

Female Migration for Non-Marital Purposes: Understanding Social and Demographic Correlates of Barriers

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Introduction

- **Fertility, Mortality and Migration: Three demographic determinants**
- **Migration is mainly male dominated**
- **Women in India, mainly migrate for marriage**
- **Recent socioeconomic transformation has augmented non-marital female migration**
- **Main causes: Education and Work**
- **Destinations : Indian metro-cities**
- **Source areas: Mainly Urban**



Background Literature

- **Ravenstein's Law of Migration (1985): Women are more mobile than men in short distance migration due to marriage.**
- **Women were considered as secondary migrants.**
- **Three reasons of non-marital female migration (Livelihood, education and health) (IMO, 2004).**
- **Female migration offers an economic independence and alternative to traditional life of a homemaker (Memon, 2005 ; Anand, 2003).**

Status of women and Migration

- **Four criteria to determine women's status in the society:**
 1. **Legal Status**
 2. **Actual status**
 3. **Opportunity for social participation**
 4. **Character and extent of work (Robert Lowie, 1920)**
- **Female migration depends on autonomy of women in a society**

Objectives

- To identify positive and negative push and pull factors of non-marital female migration in India
- To identify the source and destination areas for female migration
- To identify, socioeconomic and demographic barriers of non-marital female migration
- To highlight main challenges faced by female migrants and to provide possible suggestions to solve the issue.



Research Questions

- What are the main causes and barriers of female migration in India?
- Does it bring positive or negative consequences on women migrants?
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Push Factors

Conceptual Frame Work

Pull Factors

Positive Push Factors

- High Literacy/Education
- Aspirations
- Unemployment
- Excessive Competition for work
- High Female WPR

Negative Push Factors

- Discriminatory Family/ social Code
- Restricted Civil Liberties
- War/ Insurgencies
- Male Migration/ demand for marriage

Barriers of Independent Female Migration

- Early marriage
- Illiteracy/ low level of education
- Less autonomy
- Restricted access to wealth
- High Fertility
- Son Preference
- Low female WPR

Migration (+ -)

Migration: Decision making by Female

Migration decision by Male & Female

Migration Decision making by Males

Only marriage Migration

(Positive factors)

- Globalisation
- Work opportunity for females
- Career
- Freedom from violence
- Peace
- Male Migration-demand for marriage

(Negative)

High demand of skilled female labour due to gender-biased social norms in destination area
Demand for male Migrants

Challenges

Different socio-cultural norms
Competition from local aspirants

Methodology

- Quantitative and Qualitative data
- **Statistical technique:** Composite Index
- Data can be divided into
 1. Demographic data
 2. Social data
 3. Economic data

Spatial Approach: Identification of Geographical regions



Gender Specific Migration in India

Male Migration

- Inter-state male migration occurs mainly for work/employment
- North Indian states are the source states
- Bihar records highest out-migration
- Education related migration is low

Female migration

- Marriage is the main cause
- Work related migration: Kerala, other south and east Indian states
- Education related migration: North East
- Non-marital migration highest in Tribal dominated states and south India

