



Mainstreaming Rural Migrants in Urban India

Towards Creating Inclusive Cities

Policy Brief

India has been described as a 'reluctant urbaniser'. The rate of urbanisation increased from 17.3 per cent in 1951 to 31.2 per cent in 2011, representing just 2.3 per cent increase per decade. In 2011, rural to urban migration contributed only about 18 per cent to the total urban increment of population. This essentially highlights that urban centres in India have not been able to emerge as magnets for creation of employment opportunities attracting rural people on a scale as seen in China and South Korea.

Key Policy Messages

- Improve database on migration
- Promote evidence based policy formulation
- Improve legal framework
- Awareness creation about legal provisions and entitlements for migrants
- Creation of Migration Resource Centers

Who is migrant in Indian cities?

Population Census of India

Defines on the basis of 'Place of Birth' (PoB) and 'Place of last residence' (PoLR).

PoB: According to place of birth criteria, if the place of birth of a person is different from the place of enumeration, then at the place of enumeration the person will be considered as migrant.

PoLR: If the place of last residence of a person is different from the place of enumeration, then at the place of enumeration the person will be considered as migrant.

National Statistical Office (NSO)

NSO uses the concept of 'Usual Place of Residence' criteria to define migrants. If a person continuously stayed at least six months or more in a place (village/town) other than the place of enumeration then at the place of enumeration he/she will be considered as migrant.

Challenges of Migration

In India, policies and programmes have largely been ineffective in providing any form of legal or social protection to internal migrants.

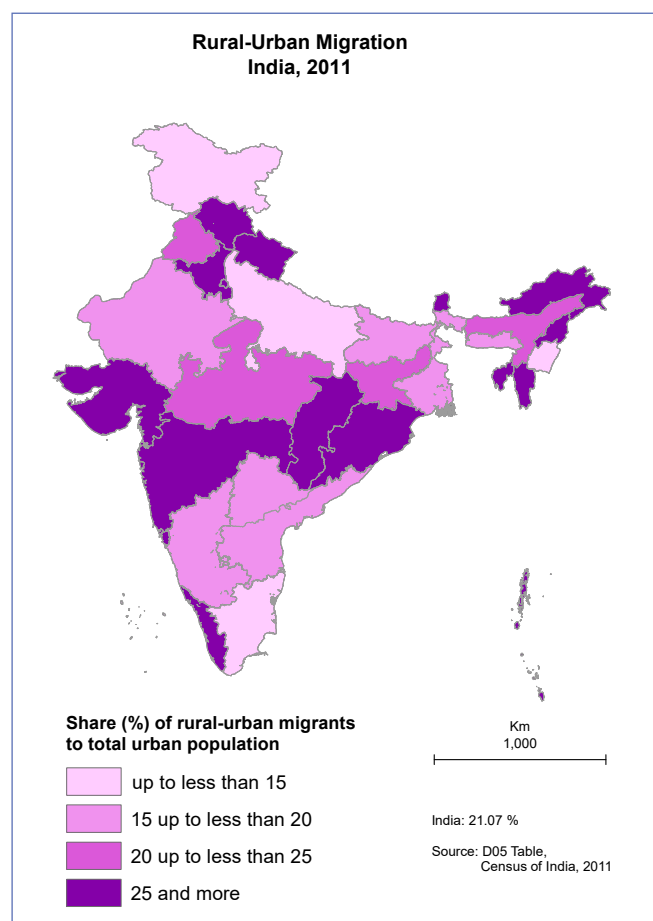
Regulations and administrative procedures exclude migrants from accessing social protection and portability of entitlements is limited.

Internal migrants lack political representation; adequate housing and basic infrastructure; proper wages and job security; integration with urban mainstream labour market; access to health and education facilities and are vulnerable to exploitation and crime.

Limited data on nature and scale of internal migration at regular interval constrains designing of effective policies and programme. Census does not capture details of short-term migrants.

Migrant women and adolescent girls are more vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse. They are less paid and their economic contribution is not recognised.

Children are the most unrecognized and vulnerable groups among internal migrants. Migration delays school entry, increases the dropout rate and forces early entry into labour market.



Legal Provisions for Migrants

Direct

- The Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979

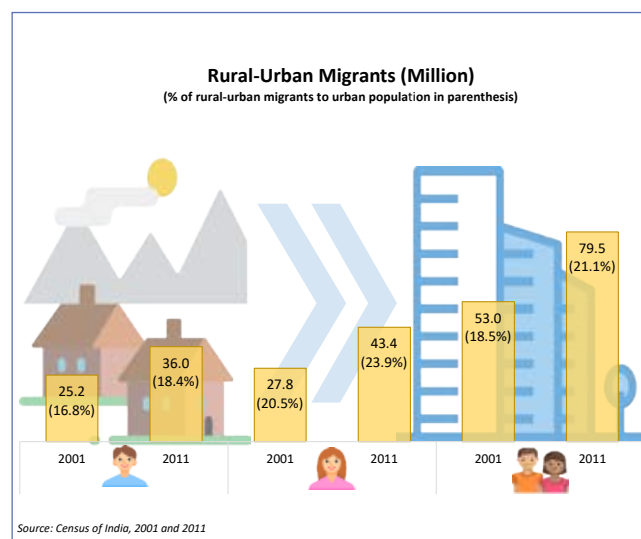
Indirect

- The Building and Other Construction Workers' (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996
- The Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act, 1970
- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- Codes of Wages, 2017
- The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- Domestic Workers Welfare and Social Security Act, 2010

