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TRENDS OF URBAN-RURAL MALE MIGRATION IN PUNJAB: 1971-2001

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Abstract

In the present study the trends of the urban-rural male migration which emerged during the period 1971-2001 in Punjab have been analysed. This flow of migration as compared to other three flows of migration has not been studied extensively by the geographers both in the state as well as in India. The state has been experiencing an overall decline in the proportion of the urban-rural male migrant since 1971. The district-wise analysis for the period 1971-1991 has revealed combined trends in the state. Some districts experienced increase in the proportion of these migrants, while in other this proportion has declined gradually. However, in 2001 a majority of the districts have experienced a decline in the proportion of these migrants.

Introduction

Migration has a dynamic nature and it is most fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space-content and space-relationship of an area (Gosal, 1961). At the same time migration is a complex demographic phenomenon that has both temporal and spatial dimensions (Bilsborrow and Stupp, 1997).

Among the four flows i.e. rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban and urban-rural of internal migration the urban-rural migration is numerically least important especially in the developing countries, therefore, researchers have not paid much attention to this flow. The urban-rural movement takes place at the advanced stage of urbanisation (Zelinsky, 1971) as it is generated by over congestion. Since only the advanced countries have attained this high degree of urbanisation, therefore, it is met with more in developed countries and less in developing countries (Chandna, 2002). In developed countries the

following types of people are involved in this stream: (i) for the lure of countryside; (ii) retirees as to their increased longevity moved from towns to rural setting; and (iii) in recent years a large number of families have migrated to countryside to raise their kids (Kenneth and Calvin, 2002). Some factors could send one off a place, which might be due to crisis, old-age, transfer, retirement and invasion of pests and diseases (William, 1970).

The urban-rural migration often occurs in developing countries during economic downturn, when employment falls in towns and the people start returning to rural areas from where they may have migrated. In developing countries the urban-rural migration basically includes return migrants of the rural-urban migration stream, persons employed in rural areas or transferred to the rural areas, persons returning after retirement, and people belonging to middle and low income groups also shift from the urban to rural areas due to high cost of living in the urban areas.

Declassification of the urban centres also enhances the stream of such migrants. The push factors to encourage such migration may be over crowdedness, city traffic, congestion, sanitation problems, increasing urban unemployment, increased crime rates and housing problem (Jibowo, 1992).

The urban-rural migration has not been studied as extensively as the other three flows of migration in the state and in India as well. Ravenstein (1885) was the first to recognise this flow of migration in the form of counter-stream of the main stream when he proposed 'The Laws of Migration'. Lee (1966) also highlighted the importance of this stream through the efficiency of the main stream and the counter-stream of migration. Two factors, namely availability of employment opportunities at a place of origin and destination, and intensity of intervening obstacles between the origin and destination, are responsible for high or low proportion of the urban-rural migrants (Lee, 1966). Kenneth (1980) termed it turnaround migration (1980) and also rural rebound migration (2002), whilst Bose (1983) called it as turn-over migration. Many people move from one area to another without being able to settle down. This mobility need not necessarily be voluntary. It is possible that persons from the rural areas are pushed to the urban areas, but what is more significant is that probably, many of them are pushed back from the urban areas (Bose, 1983). The urban-rural migration though statistically not very significant even then it has some importance in the state of Punjab.

Methodology

The present study in an endeavour to investigate the trends of the urban-rural male migrants which emerged during the period 1971 to 2001. This analysis does not include the female migrants as they have a high component

of marriage mobility. Similarly, the year 1981 has not been included in the present study since the district-wise data relating to the different migration flows were not available. The trends in migration have also been considered as a sensitive index of changing patterns of economic opportunities in an area. This study is based on the secondary data. The entire analysis is based on the study of eleven districts that existed in 1971. Six districts (Mansa, Moga, Muktsar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Nawanshahr and Faridkot) created after 1971 have been included in their original districts to make the data comparable for 2001 census.

Discussion

In 2001, a total number of 76,379 migrants were involved in this stream and among them only 26,446 were males. However, the absolute number of these urban-rural male migrants was 96,310 in 1971 which is quite higher as compared to 2001. Hence, this stream registered a decrease of 69,864 male migrants from the year 1971 to 2001. This stream constituted about 7.25 per cent of the total male migration in the state in 1971. This proportion slightly declined to 6.53 per cent in 1991 and to 4.35 per cent in 2001. Thus during the last three decades (1971-2001) the urban-rural male migration stream has shown a decline in the proportion of the male migrants in the state as well as in the country. However, the decline in the proportion of male migrants in Punjab is higher than the national average (Table 1).