Source States

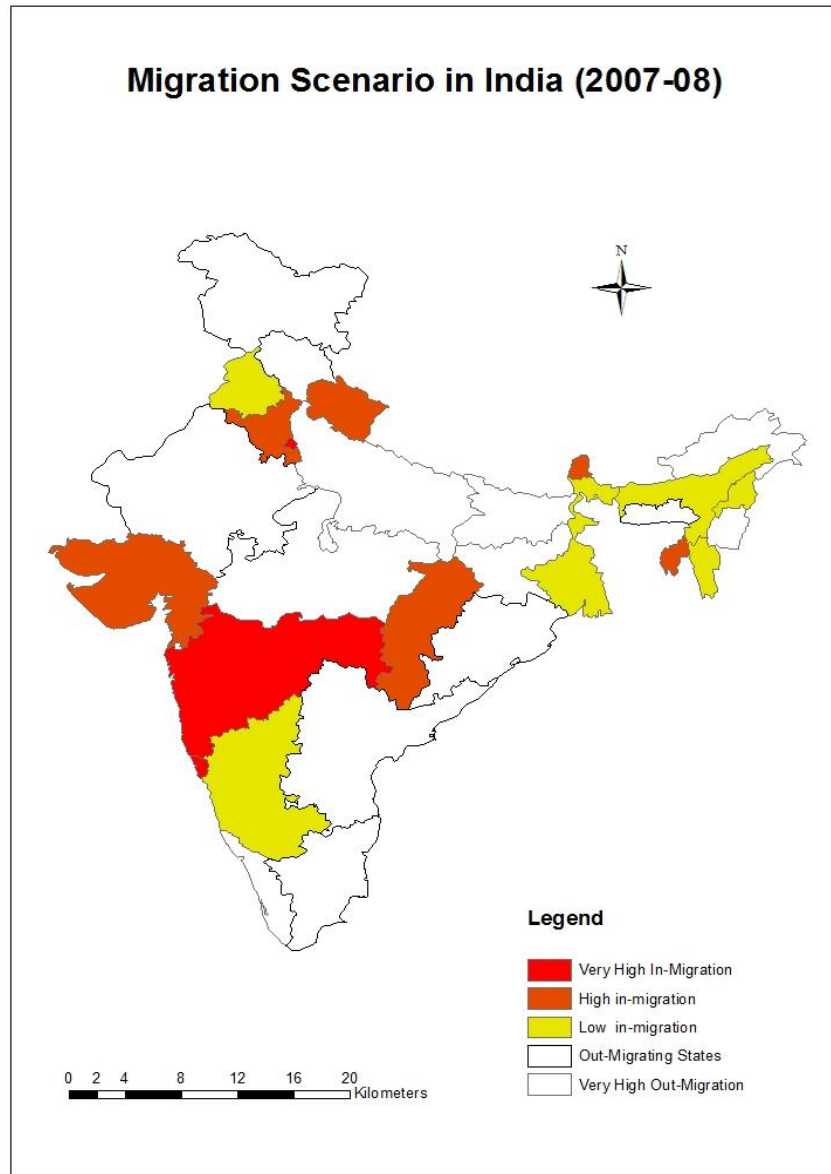
Female Migration

- **NE:** Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim
- **East:** Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh
- **South:** Kerala, Goa, Tamilnadu

Male Migration

- **Northern states:** Bihar, UP, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand,, J&K,
- **NE States:** Nagaland, Assam
- **East:** Odisha, West Bengal

Migration Scenario in India (2007-08)



Regional Variation in Female Migration

- **Female Migration for non-marital migration is occurring from three geographical regions; Southern states like Kerala, Goa, Daman and Diu; Eastern States like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh; and North-Eastern states (Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim and others).**
- **Main reasons for non-marital female migration are education and employment.**

Female Migration for Education

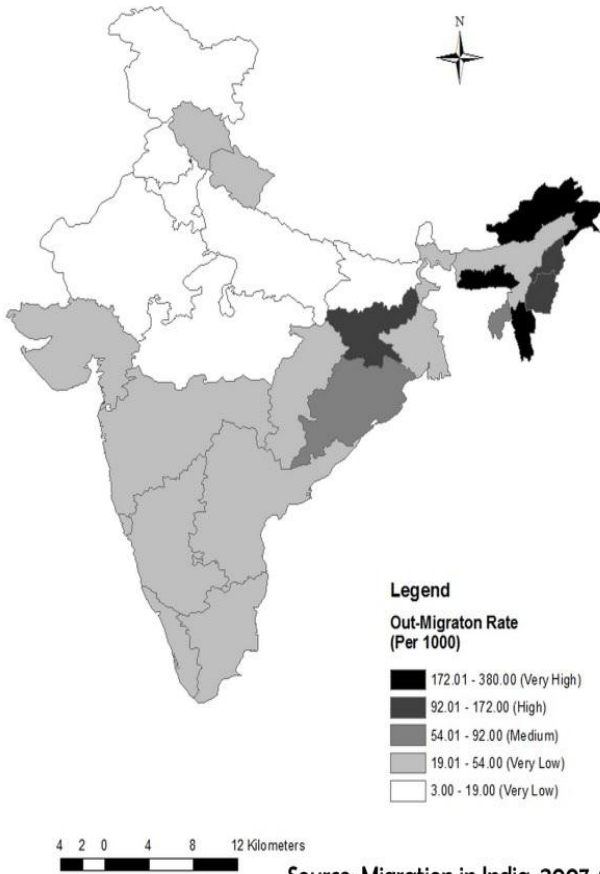
- **Education related migration is high the north-eastern states; both male and female migrants are coming to various Indian metro cities for education. Education related male migration is high in eastern states as well; but female migration is exclusively found in the north-eastern states.**
- **It is mainly urban to urban migration**