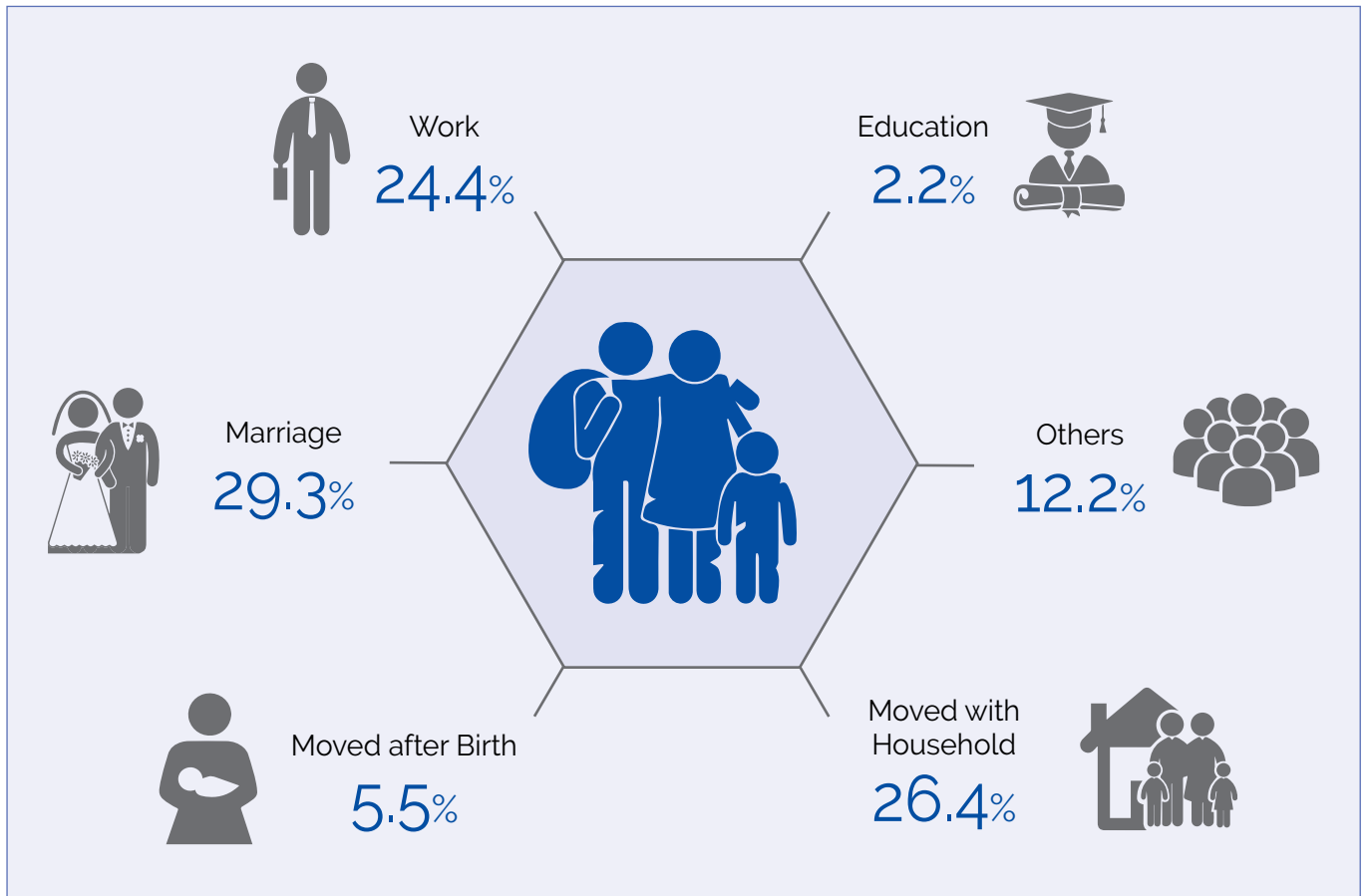
Facts

- Every fifth person in Urban India is a migrant from rural areas
- Every seventh migrant (rural-urban) is in Maharashtra
- Arunachal Pradesh has the highest percentage of rural migrants
- Every second male migrated to urban areas for employment
- Every second female migrated to urban areas due to marriage
- Every third rural-urban migrant has migrated in the last 10 years
- Every fourth rural-urban migrant is illiterate
- Three in every four rural-urban migrants are of working age (15-59 years)