The drastic changes have also been noticed in the four flows of male migration during the period of last 30 years. The facts with regard to these flows in Punjab are more striking than those at national level (i) in India among male migrants, the rural-rural flow obtained the first rank followed by the rural-urban, the urban-urban and the urban-rural. On the other hand in Punjab the rural-urban male

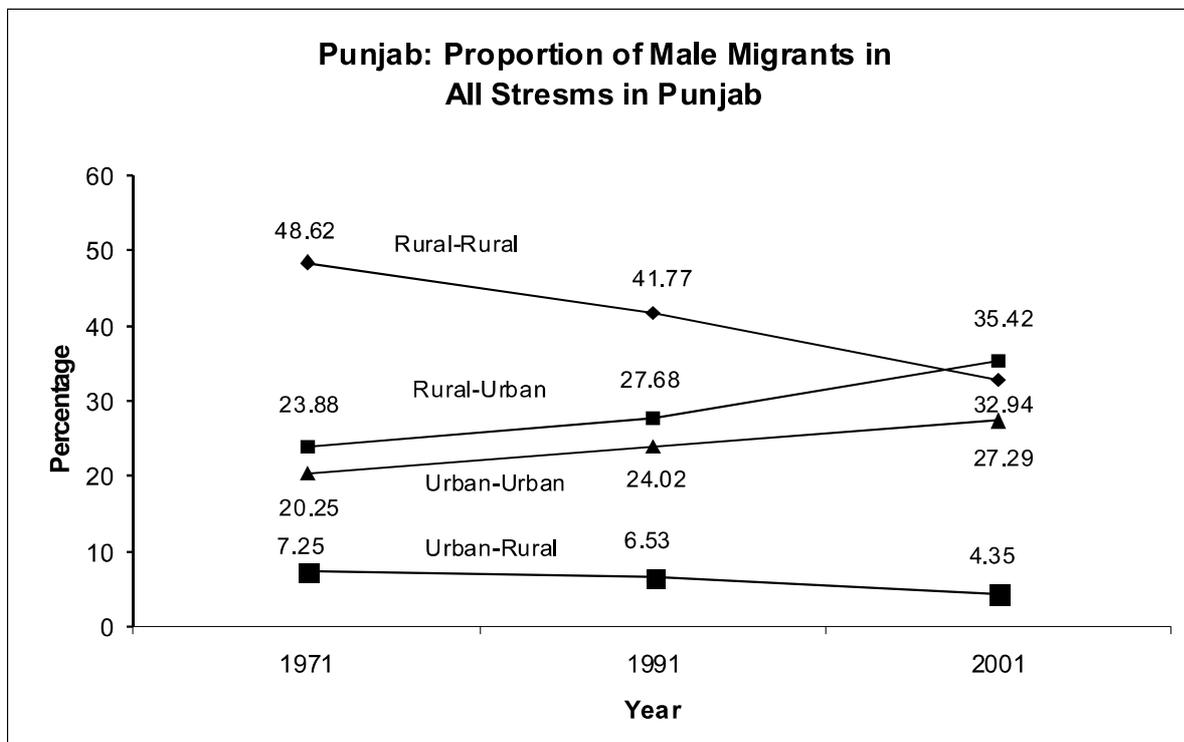
Table 1
India and Punjab: Proportion of Male Migrants in All Streams

Stream	India			Punjab		
	1971	1991	2001	1971	1991	2001
Rural-Rural	51.37	43.87	36.41	48.62	41.77	32.94
Rural-Urban	24.22	29.83	34.21	23.88	27.68	35.42
Urban-Urban	16.81	18.86	23.03	20.25	24.02	27.29
Urban-Rural	7.60	7.44	6.35	7.25	6.53	4.35
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Census of India, Migration Tables of India and Punjab, 1971, 1991 and 2001.

migration flow surpassed the rural-rural flow which proved the high level of socio-economic development of the state (Fig. 1); (ii) the proportion of the male migrants in the rural-urban and the urban-urban flows was higher in Punjab than those at the national level; (iii) the proportion of the rural-rural and the urban-rural male migrants is lower than the national average. All these factors showed that the Punjab state as compared to the other Indian

states has attained a high level of socio-economic development; (iv) the proportion of the rural-urban and the urban-urban male migrants gradually increased from 1971 to 2001 which resulted due to an increase in the level of urbanization and number of towns; and (v) there has been a decline in the proportion of the rural-rural and the urban-rural male migrants since 1971 (Table 1).