Female Migration for Work

- From south India, Kerala generates highest number of female migrant workers to Delhi and other cities; two eastern states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh also generate significant number of female workers; female workers migration from the north-east is also very high, especially from Manipur and Nagaland.

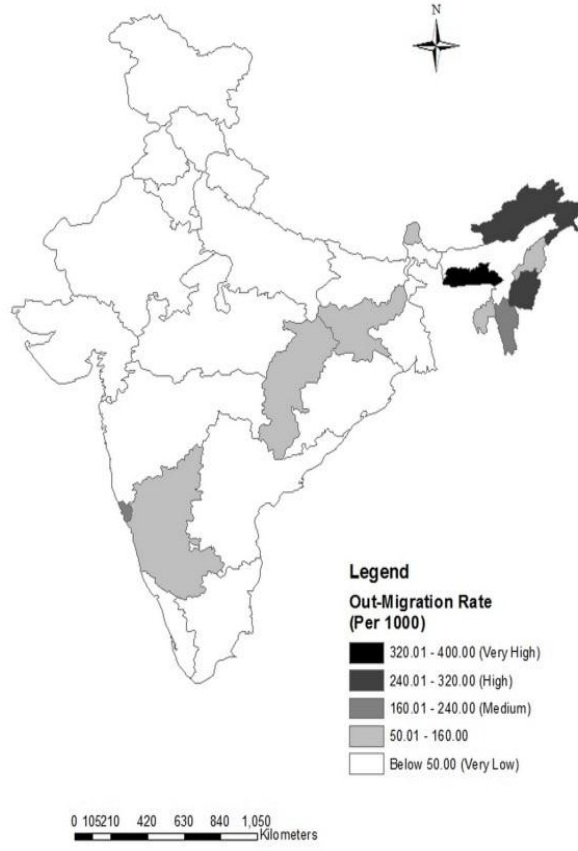


Urban Female Out-Migration for Employment



Source: Migration in India, 2007-08
NSSO 64th Round

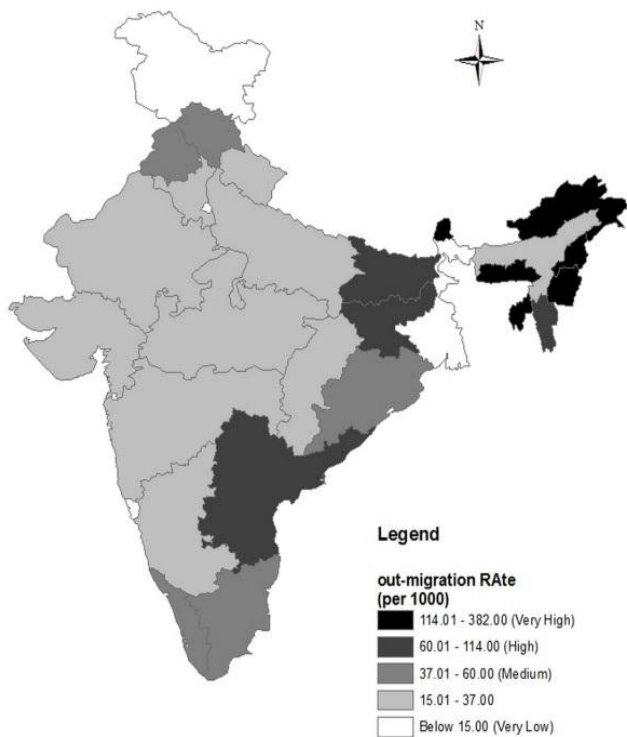
Rural Female Out-Migration For Employment



