

Adaptation Strategies of the Bangladeshi Immigrants: A Study in Selected C. D. Blocks of the Indian Sundarban Region

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Abstract : *Migration from Bangladesh to India became a notable trend a decade after the 1947 partition. Initially, this movement was mostly limited to West Bengal, eastern Bihar, and Northeast India. Following the division of India by British colonial policies, Pakistan was established, with a considerable area known as East Pakistan located far from its mainland, now recognized as Bangladesh since 1971. From 1947 to 1971, the factors driving migration differed from those observed after Bangladesh gained independence. Despite independence, Bangladesh's reliance on India-particularly West Bengal-persisted owing to proximity, kinship, and political-economic ties. This study investigates the underlying drivers of migration from the southern districts of Bangladesh to North and South 24 Parganas in West Bengal, focusing on the livelihood strategies of immigrant families in new socio-cultural and economic settings. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. Door-to-door surveys were performed using stratified and snowball sampling methods. Finally, the collected data was represented through different diagrams. The research finds the continued migration of Hindu immigrants to the Sundarbans since 1905, largely driven by religious violence, poverty, and insecurity. Many migrants initially settle near relatives and frequently relocate within West Bengal. These findings offer insights into the evolving population dynamics of the region.*

Key words: *Living Strategy, Changing Residential Unit, Socio-cultural livelihood, Population dynamics, Adaptation process*

Introduction and Background

The movement of people from one place to another is a complex phenomenon that involves the mobility of societies. It affects families, social bonds, the economy, politics, culture, and communication (Castles, S. (2010)). On a larger scale, migration plays an important role for livelihood security, as well as for the adaptation goal (Adger et al. 2014), which often encompasses short-term coping and longer-term adaptation (Singh et al., 2016). Due to the proximity, ethnic and religious affiliation, West Bengal plays a crucial role for Bangladeshi immigrants throughout the cross-border region of West Bengal. In the study of Alam et al., the adaptation and adjustment process has been studied, and acceptance of migrants by local communities, challenges related to settlement, employment, and access to basic amenities, including the difficulty with legal issues such as security and identity-related documentation, were discussed (Alam et al. 2025). Historical,

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socio-political and environmental variables have all had a significant role in shaping the migratory patterns from Bangladesh to India, especially in West Bengal.

(a) Historical Migration Patterns: 1947–1971

Human migration refers to the movement of people from one location to another with the intention of settling. This can involve international movement or internal migration, and it often raises national concerns for the countries involved. Samaddar (1999) notes that the massive exodus from Pakistan to India during the partition in 1947-48 involved around 15 million individuals. According to the 2001 Census of India, there were over 6 million residents born in Asian countries, with 56% (approximately 3.7 million) hailing from Bangladesh. Notably, more than 3 million individuals in West Bengal alone were reported to have been born in Bangladesh (Sarkar, 2008). Chakrabarty (1990) highlights that the outflow from Bangladesh to India, particularly in West Bengal during the late 1950s, was significant, characterizing it as both an exodus and a resettlement marked by urban challenges. He identifies the migration from regions such as Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Dinajpur, 24 Parganas, and Nadia as having a peasant nature that has persisted over time.

(b) Socio-political drivers in post-1971

Additionally, Datta (2004) discusses how factors like the Enemy Property Act and various social and political issues in Bangladesh during the 1960s were influential in driving migration, with political conditions serving as a key pulling factor (Sarkar, 2008). According to him, the process of assimilation is not that easy for a newcomer in a developing and multicultural society like India, and the situation is likely to get even worse. ‘The resulting scarcities generate a strong feeling of ‘nativism’ among the original inhabitants of the area’. The indigenous people of the society organise themselves into groups to protect their interests, whereas the newcomers have other homes to which they can return. In his words, newcomers are ‘emotionally and cognitively excluded’, and defined as competitors over scarce resources such as land and employment (Swain, 1996).

(c) Environmental and climate-induced migration

Bangladesh’s vulnerability to climate change is significant due to its geographic location, high population density, and socio-economic challenges, as noted by Agarwal et al. (2003). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that by 2050, Bangladesh could lose nearly one-fifth of its land to rising sea levels due to global warming. Sarfaraz Alam (2003) highlights that environmental crises are a key driver of migration from Bangladesh, emphasizing the impact on people’s lives (Joseph, 2013). Ackerly (2015) posits that while climate change introduces new pressures, Bangladeshis have historically adapted their livelihoods to the dynamic environment. However, both sudden and gradual environmental disasters have led to significant displacement globally. Warner et al. (2008) predict that the situation regarding environmentally induced migration will worsen due to climate change. Reuveny (2005) discusses how climate-

induced migration can lead to conflicts and political instability in host societies, as communities may be compelled to relocate for better livelihoods. In contrast, Tacoli (2009) presents an alternative perspective, viewing migration as a coping strategy that enhances household resilience and reduces vulnerabilities associated with social, economic, and ecosystem challenges. Climate-induced livelihood risk factors are among the major drivers of farmers' migration. Additionally, farmers' perceptions of climate change, together with their socioeconomic characteristics, significantly influence their migration decisions (Jha et al 2018).

For the detailed study of the adaptation strategies of the Bangladeshi immigrant families in some villages of South 24 Pargana District, some journals, articles, books and internet sources have been consulted. Ogionwo (1973), in his paper "*Some Correlates of Rural-Urban Migration and Urban Adjustment*", emphasises the factors responsible for migration in a comprehensive manner. Mashihur Rahaman Khan (1974), in his paper "*Pattern of External Migration to and from Bangladesh, 1901-1961*", opined that there was a significant change over in the flow of external migration from Bangladesh during 1901-1961.

Trans-border migration in the study area

In the years following independence, particularly from 1947 to 1971, waves of migration were largely driven by the quest for safety and livelihood as people fled to West Bengal—a region characterized by geographical proximity and familial ties. Despite Bangladesh gaining sovereignty in 1971, migration continued, influenced by persistent socio-economic challenges within Bangladesh and the opportunities available across the porous borders into India. This ongoing migration highlights a complex interplay of historical ties, socio-economic factors, and regional politics that persist today, contributing to the dynamic population shifts seen in areas like the Sundarbans and the 24 Parganas in West Bengal.

Introducing Study Area and Justification:

For analyzing the adaptation strategy of Bangladeshi immigrant families, areas of Canning-I and Canning-II C D Blocks of South 24 Parganas district have been chosen. The reasons for the selection of these two C.D. Blocks are, *firstly*, they are located at the extreme south of the district and nearest to the international border of India and Bangladesh. *Secondly*, the pilot survey and primary investigation reveal that within this district, these two blocks are heavily composed of Bangladeshi immigrant families, some of whom have migrated historically, while others have migrated in recent times.

The North and South 24 Parganas offer a rich context for studying trans-border migration and its effects on immigrant families' livelihoods and challenges in the following manner-

Historical Context: The 24 Parganas region is key to migration narratives post-Partition, reflecting how historical events influence current migration patterns due to its proximity to Bangladesh.

Diverse Migration Dynamics: The area hosts a significant number of Bangladeshi migrants, particularly Hindus, enabling an exploration of various factors like religious identity and cultural ties affecting migration.

Socio-Economic Conditions: The contrast between economic opportunities and challenges in the region allows for analysis of how poverty and insecurity drive migration decisions and livelihood strategies.

Porous Borders and Family Networks: The region's porous borders support migration through established family networks, highlighting the influence of familial relationships on settlement and integration.

Regional Politics and Policy Implications: The political landscape in West Bengal and national immigration policies add complexity, underscoring the need to understand local governance and its impact on population dynamics.

Table 1: Administrative Divisions of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

State	District	Sub-division	CD Blocks	Headquarter	Total number of Gram Panchayats
West Bengal	South 24 Pargana	Canning Subdivision	Basanti Canning I Canning II	Canning	46

Source: Registrar General & Census Commissioner District Census Handbook, 2011

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the experiences of Bangladeshi immigrant families, highlighting the complexities of their migration journey and current realities.