Source: Table 1

Fig. 1

Table 2
Punjab: Proportion of Male Migrants in Different Streams of Migration 1971-2001

State/District	Year	Rural-Rural	Rural-Urban	Urban-Urban	Urban-Rural
Punjab	1971	48.62	23.89	20.24	7.25
	1991	41.57	27.54	24.61	6.28
	2001	32.94	35.42	27.29	4.35
Gurdaspur	1971	50.76	17.13	21.03	11.08
	1991	54.98	20.00	15.84	9.18
	2001	44.65	28.47	22.08	4.80
Amritsar	1971	40.09	29.31	22.83	7.77
	1991	34.64	37.18	24.24	3.94
	2001	26.89	37.14	33.05	2.92
Hoshiarpur	1971	54.98	16.62	17.28	11.12
	1991	53.58	20.14	13.80	12.48
	2001	50.86	27.55	14.84	6.75
Jalandhar	1971	49.68	21.26	21.04	8.02
	1991	40.06	27.16	25.44	7.34
	2001	33.35	32.08	29.91	4.66
Firozpur	1971	61.98	15.91	13.83	8.28
	1991	53.98	21.24	17.89	6.89
	2001	50.37	24.95	20.14	4.54
Kapurthala	1971	47.90	28.75	19.58	3.77
	1991	46.04	25.32	18.58	10.06
	2001	32.82	35.13	28.30	3.75
Ludhiana	1971	33.75	33.14	27.58	5.53
	1991	24.16	34.96	37.60	3.28
	2001	17.29	48.92	30.64	3.15
Rupnagar	1971	51.54	21.44	20.64	6.38
	1991	36.34	23.16	31.08	9.42
	2001	27.89	31.20	36.73	4.18
Bathinda	1971	47.02	28.59	19.56	4.83
	1991	42.58	30.97	20.83	5.62
	2001	38.81	29.59	26.15	5.45
Sangrur	1971	53.96	24.88	14.58	6.58
	1991	45.98	32.05	16.47	5.50
	2001	44.36	30.48	18.64	6.52
Patiala	1971	49.41	21.37	22.50	6.72
	1991	45.24	24.50	23.02	7.24
	2001	35.03	33.00	27.76	4.21

Source: Census of India, Migration Tables of Punjab, 1971, 1991 and 2001.

Table 3
Punjab: Number of Towns, 1971-2001

State/District	1971	1981	1991	2001
Punjab	106	134	125	157
Gurdaspur	10	11	12	14
Amritsar	9	11	10	13
Hoshiarpur	9	10	9	12
Jalandhar	12	16	13*	16*
Ferozpur	9	9	16*	17*
Kapurthala	3	8	3	7
Ludhiana	6	10	10	12
Rupnagar	7	9	8	11
Bathinda	11	12	15*	17*
Sangrur	12	14	13	17
Patiala	11	13	14*	14*

Source: Census Atlas of Punjab 1991 and Census of Punjab 2001.

* Number of towns of the new districts of 2001 are adjusted in the districts of the base year 1971.

Ferozpur districts recorded a gradual decline in the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants from one decade to another because of their proximity to the Pakistan border. Taking into account the security and safety in the urban areas, majority of the rural male migrants tend to settle down in the urban areas and only a small proportion returned back to their villages. Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana districts also experienced a decline in the proportion of these migrants since 1971 either due to territorial expansion of the urban areas or emergence of new towns in these districts. Ludhiana district registered a gain of 6 towns, whereas there was a gain of 4 towns each in Amritsar and Jalandhar districts between 1971 and 2001 (Table 3).

Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana cities also experienced expansion in their territorial limits. The urban area of Ludhiana city has increased from 41.70 sq. km. to 159.37 sq. km., Amritsar city 46.62 sq. km. to 136.00 sq. km. and Jalandhar city 62.16 sq. km. to 102.00 sq. km. during the period 1971 to 2001 (Table 4). The territorial expansion these towns has also resulted in the decline of proportion of the

urban-rural male migrants as most of them have already migrated to peripheral rural areas of the towns and now these peripheral rural areas have been merged into the urban areas. Such a change has converted the urban-rural male migrants into the urban-urban male migrants.

The second category includes Rupnagar, Patiala, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala and Bathinda districts which have experienced an increase in the proportion of these migrants in 1991 and a decline in 2001. Rupnagar, Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala districts registered a decline in the number of towns in 1991 as compared to 1981 (Table 3) which automatically increased the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants through declassification of towns. However in 2001, an addition in the number of towns and an increase the urban territorial limits resulted decline in the proportion of the male migrants in this stream.

The third category covers only Sangrur district which has experienced a decline in the proportion of these migrants in 1991 and showed an increase in 2001. In 2001 all the districts except Sangrur district of the state

Table 4
Punjab:Expansion of Urban Areas in km²

State/District	1971	1981	1991	2001
Punjab	691.66	1198.80	1440.80	2096.62
Gurdaspur	6.47	6.47	10.85	10.85
Amritsar	46.62	114.95	114.95	136.0
Hoshiarpur	10.13	21.46	28.21	35.00
Jalandhar	62.16	79.40	80.41	102.00
Firozpur	9.22	11.33	11.33	11.33
Kapurthala	20.72	8.00	56.00	56.00
Ludhiana	41.70	110.00	134.67	159.37
Rupnagar	5.72	25.00	25.00	25.00
Bathinda	20.72	82.88	97.00	110.00
Sangrur	10.36	13.90	13.90	18.00
Patiala	24.09	31.20	31.20	65.00

Source: Census of India, 1991 and 2001, Punjab General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstracts Part II A and Part B.

experienced a decline in the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants. A number of factors have contributed towards the decline in proportion of the urban-rural male migrants in these districts. Firstly, by weakening of the counter-current of the rural-urban main stream of migration because of permanent settlement of majority of the members of the rural-urban stream in the urban areas instead of returning to their villages after the completion of jobs and contracts, etc; secondly, shrinking of job opportunities in the rural areas though mechanization in agriculture; thirdly, the territorial expansion of the urban centres and acquisition of the rural land by the Punjab Government for the development of various types of settlements and institutions; fourthly, some people who have moved to the nearby rural areas of the urban centres as a result of low cost of living in the rural areas, now by the expansion of the urban areas became the members of the urban-urban stream of migration and reduced the proportion of the

urban-rural male migrants; and fifthly, improvement in the transportation facilities also discouraged the existing urban-rural flow as well as potential migration flow (Zelinsky, 1971).