Source: Migration in India 2007-08;
NSSO 64th Round

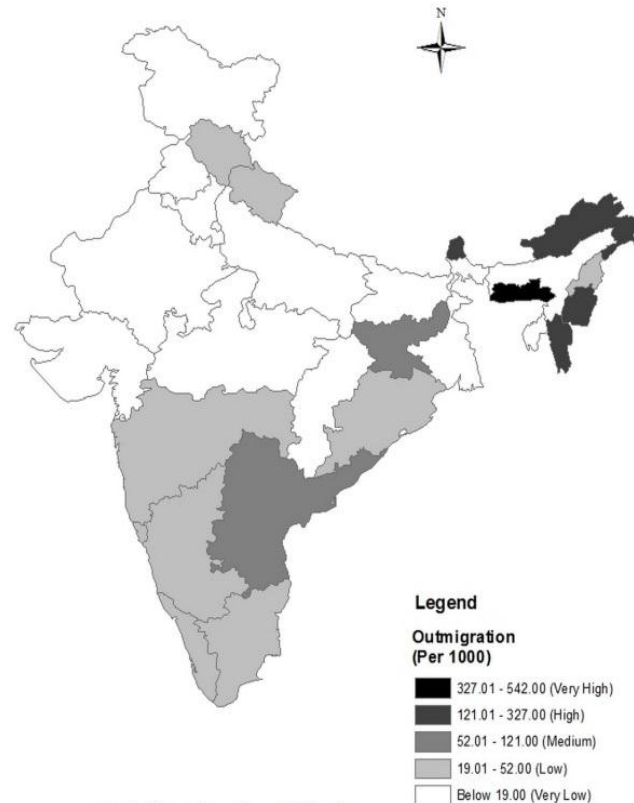


Urban Female Out-Migration for Study



Source: Migration in India 2007-08; NSSO 64th Round

Rural Female Out-Migration for Study



Source: Migration in INdia 2007-08 64th Round of NSSO



Destinations of Female Migrants

- **Mainly Indian mega-cities**
- **Distance and opportunity matters**
- **Kolkata is favourite destination for north-eastern and eastern migrants**
- **Delhi receives both student and workers**
- **Mumbai and Bangalore: mainly for work**
- **Chennai: receives female student migrants mainly from NE India**

Destination Cities

- **Delhi: (north India)**
- Work : Kerala (29%-Highest), Chhattisgarh (17%); Jharkhand, Tamilnadu and Manipur.
- Education: Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim (NE States)
- **Kolkata: (East India)**
- Work: Goa (16%), Kerala (11%), Chhattisgarh (13%), Odisha, Jharkhand
- Education: Mizoram, Manipur and Sikkim
- **Mumbai (West India)**
- Work: Meghalaya, Manipur, Chhattisgarh and Kerala
- Education: All North-Eastern States