1. Investigate the Adaptation Process: Examine how Bangladeshi immigrant families adjust to and integrate into the socio-cultural environment of West Bengal.
2. Analyze Socio-Economic Livelihood Conditions: Assess the socio-economic conditions of immigrant families by comparing their pre- and post-migration circumstances regarding economic status, employment, and resource access.
3. Identify Challenges and Crises: Explore the challenges faced by immigrant families, focusing on issues related to housing, healthcare, employment, and social integration.

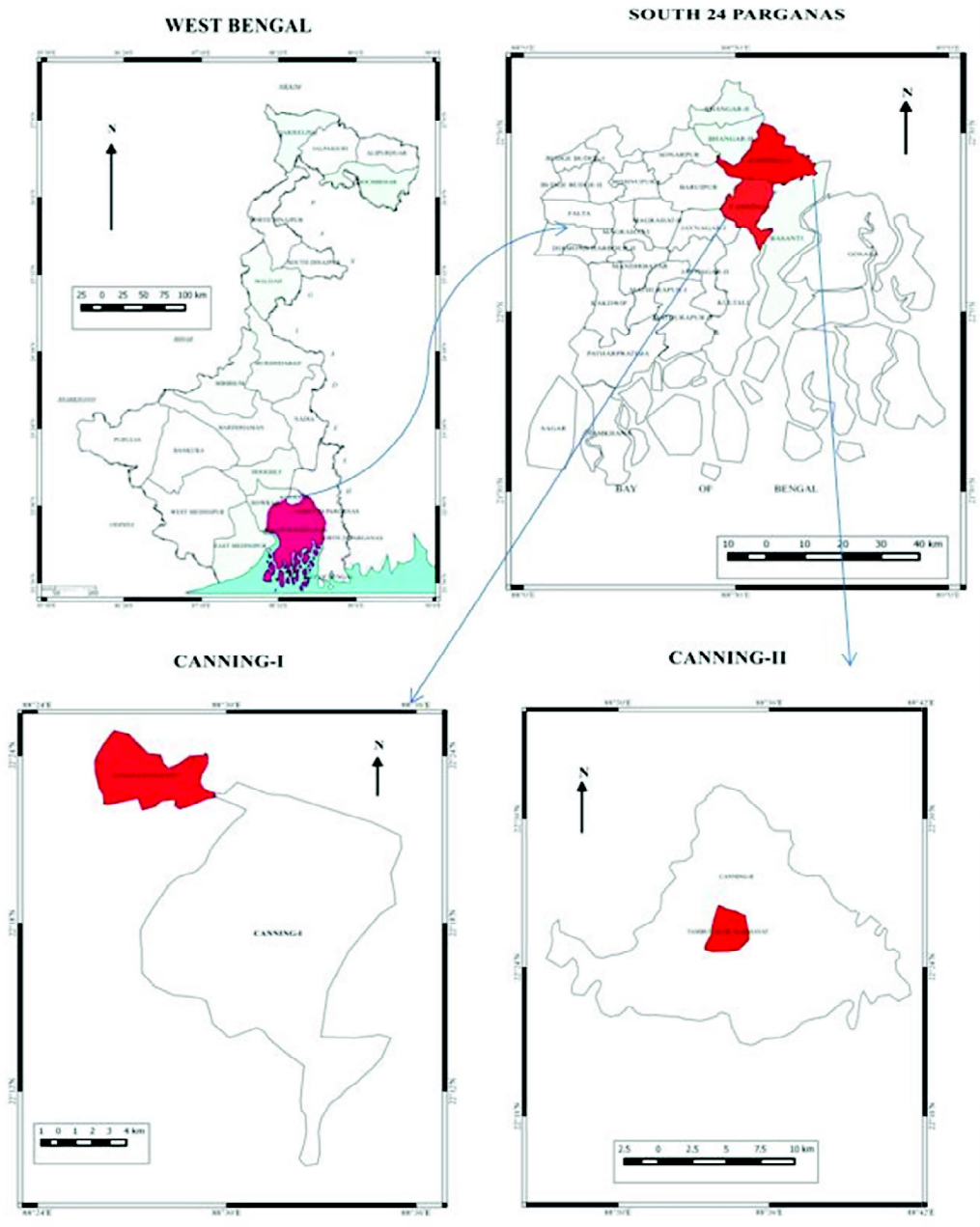


Fig. 1: The Study Area

Map Source: Computed by Author

Methodology

This study aims to investigate the adaptation process, analyze socio-economic livelihood conditions, and identify challenges faced by Bangladeshi immigrant families in the studied village of Canning, West Bengal. To achieve the outlined objectives, a mixed-method approach will be employed, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. The methodology is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the immigrant experience.

Study Area and Data Collection

This field study is based on primary data collected from Bansra (Canning-I) and Tambuldaha (Canning-II) panchayats. A pilot survey guided the development of the survey plan and sample selection. Using purposive and snowball sampling, 291 participants—comprising current and former migrants and members of migrant households—were surveyed to capture diverse migration experiences. Selection criteria included gender (both male and female), age (18 years and above), and migration duration (short-term, seasonal, and long-term). The sample size was determined by the population's diversity, achievement of data saturation, and feasibility within time and resource constraints, ensuring both representativeness and depth of analysis.

After data collection, the information was organized in the SPSS data editor for analysis. Appropriate statistical techniques were applied, accompanied by diagrams to effectively present the findings and conclusions. All figures, tables, and diagrams in this research were derived from the primary field survey conducted from April to May 2017.

Research Method

To investigate the adaptation process of Bangladeshi immigrant families in the socio-cultural context, qualitative data were gathered through personal interviews with selected participants representing a range of backgrounds within the immigrant community. These semi-structured interviews allowed for in-depth exploration of family members' experiences related to cultural integration, community engagement, and adaptation strategies. Thematic analysis was employed to interpret the qualitative data, revealing key insights into the influence of cultural practices and social networks on the integration process.

For assessing socio-economic conditions, structured questionnaires were utilized to collect quantitative data regarding pre- and post-migration circumstances, focusing on economic status, employment patterns, and resource accessibility. Upon completing the field surveys, the collected data were compiled and analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics summarized the socio-economic indicators, while comparative analyses highlighted variations between pre- and post-migration conditions. To illustrate the findings, graphs and charts were created.

In addition to household surveys, focus group discussions were conducted with small groups of immigrants to examine the challenges they face. These discussions provided diverse perspectives

on critical issues such as housing, healthcare, employment, and social integration, further illuminating the challenges and crises encountered by immigrant families.