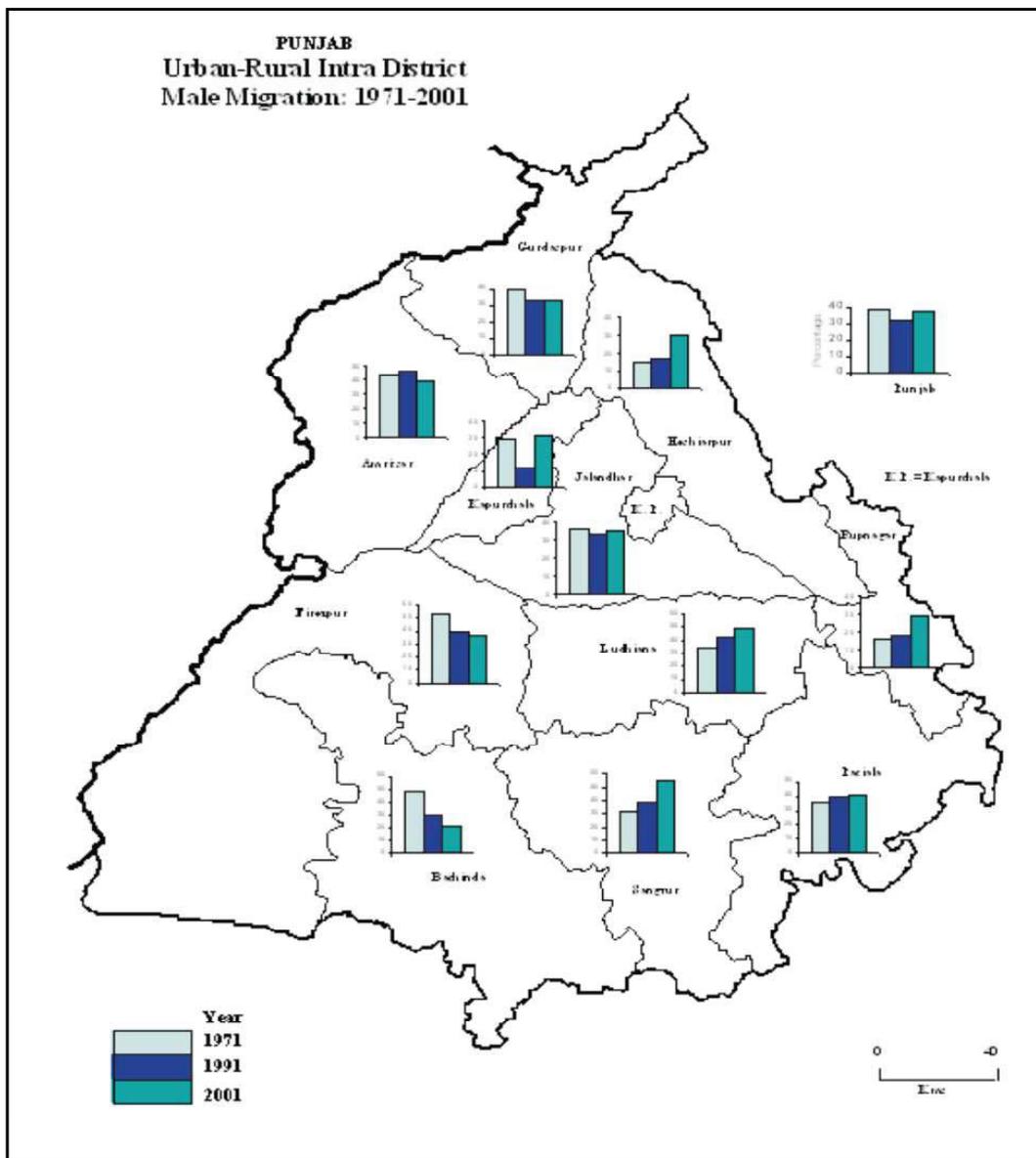
The proportion and number of migrants decrease with the increasing distance from the place of origin. These distance-decay regularities have been observed for all types of movements (Haggett, 1966). But intervening opportunities are more important factors for explaining the regularities. Conceptually there is a direct relationship between mobility and opportunities, whereas the relationship between mobility and distance is indirect (Stouffer, 1960). However, in the Punjab state inverse relationship with distance has been found in the urban-rural migration stream. The overall proportion of the intra and inter-district male migrants has decreased from 1971 to 2001 as a result of improvement in transportation facilities and expansion of the urban areas while the proportion of the inter-state urban-

rural male migration has increased during this period (Table 5) as a result of introduction of the planned development programmes in the rural areas of Punjab.

The share of intra-district urban-rural male migrants has been on the decline, dropping from 38.02 in 1971 to 31.81 per cent in 2001 in the state. The district-wise analysis, the state has experienced a mixed trend and it can be divided into the following three types of categories (Map 2):

The first category covers Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Rupnagar, Patiala and Sangrur districts, which have registered a gradual decline in the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants from 1971-2001. The urban centres of Ludhiana, Rupnagar and Patiala districts have experienced rapid territorial expansion (Table 4).

The peripheral rural areas of the big urban centres were converted into the urban areas and as a result of which the urban-rural



Source: Table 5.

