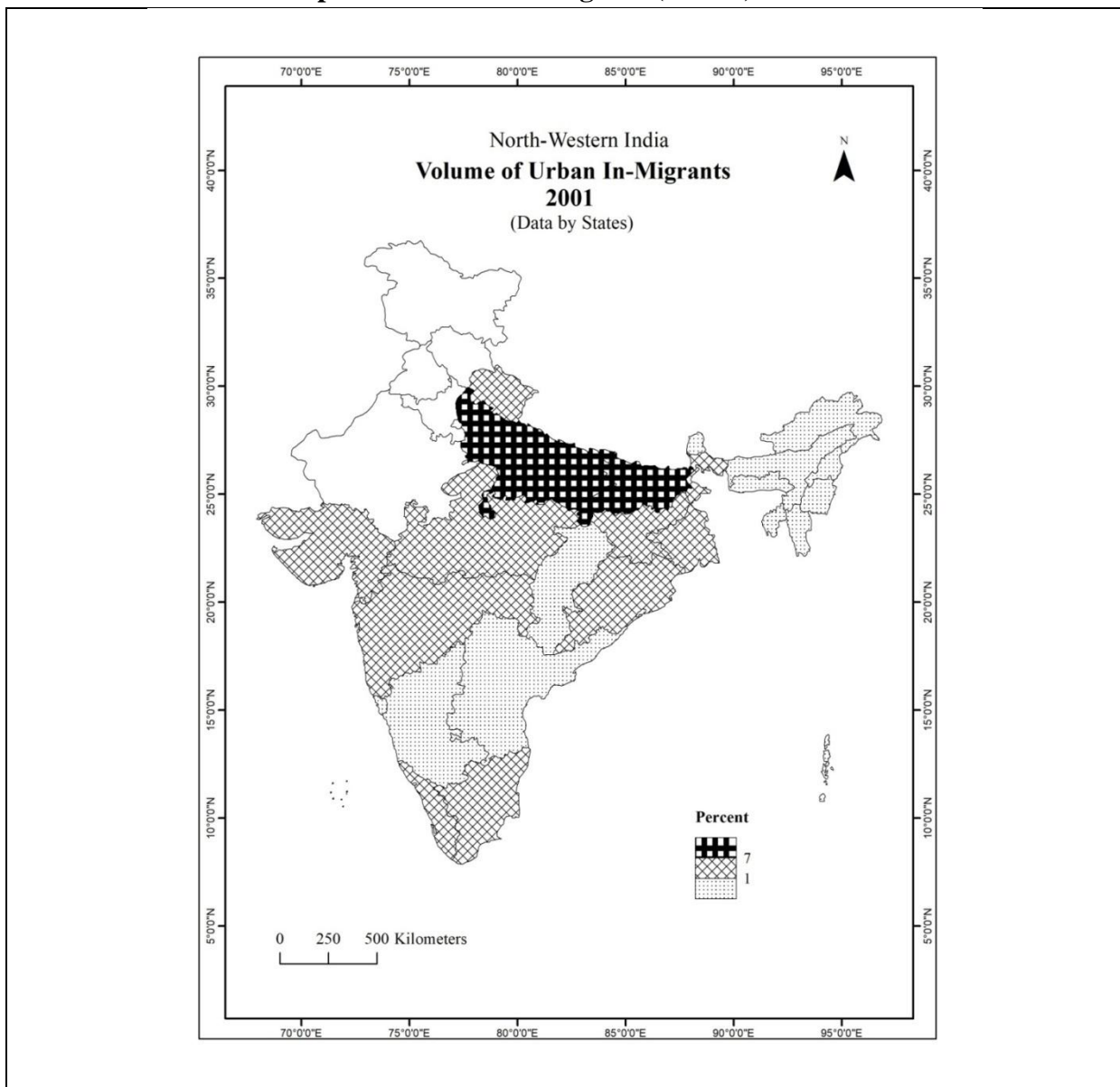
Map 1: Volume of In-Migrant (Rural) in 2001



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Similarly, when the urban destination volume of in-migration was measured it was observed that here too the first two positions were taken up by Uttar Pradesh (53.81 percent) and Bihar (17.28 percent). The scenario changes after this as the third place is taken up by Uttaranchal with 6.73 percent and is further reduced to West-Bengal (4.53 percent) and Madhya Pradesh (4.44 percent). The volume of in-migration to the urban areas reduces further to 2.22 percent in Jharkhand and 2.05 percent for Maharashtra. The least volume was observed in the States of Kerala (1.55 percent) and Gujarat (1.52 percent) which were at an almost equal situation and all the other States and Union Territories comprised 5.86 percent together.