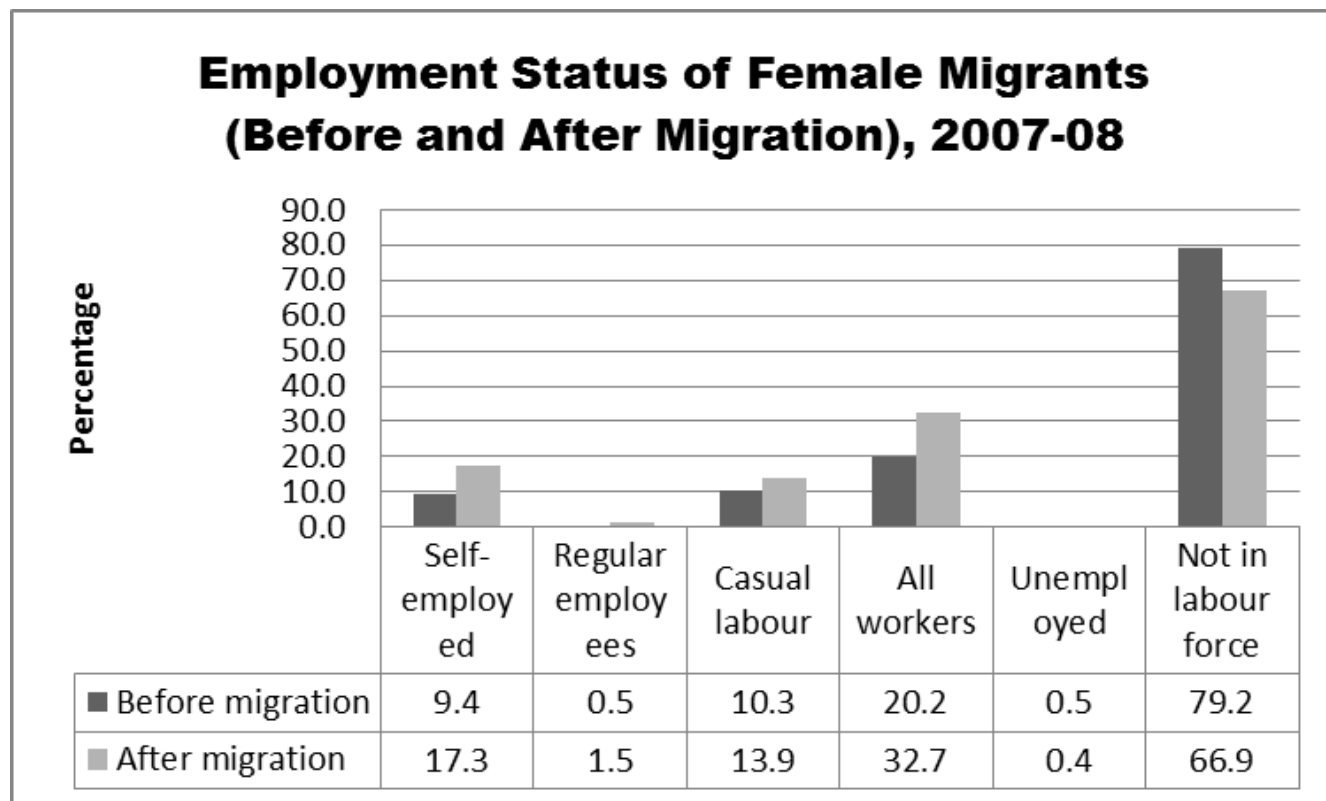


Destination Cities: South India

- **Hyderabad: (South India)**
- Work: Kerala, Meghalaya and Manipur
- Education: Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram
- **Chennai: (South India)**
- Work: Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura, Jharkhand
- Education: Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Sikkim
- **Bangalore:(South India)**
- Work: Kerala, Tamilnadu, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Tripura
- Education: Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Meghalaya



Migration Enhances Work Opportunities



Two Push Factors

- Two types of female Migration:

1. Poverty Driven:

- a) Mainly migration for work
- b) Informal sector activities : domestic help etc.
- c) Rural to urban migration

2. Aspiration driven :

- a) Higher Education and career oriented
- b) Urban to urban migration
- c) Work in formal sectors/ white collar jobs