Map 2

Table 5
Punjab: Distance and Proportion of Urban-Rural Male Migrants

State/District	Year	Intra-district	Inter-district	Inter-State
Punjab	1971	38.03	31.48	30.49
	1991	31.81	31.84	36.35
	2001	37.85	26.42	35.73
Gurdaspur	1971	39.37	27.78	32.84
	1991	33.08	24.09	42.83
	2001	32.43	17.57	50.00
Amritsar	1971	43.88	23.83	32.27
	1991	46.59	25.15	28.26
	2001	38.73	10.10	45.17
Hoshiarpur	1971	15.06	41.52	43.41
	1991	16.92	44.61	38.46
	2001	30.25	33.57	36.18
Jalandhar	1971	36.93	31.05	32.00
	1991	33.12	34.98	31.90
	2001	35.83	26.87	37.30
Firozpur	1971	52.74	28.30	18.94
	1991	39.55	31.85	28.59
	2001	36.79	34.11	29.10
Kapurthala	1971	29.34	46.10	22.75
	1991	11.94	42.72	45.33
	2001	31.51	42.29	26.19
Ludhiana	1971	33.64	29.09	22.77
	1991	42.45	24.60	32.95
	2001	49.03	15.93	35.05
Rupnagar	1971	16.47	20.88	62.69
	1991	18.26	29.75	51.99
	2001	29.68	19.32	51.06
Bathinda	1971	48.20	35.45	16.33
	1991	30.00	28.12	41.87
	2001	22.18	34.69	43.13
Sangrur	1971	32.23	40.25	27.51
	1991	38.89	36.46	24.65
	2001	54.52	27.04	18.43
Patiala	1971	36.05	32.87	30.07
	1991	39.07	27.04	33.89
	2001	41.08	18.19	40.73

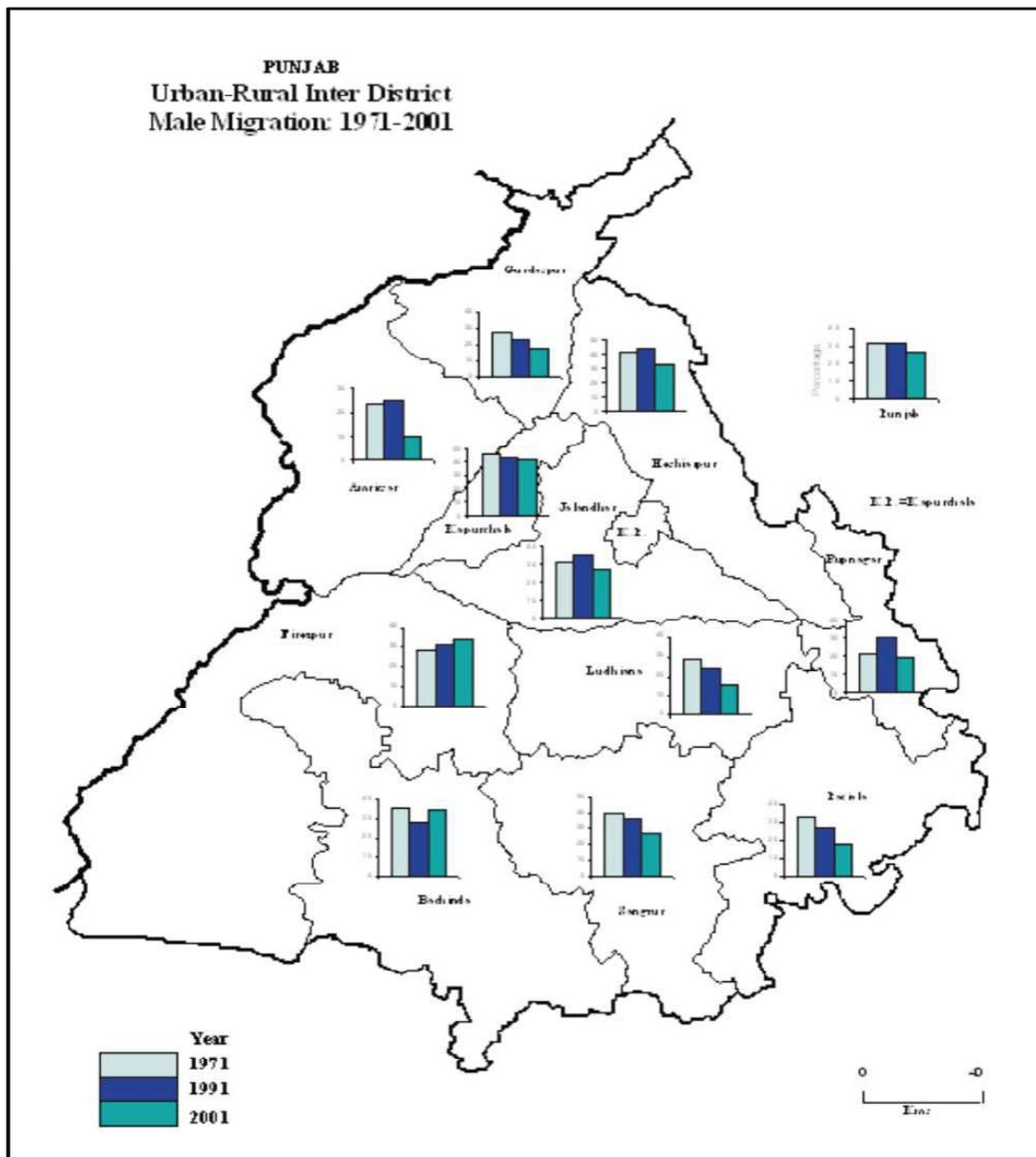
Source: Census of Punjab, Migration Tables 1971, 1991 and 2001.