Map 2: Volume of In-Migrant (Urban) in 2001



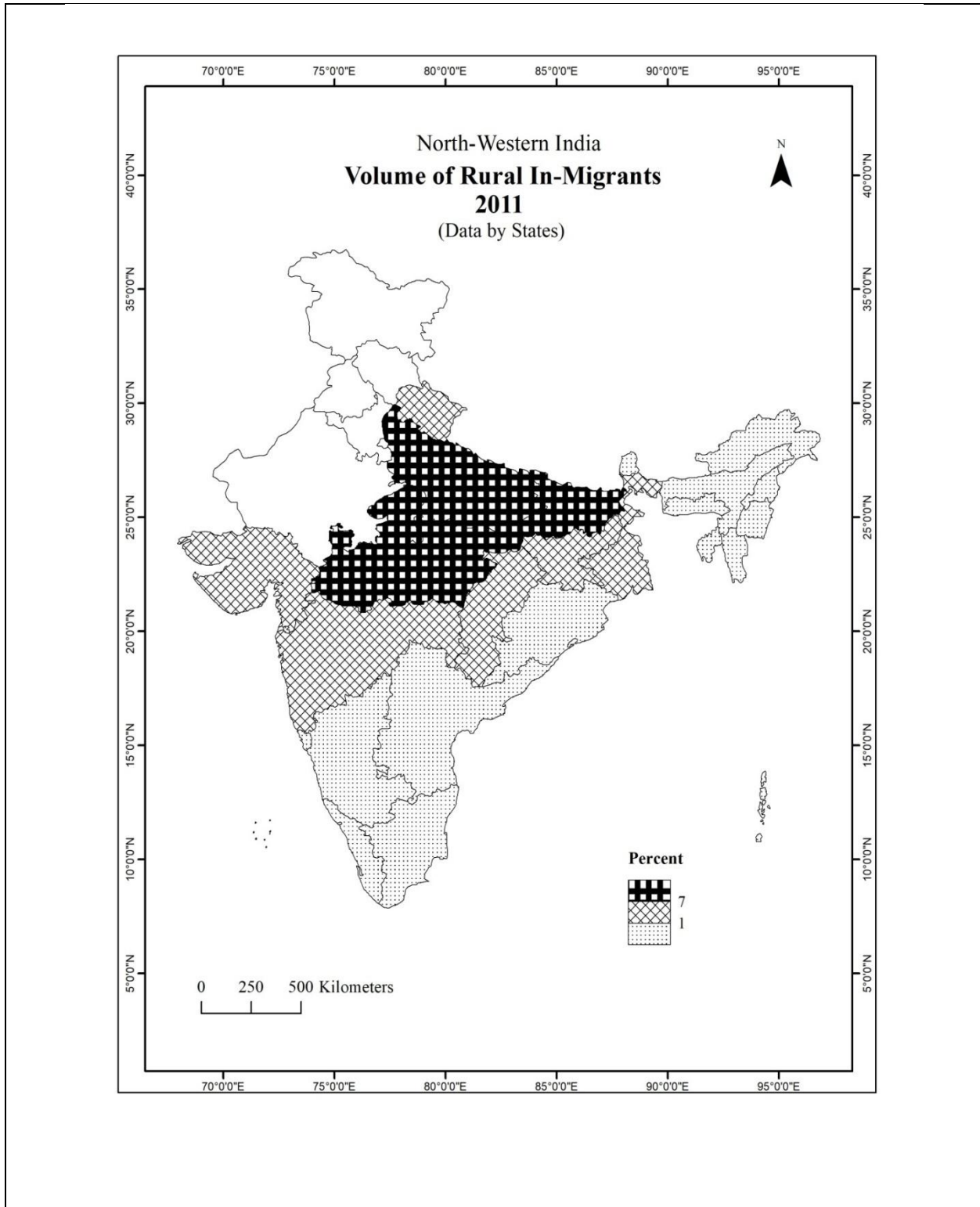
Thus, overall it can be stated that there is an increased preference for urban destination as is seen in the much larger magnitude of preference. In the two States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar also it can be seen that there is higher preference (Rural-46.12 percent and Urban – 53.18 percent) for Uttar Pradesh and 15.96 percent, rural and 17.28 percent, urban for Bihar.