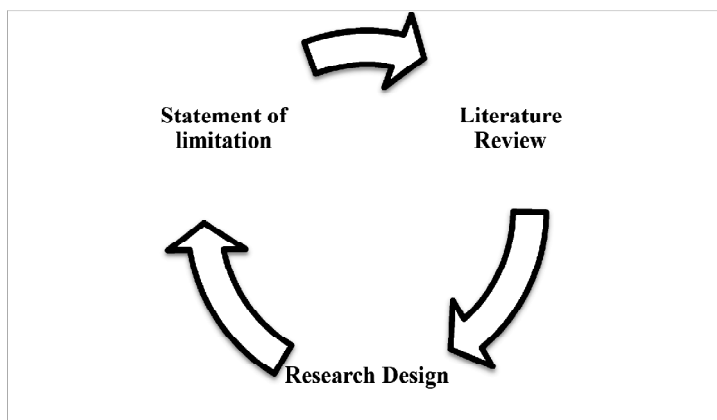
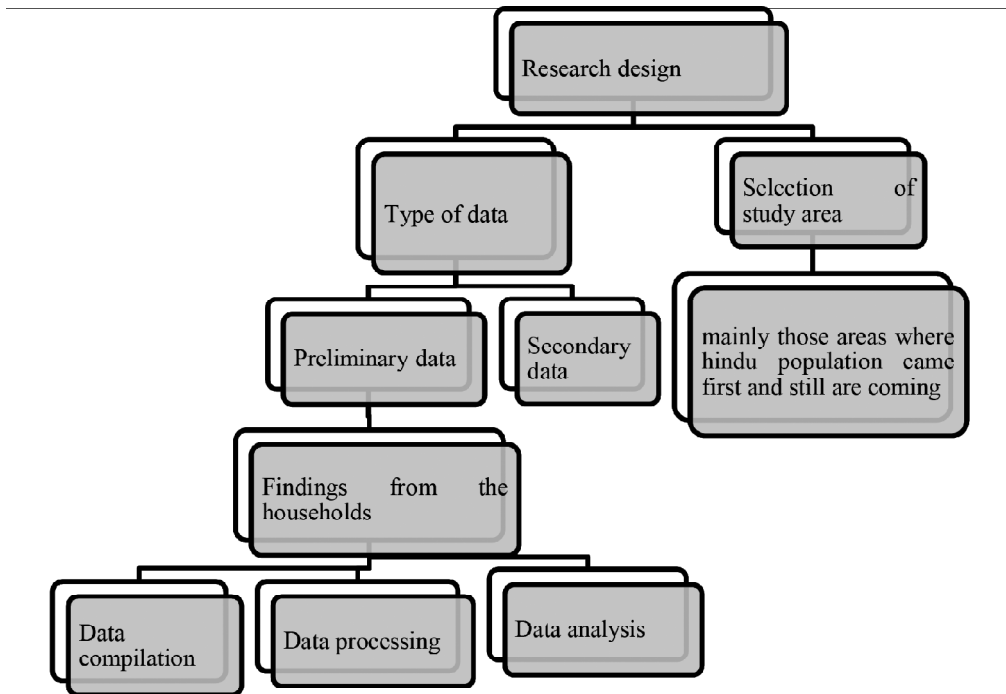


Fig. 2A and 2B. Methodology of the Research

The major limitations of the primary survey are summarized as follows:

1. Cross-border immigration is a sensitive issue; a few respondents refused to provide the data related to their birthplace and nationality.
2. Some of the survey areas were so inaccessible by means of low linkage of road, even the absence of road. In those places only some boundaries of agricultural lands are used as transport linkages.
3. As maximum of the respondents are daily labourers or workers on daily basis, even in Saturday or Sunday, few respondents were absent.
4. Medium of transportation is quite poor in the area. As a result, survey has been concentrated within a specific given site and could not be fragmented throughout the panchayat area.

Result and Discussion

The post-migration experience for newcomers from Bangladesh is often challenging, as meeting their daily needs can put a strain on host communities. While migrants strive to integrate, they frequently encounter social issues. According to Swain (1996), The Times of India reported on August 31, 1980, that migration from Bangladesh to India occurred even before the country's formation, largely due to Hindus fleeing religious persecution. However, by the late 1970s, the nature of migration changed, with an increase in Muslim migrants. Data from Indian Border Police indicated that return migrations rose from 1,170 in 1977 to 4,170 in 1979 (Swain, 1996). The population growth rate in West Bengal, which shares a 2,216 km border with Bangladesh, reached 2.7% by the 1981 Census, outpacing 1.9% in other bordering Indian states (Swain, 1996). Factors driving the large-scale exodus in the late 1970s included political unrest and socio-economic challenges, with many migrants changing their routes to northern and western India due to unfavourable conditions in Assam. Swain (1996) cited a report from the **Dhaka Courier** that highlighted 150,000 Bangladeshi migrants living in a slum cluster in Delhi in 1991, displaced by land erosion, floods, and poverty in Khulna, Bagerhat, and Barisal. This study focuses on the adaptation processes of Bangladeshi migrants, examining their reasons for migration, adaptive capacities, and the adjustments they make to their new environments compared to their previous homes.

Place of origin in Bangladesh

The majority of immigrants in the study areas originally come from southern Bangladesh, particularly Barishal, Khulna, and Satkhira, as shown in Fig. 3. Their proximity to Southern Bengal makes it logical that they take the shortest route to South 24 Parganas for settlement. Data analysis confirms that while migrants originate from various locations, the largest numbers are from these

three regions. Specifically, 31.80% of immigrants are from Khulna and Barishal, 15.80% from Satkhira, with smaller percentages from Jessore (1.4%), Bagerhat (0.7%), Rajshahi, Comilla (2.4%), Gopalganj (0.3%), and Dhaka (2.7%). Areas like Bagerhat and Comilla see lower migration rates mainly due to their distance from the destination and greater stability compared to other regions.

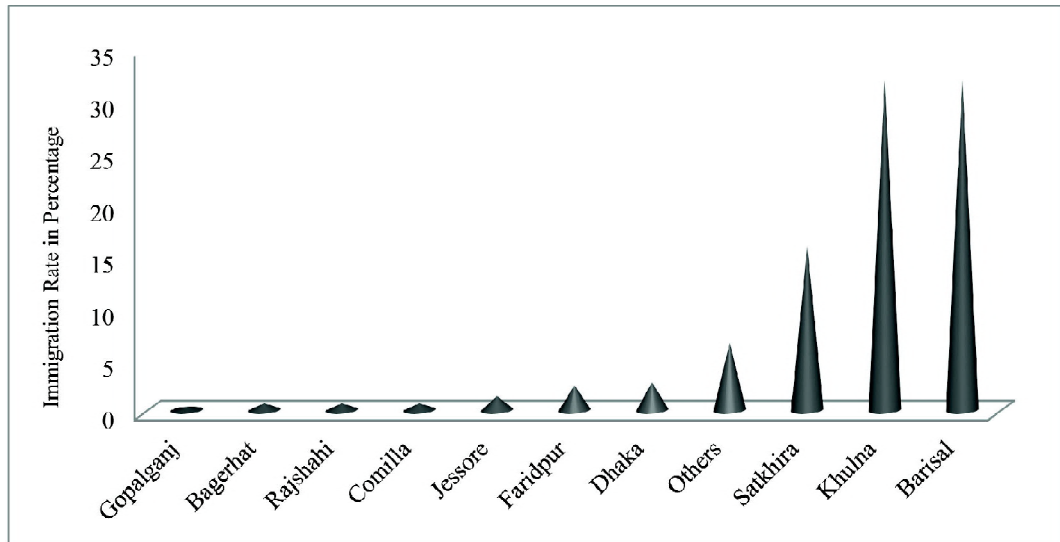


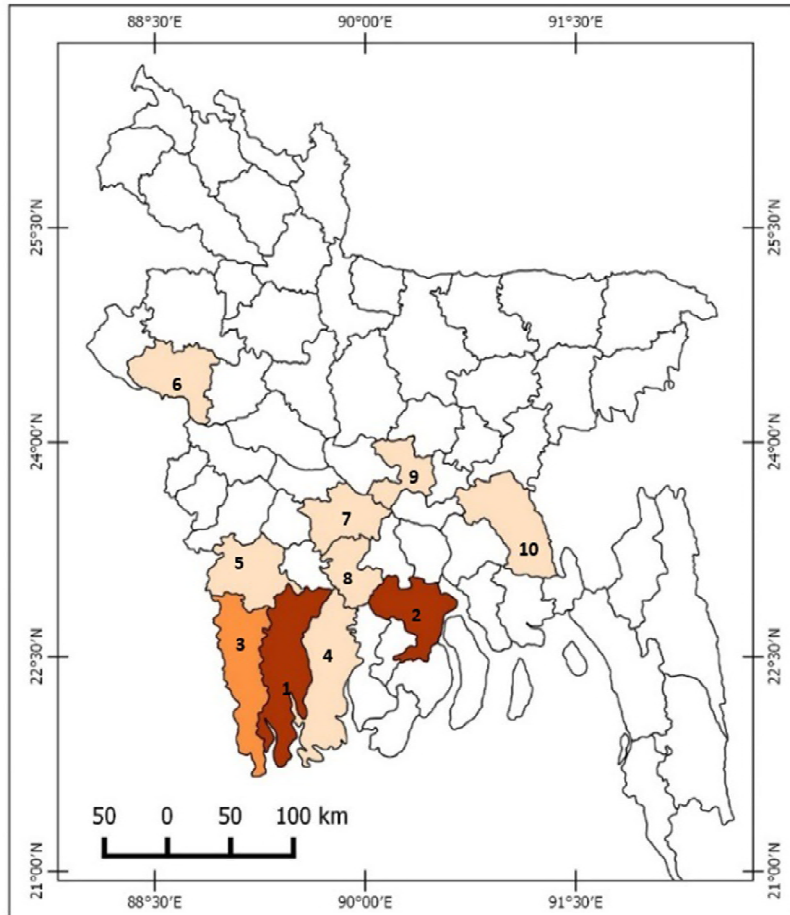
Fig. 3: Areas of Origin within Bangladesh

Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017

The following map shows the overall influx of migration from Bangladesh to India. From the map, it can be clearly observed that the highest flow of people is from Khulna and Barishal. The preceding place from where the second highest migration flow has been occurred from Satkhira. The lowest influx is from Rajshahi, Faridpur etc (Fig. 3),(Fig. 4).

Nature of Migration

The nature of migration is influenced by factors such as the flow of people, their reasons for moving, and the duration of their migration. Based on respondent data, it was found that single-family migration is the most common, making up 58.60%, followed by joint-family migration at 23.1%, couple migration at 7.90%, and individual migration at 4.50%. The trend is particularly high among single-family households, likely because smaller units can navigate the migration process more easily than larger families. Visa acquisition poses challenges for those moving from Bangladesh to India, but single families find it easier to obtain visas (Fig. 5).



DISTRICTS WITH IMMIGRATION DATA

High Immigration (62-93)

- 1. Khulna
- 2. Barishal

Medium Immigration (31-62)

- 3. Satkhira

Low Immigration (1-31)

- 4. Bagerhat
- 5. Jessore
- 6. Rajshahi
- 7. Faridpur
- 8. Gopalganj
- 9. Dhaka
- 10. Noakhali

**Number in Persons
IMMIGRATION FROM THE DISTRICTS**

- 1 - 31
- 31 - 62
- 62 - 93

Fig. 4: Flow of Immigrants (Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017; Map Source: Computed by Author)

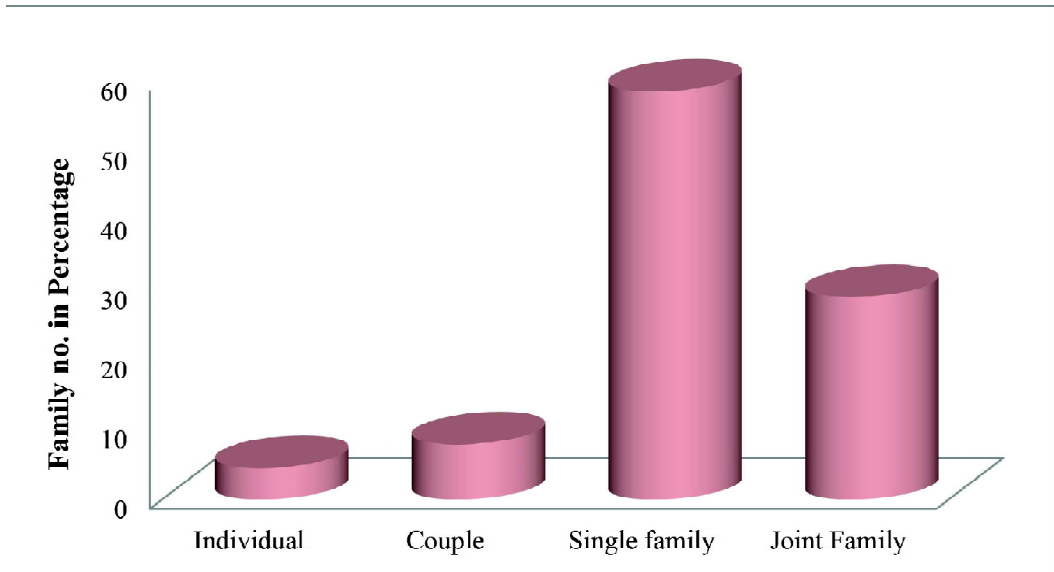


Fig. 5: Types of Migration

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

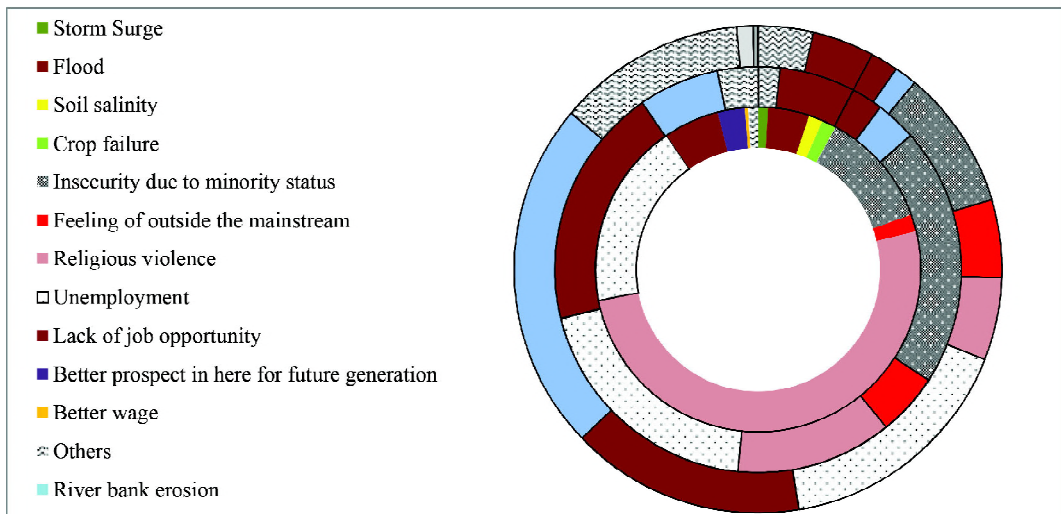


Fig. 6: The Reasons for Migration

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Reasons for Immigration

The survey focused on families who experienced the post-partition era, the birth of Bangladesh, and the mass exodus from East Pakistan. Initially driven by political and religious issues, many Bangladeshis found their homeland unable to offer protection due to instability, prompting them to seek security in neighbouring India. Poor quality of life, insecurity, and economic strife propelled these individuals towards migration. Respondents indicated that post-independence migration was largely motivated by insecurity, with 50.70% citing religious violence as the primary cause, followed by concerns about being a minority (19.90%), political instability leading to unemployment (18.50%), lack of social security (11.60%), and natural disasters like floods and cyclones (4.10%) (Fig. 7). Analysis of primary data revealed that the migration rate in the study areas was 0.30% immediately after India's independence, gradually increasing since the 1960s. By 1967, the rate had risen to 2.10%, but it dropped to 1.40% between 1970 and 1986. Migration surged to 3.10% from 1977 to 1980 and peaked at 7.90% in 1987. In 1997, the rate was 6.80%, but declined to 1.70% post-1998, indicating fluctuation over the years. Overall, the trend from 1950 to 2000 showed high migration rates, which have since decreased due to stringent border control. Projections suggest a further decline in migration trends by 2050 (Fig 6).