male migrants were also converted into the urban-urban male migrants. In Hoshiarpur and Sangrur districts the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants has declined as a result of low proportion of return migration.

The second category includes Gurdaspur and Bathinda districts which have experienced an increase in the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants. These districts have experienced an increase of intra-district urban-

rural male migrants from 1971 to 2001 as a result of introduction of planned rural development programmes.

The third category embraces Jalandhar, Firozpur and Kapurthala districts which have experienced a decline in the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants during the period 1971 to 1991 and have registered an increase in the last decade (1991-2001) in this flow of migration.



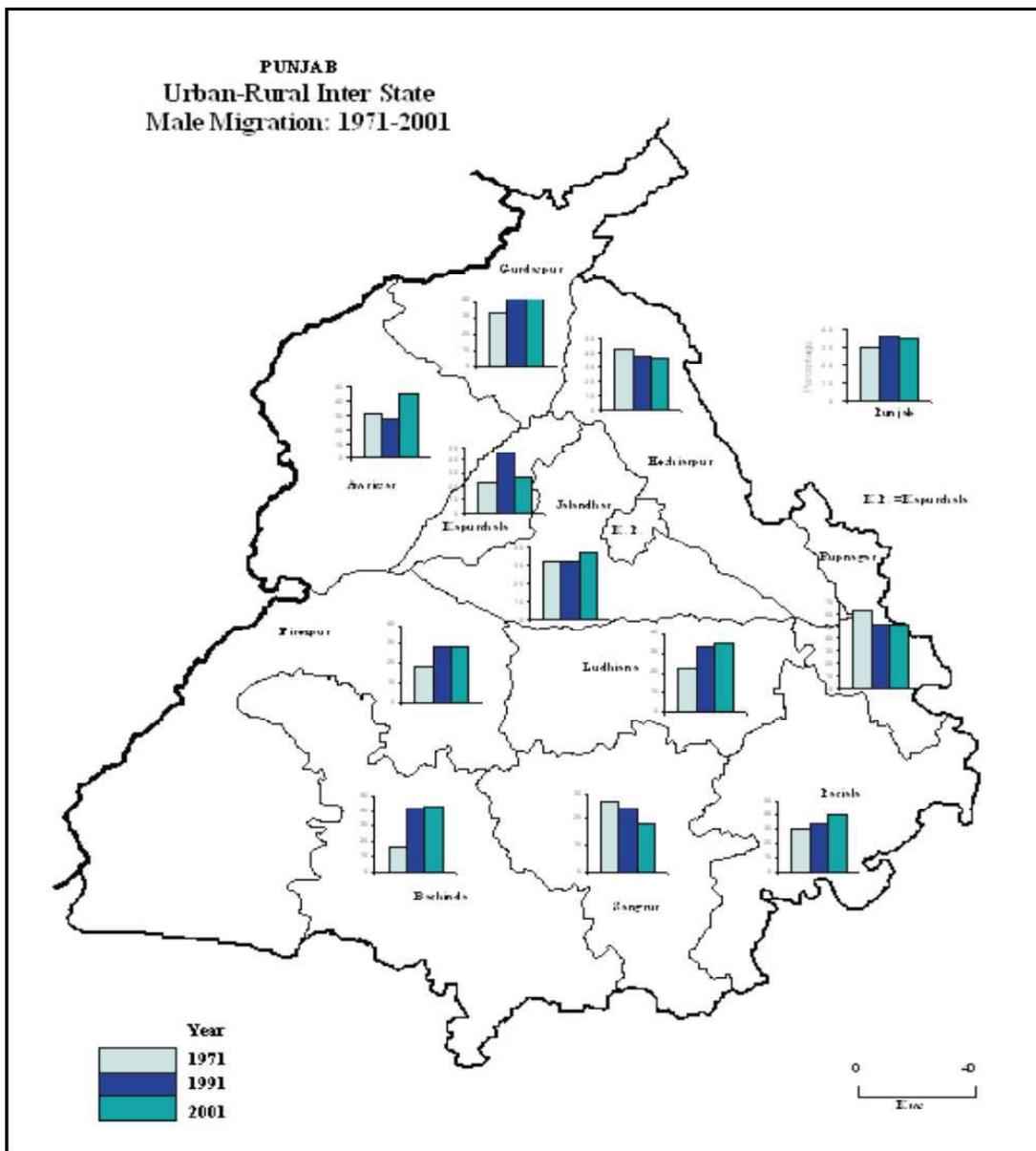
Source: Table 5.