Table-3: North-Western India : Volume of In-Migrants by Residence,2011 (Data by States)

Sr. No.	Region/States	Rural	Percentage	Region/States	urban	Percentage
I	North-Western India	1872907	100.00	North-Western India	8516515	100.00
1	Uttar Pradesh	843275	45.02	Uttar Pradesh	4625865	54.32
2	Madhya Pradesh	359941	19.22	Bihar	1807143	21.22
3	Bihar	278865	14.89	Uttarakhand	461519	5.42
4	Gujarat	128683	6.87	Madhya Pradesh	435931	5.12
5	West Bengal	60738	3.24	West Bengal	335176	3.94
6	Uttarakhand	46073	2.46	Maharashtra	172084	2.02
7	Maharashtra	44135	2.36	Gujarat	122820	1.44
8	Jharkhand	28487	1.52	Jharkhand	110573	1.30
9	Chhattisgarh	20758	1.11	Kerala	89314	1.05
10	Remaining States&Uts	61952	3.31	Remaining States&Uts	356090	4.18

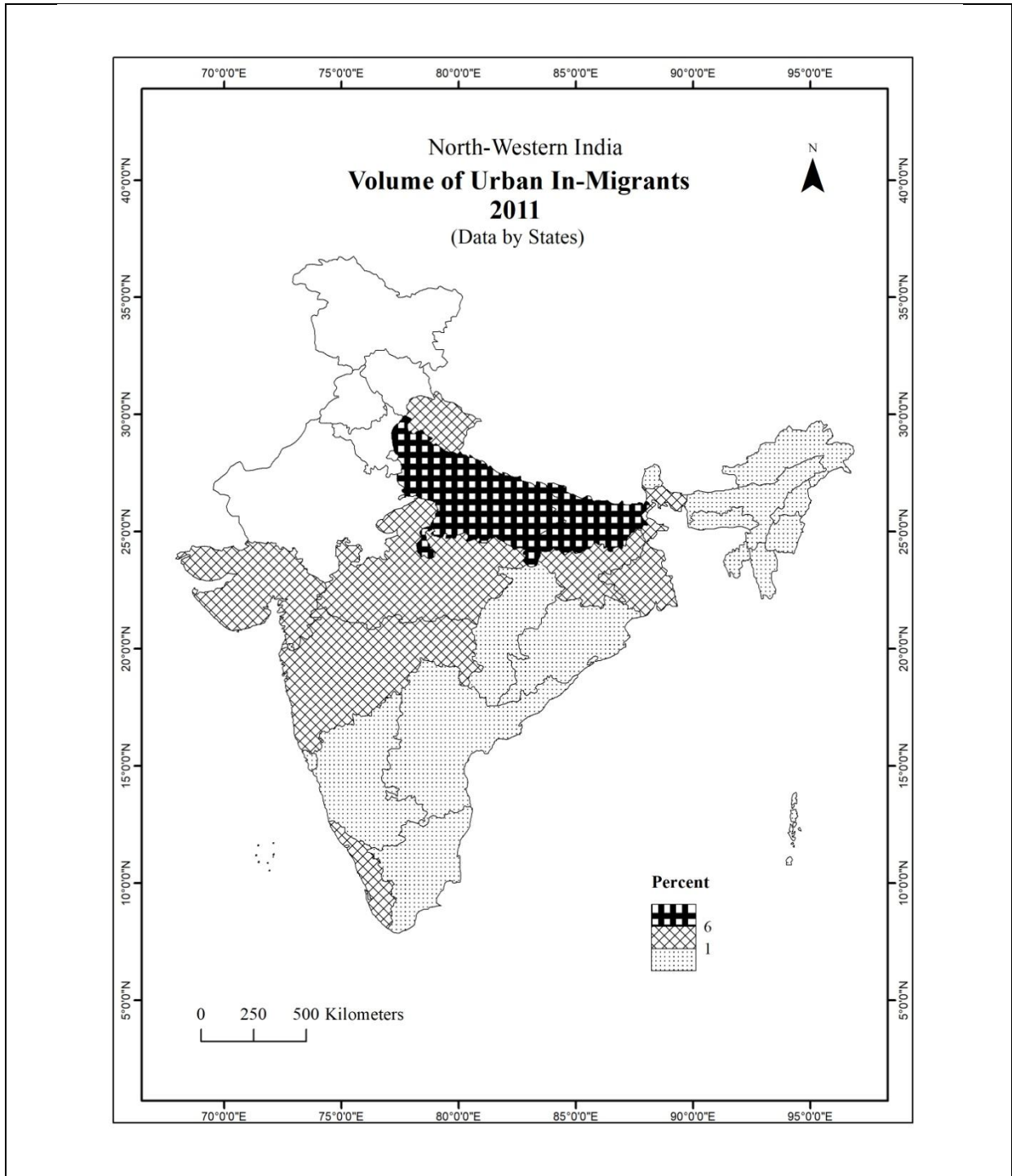
Table-3 gives the picture in 2011 where the changed trends in rural urban residence seeking in-migrants become increasingly discernible. The States that preferred the rural destination in the States of their choosing were Uttar Pradesh (45.02 percent) which retained its first position but had dipped slightly in percentage from its 2001 Census Position. Uttar Pradesh was followed by Madhya Pradesh at 19.22 percent and then came Bihar with 14.89 percent. Bihar too had dipped from its position in 2001 by about one percent. Gujarat followed with 6.87 percent and then West Bengal came up with 2.46 percent. It was very close to Maharashtra having 2.36 percent. The States of Jharkhand (1.52 percent) and Chhattisgarh (1.11 percent) were at the least positions respectively. The remaining States also had only 3.3 percent in-migrants contribution to rural destinations.