Second one is the focus of study



Social and Demographic Correlates of Barriers

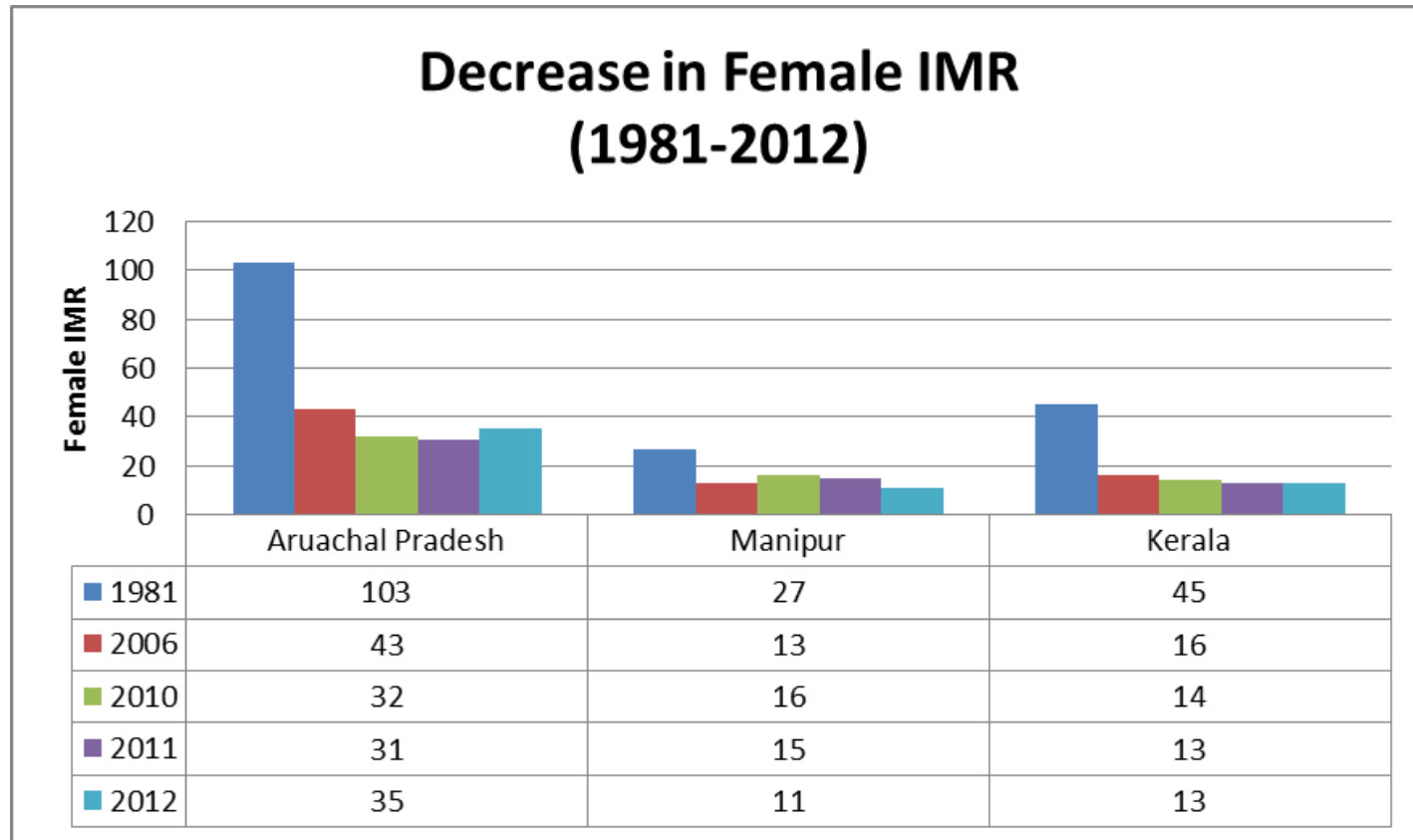


Fertility Fall is a Direct Determinants

- Decrease in TFR: NE states recorded high TFR (3 or above in 1992-93); but decreased gradually to 2.5 or 2 in 2005-06
- South: Kerala always had replacement level fertility; Tamilnadu records fall of TFR from 2.48 in 1992-93 to 1.80 in 2005-06.
- East: Only Odisha records fall in TFR; but other states do not record remarkable fall in TFR
- TFR is high in the north; where female migration for non-marital purpose is low.