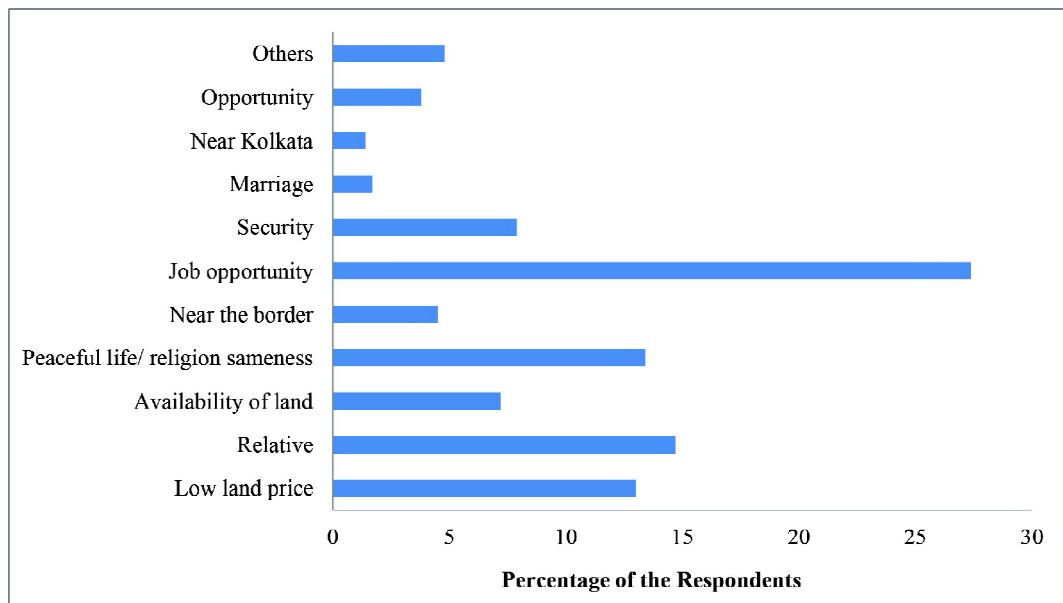


Fig.7: The Reasons for Selection of Destination

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Reason for the selection of the present place of living

Table 2: Type of Profession in Bangladesh

Occupation	Percent
Cultivators	58.40
Agricultural labour	10.00
Daily labour	1.70
Fishery	3.90
Business	0.40
Helping hand/ domestic service	2.40
Housewife	9.80
Service	0.40
Other	3.30

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

There are various types of reason for selecting the present place as future destination for the immigrations comes from Bangladesh since its independence. Cultural homogeneity and security are the foremost reasons for selecting India as a new place of residence since the time of independence of Bangladesh, but the reason for selecting the present place of living has changed over time. Now it has been observed that youth are responding to migration and reacting to the insecurity that they faced at their place of origin, and migrating to neighbouring and other countries frequently due to uncertainty of their economic condition. In the diagram, it is observed that the maximum number of immigrants people selected this area for job opportunity (27.4%), the other reason are their relatives and family members who were already migrated to this place earlier (14.70%), availability of residential place (7.20%), for secured and peaceful life (13.40%) (Fig. 7).

Present Family Member in Bangladesh

Primary data analysis revealed that some family members of the respondents remain in Bangladesh, but most are gradually leaving. During field visits, it was noted that only a few elders, who have spent their lives in their homeland, are still there. In contrast, many younger individuals and those with prospects left Bangladesh early and have been living in India for a long time, while their elderly parents and relatives remain in Bangladesh. Notably, 47% of respondents reported having no family members in Bangladesh, while only 22% indicated having relatives there, typically no more than three individuals (Fig. 8).

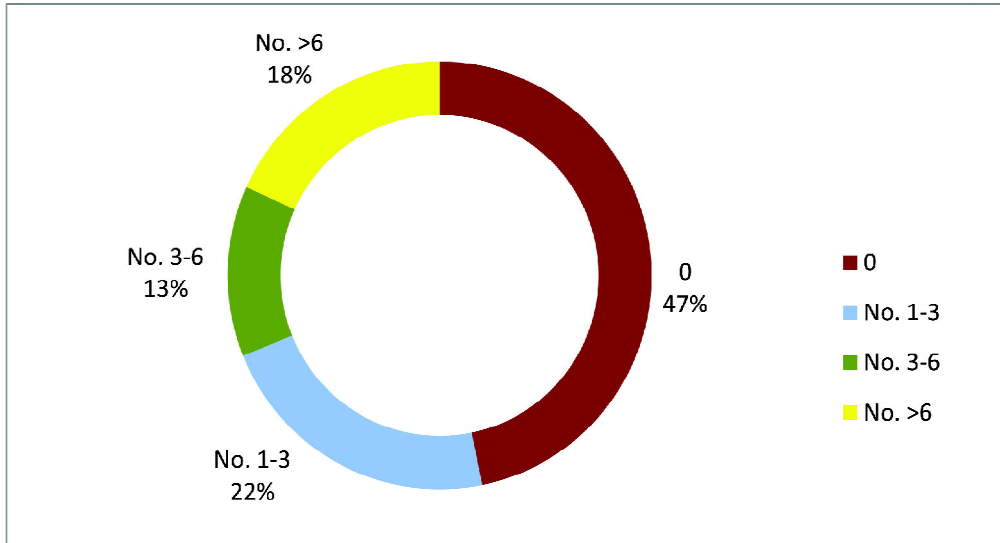


Fig. 8: The Percentage of Present Family Member in Bangladesh

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Comparison between Place of Origin and Place of Destination of the immigrants’ families:

Profession in Bangladesh

It is observed that immigrants were engaged in different types of occupations in Bangladesh such as cultivator, agricultural labour, daily labour, business, micro enterprise, fishery, service,

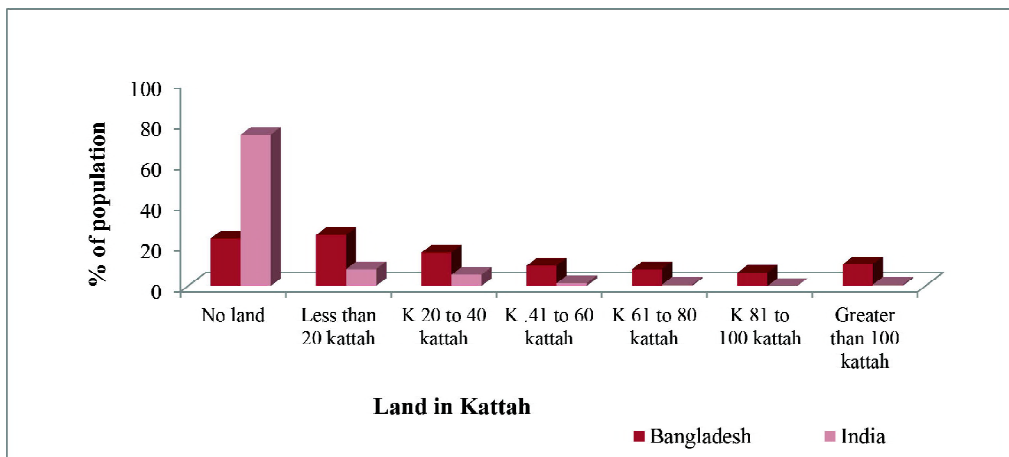


Fig. 9: Comparison of Residential Unit

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

etc. It indicates that most of the population was engaged in primary sectors such as cultivation, fisheries, and agricultural labourers, which accounts for more than 50% of the total surveyed families who left Bangladesh. Change in occupation after immigration is more pronounced in the age group from 20 to 40. They are mostly engaged in the informal sector. The comparison of occupational types has been discussed in the following paragraphs.

Present living condition

Immigration significantly impacts the livelihoods and occupations of immigrants, particularly for those forced to leave their homeland. In the studied villages, residents left either due to external pressures or in search of better living conditions, resulting in changes to their occupations and living situations that differed significantly from their previous experiences. Fig. 9 illustrates the comparison between the residential lands of immigrants in Bangladesh and their current situation in India, revealing that most lack permanent residential plots like those they once had. Many respondents, who immigrated during their country's independence, lost their land and now live as "Udbastu." The data shows that people had more residential plots in Bangladesh than they currently do, highlighting the losses endured during immigration.