Map 3: Volume of In-Migrant (Rural) in 2011



The urban destination was focused upon in 2011 by the in-migrants were almost similar with Uttar Pradesh retaining its first position with 54.32 percent and Bihar at 21.22 percent.

Map 4: Volume of In-Migrant (Urban) in 2011



Summarization of Results

These two States were followed by Uttarakhand (5.42 percent) and Madhya Pradesh opting for the urban destination for in-migrants as were West Bengal (3.94 percent) and Maharashtra (2.02 percent) apparently followed by Gujarat (1.44 percent) and Jharkhand (1.30 percent). All the remaining States and Union Territories reportedly recorded 4.18 percent in 2011.

Thus, it can be seen that as the in-migration trends have increased in volume they have also shown a marked preference for urban rather than rural destination.

Some of the significant findings are:

- i. Changed scenario of destination preferences of in-migrants especially those who have increasingly located to urban destinations in 2011 whereas they had preferred the rural destinations earlier in 2001 (Census report figures 2001, 2011).
- ii. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar both were States of origin for maximum in migration and have exhibited high volume in both rural and urban destinations during the census years of 2001 and 2011.
- iii. There are a large number of minor changes that have come in whereby States like Kerala have shown the renewal in-migrants influx for urban destinations in the North Western sector in the country as compared to other States and Union Territories. This could be indicative of fresh trends that make this region a preferred destination.
- iv. The changed preference of residence from rural to urban has been heightened probably because of increased availability of opportunities in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas in the North Western regions.
- v. Another probable reason for the preference of urban residence by the in-migrants is the large scale change in land use patterns in most areas of the North western States and Union Territories. The changed land use and increasing land transformation from agricultural to built up could area probably be responsible for the gradual decrease in rural and increase in urban preference of residence by the in-migrants.

Conclusion

The seasonal labour migrants, whether they move alone leaving their families behind or move with families, all belong to vulnerable sections of the society. Their jobs are not permanent and they are bound to oscillate from the one place of origin to different destinations in search of lucrative remuneration. For many in-migration groups what they earn at the destination place are additional sources. This income has vital linkages to poverty, indebtedness, migration trends and exploitation at various levels. Migration seems to provide a temporary relief from poverty but it does not give a permanent solution. Therefore some thought needs to be given to their mounting plight.

The dominant perception of migration among policy-makers, academics and officials in India remains that migration is taken up as an option only for survival. The stereotypic image of the migrant continues to be that of a powerless, impoverished and emaciated person who is trapped in poverty. Yet the emerging picture is very different where the in-migrants target an area of opportunity as destination and positively impacts upon the prosperity of both, the place of origin and the place of destination.

The picture is different because at the place of origin there are only few farmers were growing a second crop. This resulted in a major group of small and marginal farmers becoming free during the summer and as a consequence they opted to migrate elsewhere for jobs

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