Decline in Female IMR : Remarkable Impact



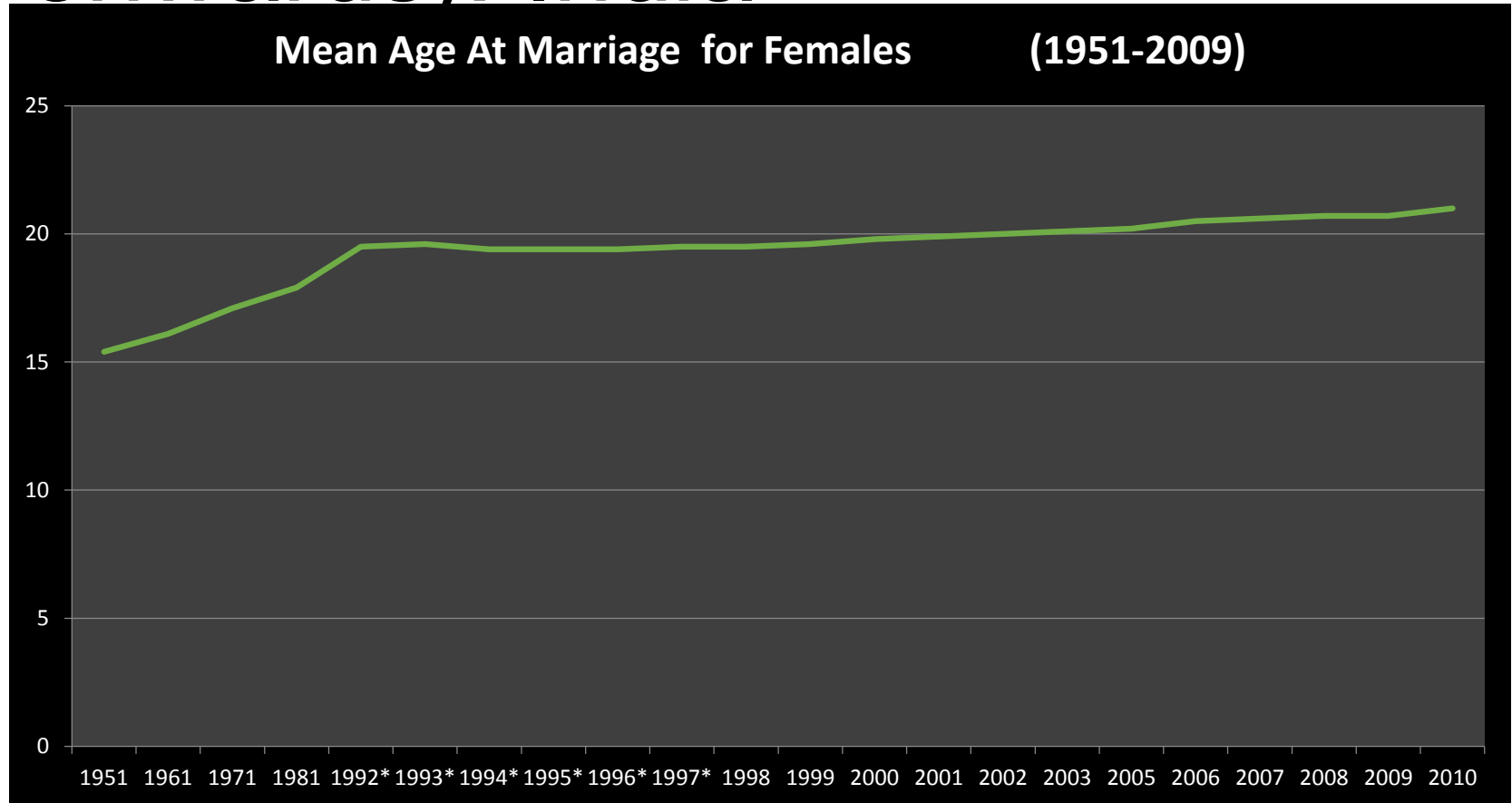
Literacy is the Main Determinant of Independent Female Migration

- Gender gap in literacy rate and Female migration for employment: P value is -0.0002 (statistically significant)
- Gender gap in literacy rate and female migration for education: 0.002 (statistically significant)
- Thus, female migration for work and education both are likely to rise with the reduction of gender gap in literacy rate.

Marriage

- **Mean Age at Marriage is low in North India**
- **High (Above 20 years) in North-Eastern states, southern states (Kerala, Goa, Tamilnadu)**
- **NE and South states are main female out-migrant states**
- **Higher the age at marriage, higher the female migration for education and work**

Slow but Steady Rise in Mean Age At Marriage (1951 onwards): India



Why Non-marital Female Migration is Concentrated in few states/ regions only?