Map 3

The state of Punjab has experienced an insignificant increase (0.36 per cent) in the proportion of the inter-district urban-rural male migrants from 1971 to 1991. However, this stream has registered a decline in the proportion of male migrants in 2001. The district-wise analysis brings out only one district, namely, Ferozepur. It has recorded an increase in the urban-rural male migrants during the period under study. The remaining districts have

experienced a decline of these migrants (Map 3). In 2001, the highest proportion of these migrants (42.39 per cent) has been recorded in Kapurthala district and the lowest (15.93 per cent) in Ludhiana district (Table 5).

The share of inter-state urban-rural male migrants has been fluctuating since 1971. It has recorded an increase from 30.49 per cent in 1971 to 36.35 per cent in 1991 and declined to 35.73 per cent in 2001. However, it has



Source: Table 5.

Map 4

recorded an overall increase of 5.24 per cent from 1971 to 2001. Map 4 shows that a majority of the districts, except Bathinda, Sangrur and Rupnagar districts have experienced an increase the inter-state urban-rural male migrants during this period. It is important to note that although Rupnagar district has recorded a declining trend, even then, this district is still having the highest proportion 51.06 per cent of the urban-rural inter-state male migrants and the lowest proportion 18.43 per cent has been recorded by Sangrur district. The highest share of the urban-rural inter-state male migrants in Rupnagar district has been contributed by the fast expansion of Mohali city which resulted in the shifting of building material shops from the urban to the rural areas. A large proportion of the construction workers and low paid labourers also have migrated from the urban to the rural areas due to the high cost of living in urban areas. On the other hand, less development in the rural areas of Sangrur district has failed to attract the urban migrants. The share of inter-state urban-rural male migrants has been high since 1971 in majority of the districts of the state (Table 5). It is the result of various factors such as: (i) huge purchases of the rural land by the rich people along highways and around the urban centres; (ii) mushrooming growth of residential colonies for each and every strata of the society; (iii) migration of labourers (skilled and unskilled) on construction sites; (iv) establishment of educational institutions in the rural areas; and (v) improved means of transportation and communication also encouraged the low income class people of the urban areas to reside in the rural areas and perform their jobs in the urban areas.

Futuristic Trends

The foregoing analysis clearly brings out that the proportion of the urban-rural male migrants

has been decreasing since 1971 in the state. The decline in the proportion of these migrants was much higher in the last decade (1991-2001) as compared to former two decade (1971-1991). This analysis therefore suggests that the proportion of urban-rural male migrants will further decline in the coming decades due to expected developments in the transportation and communication facilities. The existing trends at national level also suggest that the decline of urban-rural male migrants may remain higher in the state than at the national level in future as well.

Conclusion

The proportion of the male migrants in the urban-rural stream has declined since 1971 in the state. The major factors that have checked the movement of people to the rural areas from the urban areas are increase in the number of towns, territorial expansion of the urban areas, weakening of the counter-stream of rural-urban migration, shrinking of employment opportunities in the rural areas and development of transportation facilities.

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