Change of Livelihood

The Fig. 10 shows the variation in the agricultural land holding of the migrants in Bangladesh. In the present living place, there is a significant increase in the holding of agricultural land. Most of the respondents come to India very early and engage in agricultural activities. It is a reason that they have more cultivable land at their present place than at the place of origin. But it is also a fact that recently, the respondents' family members are mostly engaged in non-agricultural activities, mostly in the informal sectors.

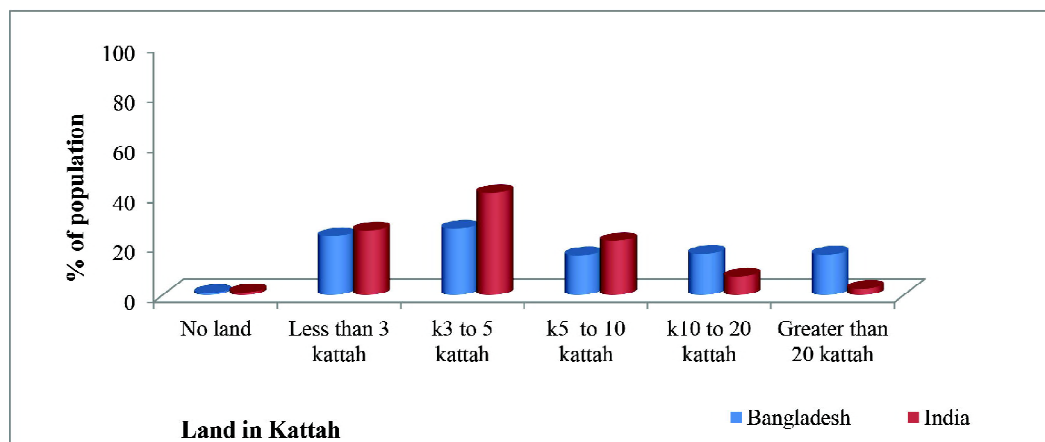


Fig. 10: Comparison among Agricultural Land

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

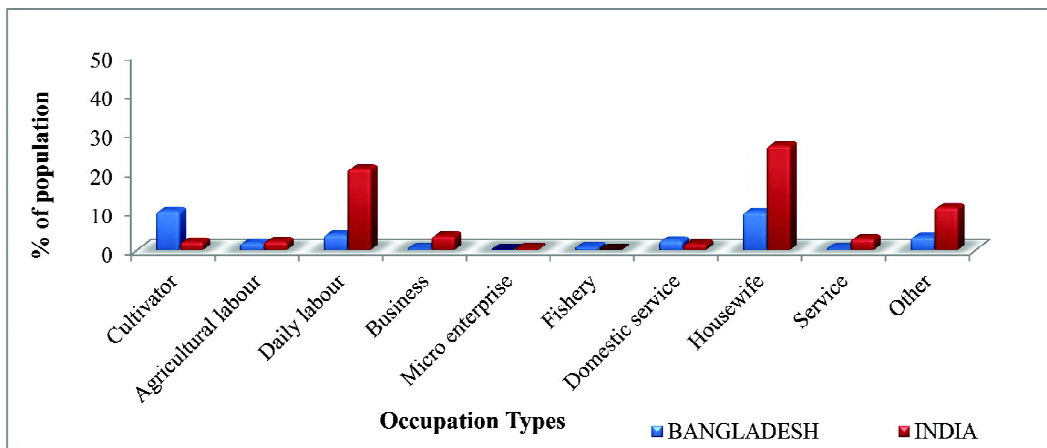


Fig. 11: Comparison of Occupational Structure

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Migration significantly impacts immigrants' occupations and livelihoods. While many are attracted by occupational opportunities at their destination, external pressures from their place of origin also compel them to leave. In the surveyed families, individuals not only sought more secure livelihoods but also better job prospects. As a result, most transitioned from agricultural work to informal economic activities. Many migrated during periods of religious turbulence, which prevented them from maintaining wealthy agricultural lands. Fig. 11 illustrates the changes in the migrants' occupational structure, showing an increase in agricultural labour, business, and service roles, while reliance on daily wage work has risen in place of self-sufficient livelihoods. This reflects a substantial shift resulting from migration.

Change in Ownership of Land upon leaving Bangladesh

Migrants who left Bangladesh during the country's independence faced significant challenges due to religious unrest, economic crises, and political instability. Many respondents reported experiencing forced land acquisition linked to the government's "Enemy Property Act," which deemed individuals who migrated to India as "enemies," allowing their land to be seized. Those from the studied villages witnessed numerous such cases. Consequently, many were compelled to sell their land to locals or relatives. As illustrated in Fig. 12, 38% of respondents sold their land to neighbours and relatives, while 27% sold to local Muslims. Additionally, 15% abandoned their land due to unfavourable living conditions, and in some instances, local Muslims forcibly seized land.

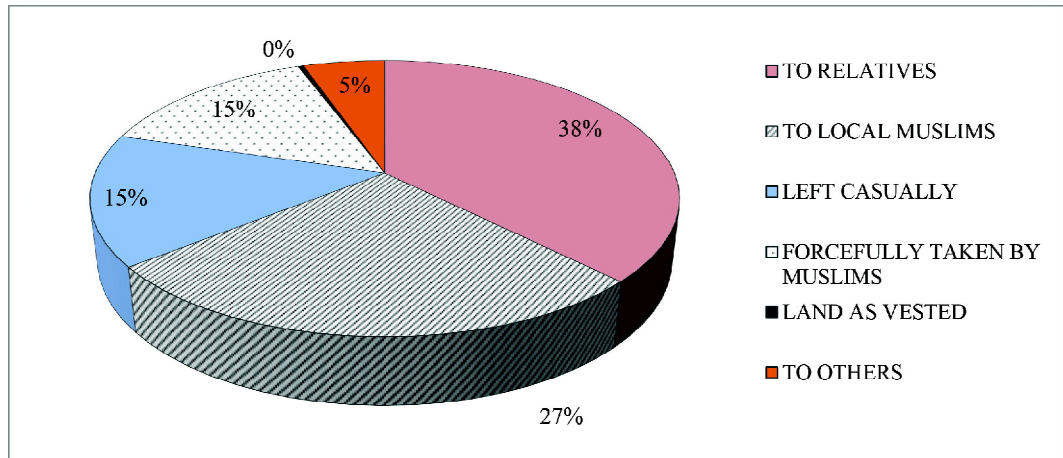


Fig. 12: Patterns of Land Transfer among Migrant Households

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Adaptation Strategy of Immigrant Families in the Present Place of Living

As the process of migration comes into prominence, studies of diffusion of cultures, acculturation, assimilation, adjustment, adaptation, etc, in relation to migrants are drawing more and more attention. There are some processes of acculturation by which the migrants adapt to their new migrating places.

- Integration example: the group of migrants preserves cultural identity, simultaneously adapting some elements of the cultural identity of the dominant group or the native people.
- Assimilation is a gradual, voluntary or forced loss of cultural identity and, in return, adaptation of norms and values of the dominating group up to the full dissolution.
- Segregation or orientation to separate group development

Cultural adaptation occurs through migrants' learning of culture-specific skills that would enable them to negotiate their way in the new cultural environment

The migrants always try to adapt to all the norms of the new places, and by doing so, they first try to build a healthy relationship with their neighbours. They first make a connection with other known persons or migrants, then build a connection with both the dominant people and other migrants of that particular locality. The migrated people dissolve themselves with others by joining local clubs, organizations, participating in cultural programmes, etc., to adapt their social and cultural norms.

Children can easily befriend others. This is one quality all migrants use as a strategy to build communication and relations with the natives and other neighbour migrants. Children easily adopt the norms of new places as they migrate at a very young age but there are some problems they face when it comes to communication. They face some linguistic, religious and communication gaps to participate anywhere.