- **Traditional role of women as homemaker**
- **Early marriage**
- **Less autonomy**
- **Male as the bread earner**
- **Increasing crimes against women in cities**
- **Female migrants face various discriminations/ harassments**



Social Composition

- Female migration is mainly occurring from the tribal belts
- Different types of gender role and societal norms prevailed there
- Migrants from NE and Kerala are religious minorities
- Different ethnic and language group
- Mainly 15 to 30 years of age-group; unmarried or single
- Most of them are fresh migrants



Demographic Characteristics of the Source States: NE and South India

- High Child Sex ratio in favour of females
- Low gender gap in IMR
- Low Prevalence of Anaemia and MMR among women
- Fertility Decline to Replacement Level (declining trend in TFR & CBR)
- Low gap in Male-Female WPR
- Low Gender gap in Literacy Rate
- Increase in Female Literacy (2001-2011)

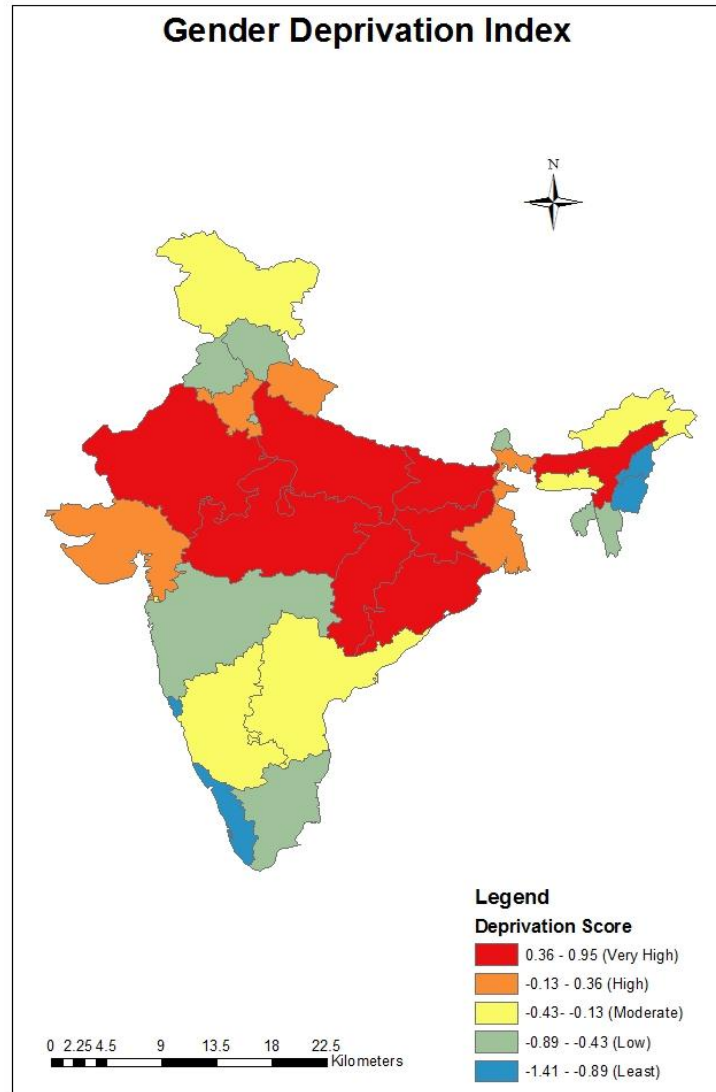


Reverse Picture in the East

- Southern and NE states recorded high female literacy in both 2001 and 2011
- Eastern states Jharkhand records remarkable increase (39% in 2001 to 68% in 2011; Odisha (51% in 2001 to 73% in 2011); Chhattisgarh (52% in 2001 to 71% in 2011)
- Gender gap in Literacy is above 20 in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh (2011)
- Eastern and NE states record higher poverty level compare to the south



Gender Deprivation Index



Does Female Migration reduce Gender Deprivation?

- Considering gender gap in infant mortality rate, literacy, WPR; data on TFR, MMR, prevalence of Anaemia (among 15-49 years women), Sex Ratio and households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) gender deprivation Index has been calculated.
- It is a composite index
- North-India indicates high deprivation: female migration for work and education is minimal
- South and North-East record least deprivation and high Female migration.



Challenges and Remedies

- Migration is occurring from the states with least gender deprivation to less deprivation areas
- Main challenges are adaptation
- Different socio-cultural norms are arising ethnic tensions
- Women from remote areas are the worst victim of it
- India needs region specific and migration specific laws for women
- Gender and cultural sensitization in the cities



THANK YOU



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