Source: Calculated from Migration Table (D-05), Census of India, 2001-11



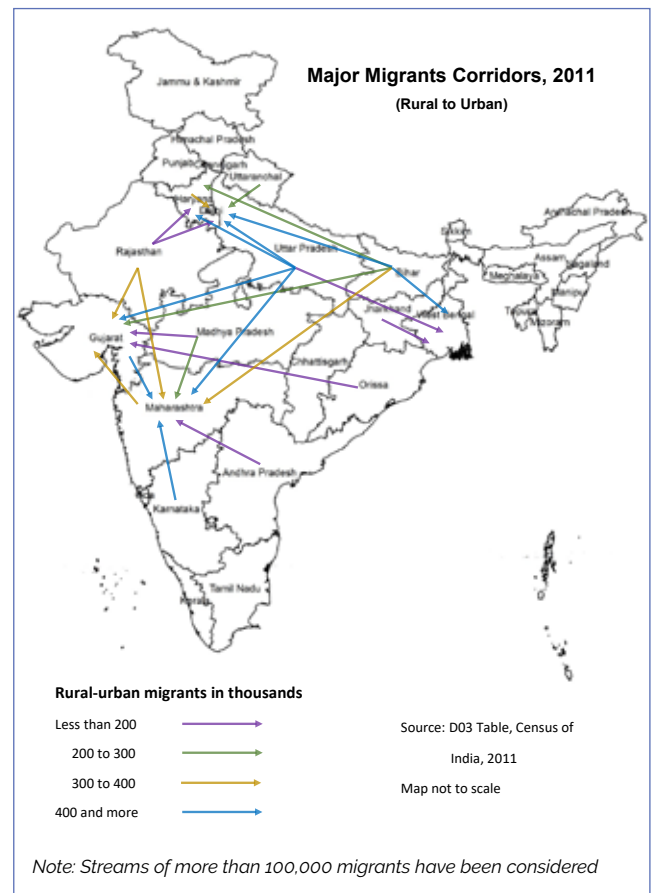
Reasons for Rural to Urban Migration, 2011



Inter-state Migration Corridors

Some of the prominent migrant recipient states are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal. The migrants sending states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Odisha. The significant migration corridors that emerge at the national level for rural-urban migration are –

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Karnataka → Maharashtra
 Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh → Gujarat
 Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand → Delhi





Some Regional Initiatives

Labornet: A social enterprise in Bangalore established an interface between informal workers and employers. The enterprise has till now developed a database of 45,000 workers, and provide services on financial inclusion, linkage with social security and welfare schemes to informal workers.

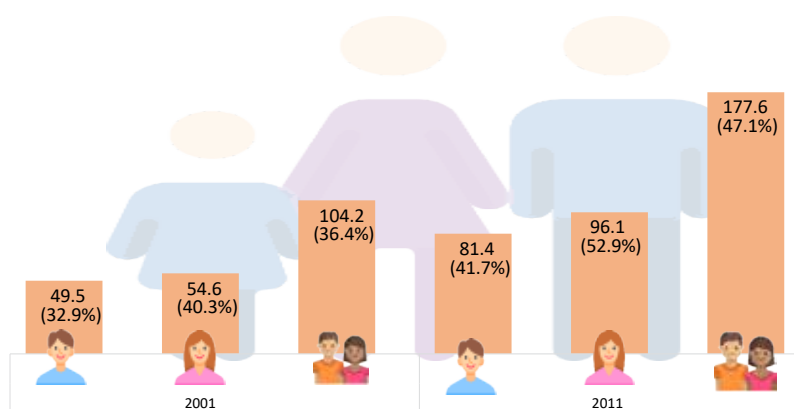
Ration Kruti Samiti: A network of civil society organisations of Maharashtra was instrumental in passing of the government resolution which helped both inter and intra-state migrants in accessing public distribution system.

Aajeevika Bureau: Works with migrant communities at both source and destination. Few initiatives taken are Shramik Sahayata evam Sandarbha Kendras, a network of walk-in resource centres for migrant workers; Labour Line, a phone-based help line for workers; Issuance of ID proof; Skill Development; Legal aid etc

Policy Recommendations

- Develop a comprehensive legal and policy framework on migration
- Enable evidence-based policy formulation
- Setting up of Migration Resource Centers and migration helplines
- Registration and issuance of identity proofs to migrants
- Portability of entitlements
- Financial and Political Inclusion
- Integration of migrants with urban main-stream labour market
- Inclusion through housing and social security
- Inclusive master plan ensuring migrants' right to city

Total Migrants (Million), Urban India
(% of migrants to urban population in parenthesis)



Note: Figures include all streams of migration
Source: Census of India, 2001 and 2011