The migrants make a good relationship with their known fellow migrants. This relation provides them with financial and other social supports to get other facilities from the government and other situations. This is a type of strategy they use to adopt the norms of their new places.

Marriage is one of the oldest rituals to take as a strategy to make bonding between two families and others. The migrants also take marriage as a strategy to make social bonding with the native families and to adapt and dissolve in the new place for a secure future.

Socio-Cultural Tie-Up with Neighbourhood

After independence, many Bangladeshi Hindus migrated to India for various reasons, including religious violence, political instability, and the pursuit of better economic opportunities. These migrants brought diverse social and cultural backgrounds and established new relationships with native Indians, which can be both positive and negative. In the South 24 Parganas district, particularly in the Canning-1 and Canning-2 blocks, Bangladeshi migrants settled alongside native Indians, especially in villages like Dakshin Nagertala and Pather Shesh. While some formed bonds exclusively with natives or other Bangladeshis, others connected with both groups. Conflicts also arose, with some Bangladeshi families unable to relate to either group. As shown in Fig. 13, 72.30%

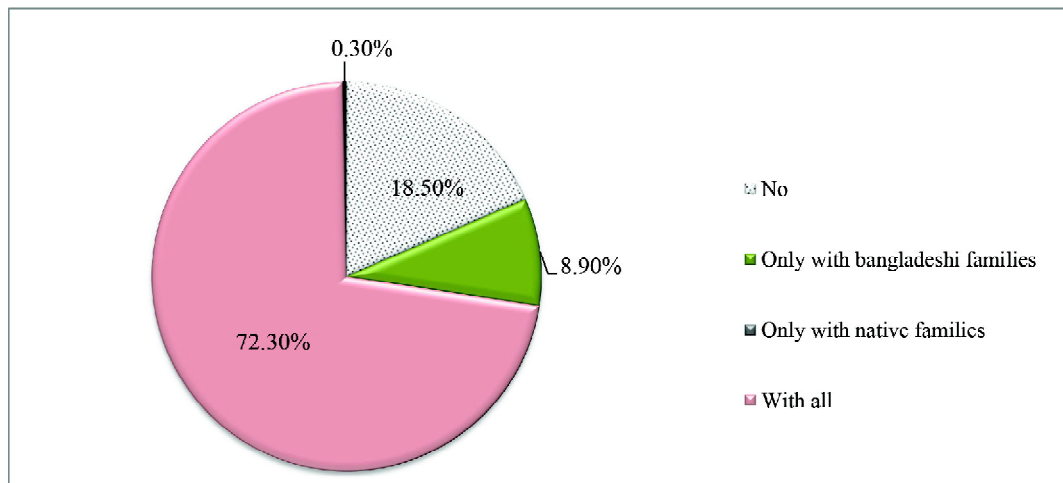


Fig. 13: Socio-cultural Tie-up

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

of Bangladeshi families have established social and cultural ties with both Bengali and Indian families, while 18.50% have no connections. Additionally, 8.90% of families maintain ties solely with other Bangladeshi migrants. Overall, positive relationships between native and Bangladeshi families are prevalent in the area

Participation in Social and Cultural Program and Participation Nature:

Cultural programs play a vital role in fostering healthy relationships among people. In various areas, social and cultural events bring together individuals from different backgrounds. Bangladeshi migrants are actively working to build connections with Indian natives by engaging in these programs. Various clubs and societies assist them in becoming members and participating in activities. Most individuals participate as regular members, with approximately 14% not involved in any programs. Active membership stands at 6.8%. However, many Bangladeshi migrants still do not engage in these activities, limiting their connections within the community. While a small number do participate actively, they often lack decision-making influence in the social and cultural programs (Fig. 14).

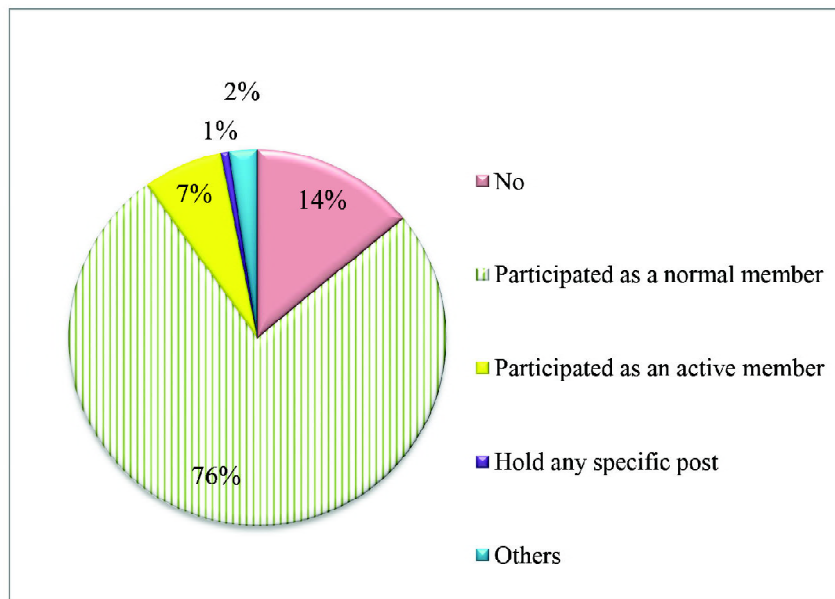


Fig. 14: Participation In Socio - Cultural Programme

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Nature of Support Obtained from Neighbourhood:

Neighbourhood help is more important for living in a place. Different kinds of help they get from neighbours, like monetary, social, livelihood support, etc. Newcomer Bangladeshi migrant's

people get help from native Indian and old Bangladeshi migrant families to buy new land, to get a job, social security, etc.

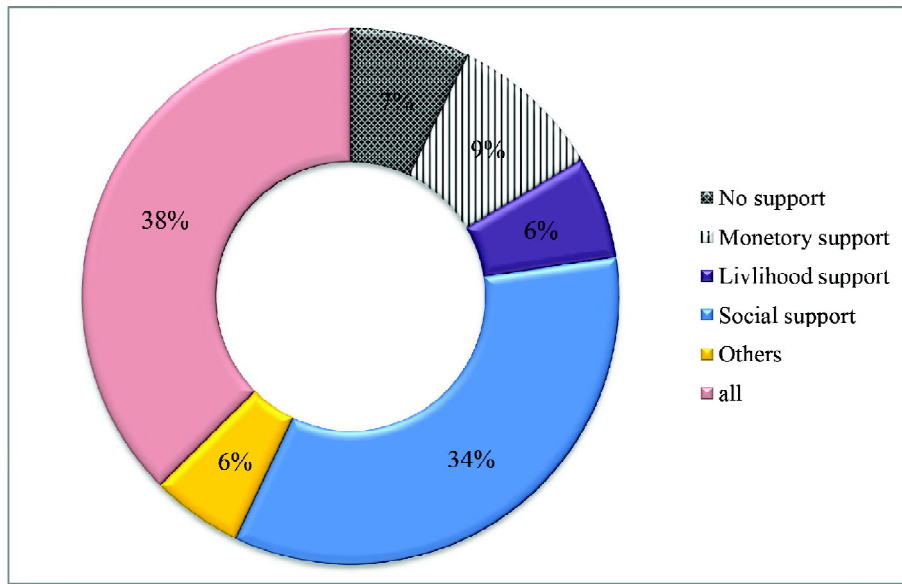


Fig. 15: Nature of Support

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

During the study of the nature of support of Bangladeshi migrants, it is generally observed that they get support from both Bangladeshi and Indian families. All kinds of support (37.3%) are achieved from neighbours. But sometimes the main support comes as a social aspect (34.2%). Money is the most important factor to settle down in a new place, whereas only 9.2% family get monetary support. On the other hand, 7.2% family could not get any kind of support (Fig. 15)

Social and Cultural Conflict at the Present Place of Living:

Every society has social and cultural conflicts between different groups because they have different social and cultural characteristics. But the entire group develops a good relationship with each other through adjustment. Between two different religious groups, social-cultural conflict is very high due to their disparity. On the other hand, when these religious groups change their living place to a different region, they all face more challenges.

In this region, social and cultural conflict between natives and migrants is interesting. It is only 3% of people who face challenges among them. The rest of the 97% family has no conflict with each other. So, it draws a positive relation among them. So, they live in a friendly environment (Fig. 16).

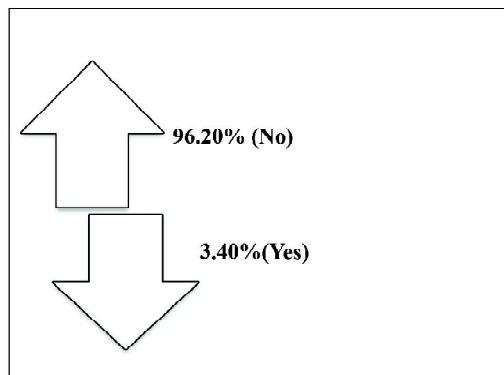


Fig. 16: Socio-Cultural Conflict

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017)

Weighted Score Assigned for Measuring the Adaptability Status of Immigrant Families at the Present Place of Living

A weighted score is assigned for the different kinds of adaptation strategies of immigrant families. This is discussed in the table below.

Table 3: Weighted score assigned for measuring adaptability status of Immigrant Families at the present place of Living

Subject Value	Family Tie Up	Participation in Programme	Nature of Support
7 – 10 (Advanced)	With all (72.3%)	As a active member/ post hold (15.4%)	All type of support (37.3%)
4 – 7 (Intermediate)	Only bangladeshi/ indian (8.9%)	As a normal member (77.4%)	Perticularly one type of support (55.3%)
1 – 4 (Initial)	No tie up (18.5%)	No participation (6.8%)	No support (7.2%)

Source: Field Survey, May 2017 and Greco,2019)

Figures 17 and 18 represent the adaptability status of the immigrant families. Here, it can be observed that in Canning, 42.44% of the households have initially adapted to the surrounding situation, which indicates that these households have not been completely able to establish good links in terms of social and cultural relations. 80% of households have set up a moderate social and cultural tie-up, whereas 44% have created an advanced link-up in terms of social and cultural relations.

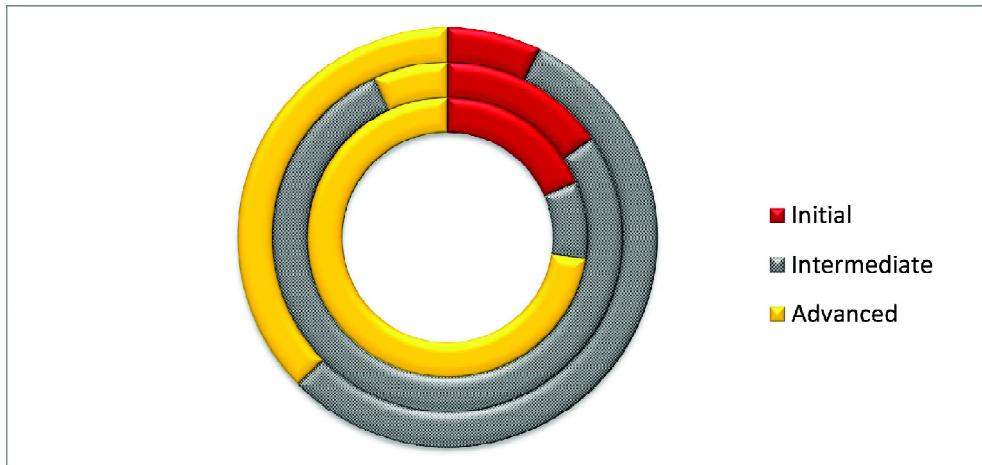


Fig. 17: Weighted Score Assigned for Measuring Adaptability Status of Immigrant Families at Present Place of Living

(Source: Greco, 2019)

In canning II, however, only 32% of the households have been able to maintain a good social and cultural tie, participation in various programs and support from the neighbourhood. 54% have an intermediate adapting capability and 39% have an initial adaptability in canning II.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the migration of individuals from Bangladesh to India, particularly to West Bengal, is primarily influenced by a combination of geographic proximity, historical connections, and socio-cultural similarities. Factors such as constitutional provisions in India, ethnic commonality, and the allure of India's democratic and secular principles further attract migrants seeking refuge from persecution or poor economic conditions. Despite these motivations, the ongoing influx has led to political challenges and tensions in West Bengal, with inadequate government responses over the years. The persistent issue of migration underscores the complex dynamics between neighbouring countries and highlights the need for compassionate and effective policies to address the needs of migrants while ensuring social stability in the region. As demographic pressures intensify, finding a resolution remains critical for both the migrants and the host communities.

Acknowledgement

I sincerely acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the Special Paper group of Urban Geography (Batch 2015–2017, 4th Semester), whose dedicated participation in fieldwork and post-field activities made the completion of this report possible. I am also deeply grateful to our field

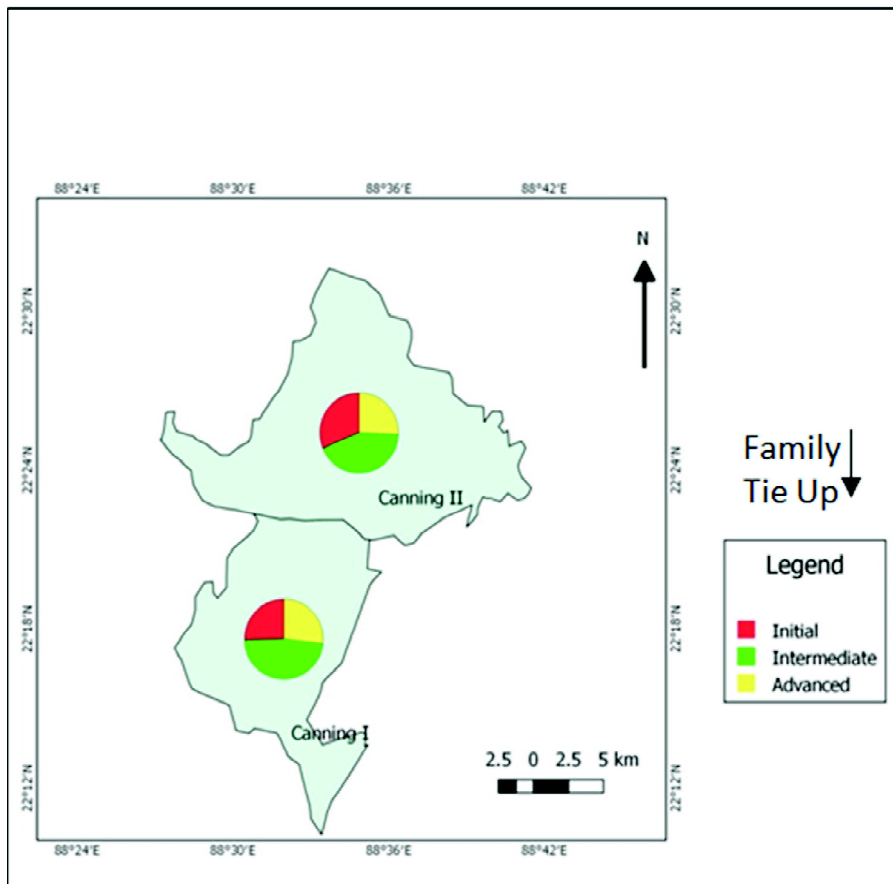


Fig. 18: Thematic Mapping of Weighted Score Assigned for Measuring Adaptability Status of Immigrant Families at Present Place of Living

(Data Source: Primary Survey, 2017; Map Source: Computed by the Author)

supervisor, Dr. Utpal Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Calcutta for his continuous guidance, support, and encouragement, which ensured the successful execution of the field study.

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