



Urbanization and Female Mobility in Patna

• Shubanjali • Tanya • Vandana Singh

• Debjani Sarkar (Ghosh)

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Corresponding Author : Debjani Sarkar (Ghosh)

Abstract : 'Urbanization is the natural increase in the proportion of the population residing in towns brought about by migration of rural population into towns or cities and or higher level of natural increase' (Oxford Dictionary of Geography, 2007). Migration or Mobility is the movement of people from one place to another. Along with economic development of a place, large number of people migrate from rural areas to urban areas in search of jobs or availing the opportunities prevalent in the city areas. In recent times, 70 % of migration is internal migration and majority of them are female migrants. Though Bihar is less urbanized compared to the major states in the country, the pace of urbanization in the state has increased rapidly in recent years. The city of Patna

has experienced a tremendous growth in the last decade. From a mere population of 1.34 lakh to about 17 lakh in 2011, the urban growth of Patna is magnificent. In this growth process migration plays a significant role. Large numbers of female migrants have moved with their husbands after marriage. Unmarried girls have moved for higher studies in colleges or for preparation in multifarious coaching centres and in search of livelihood in an urban set up etc. Many of them are principal wage earner for themselves and their families. Most women have moved voluntarily, but a significant number are forced migrants who have fled conflict, crime, and other natural disasters that affect their habitat and livelihood. Thus, urbanization of Patna has acted as a pull factor for female migrants who are further contributing to the development of the city.

With this background, this research has studied the level of urbanization in Patna, the educational attainment and educational aspirations of female migrants, their occupational level, their social environment and how far the urbanization has helped to enhance the satisfaction level of migrants etc. The study is primarily based on sample survey of one hundred female migrants of Patna Municipal corporation area. To supplement the survey, relevant literature and Government reports have been consulted. The primary data has been tabulated and suitable diagrams have been prepared and project report has been presented.

Key words: Urbanization, Mobility, Economic Development, Level of satisfaction.

Shubanjali

B.A. III year, Geography (Hons.), Session: 2011-2014,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Tanya

B.A. III year, Geography (Hons.), Session: 2011-2014,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Vandana Singh

B.A. III year, Geography (Hons.), Session: 2011-2014,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Debjani Sarkar (Ghose)

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : debjani2pat@rediffmail.com

Introduction :

'Urbanization' is the natural increase in the proportion of the population residing in towns brought about by migration of rural population into towns or cities and or higher level of natural increase'(Oxford Dictionary of Geography,2007). Urbanization is generally expressed as the proportion of urban population to total population. It is a natural consequence of economic development of a country. Migration takes place from one area to another in search of improved livelihoods in terms of employment, education and other facilities (Das & Murmu, 2010). It is characterized by the movement of increasing proportion of population from rural areas to urban areas. Urbanization has helped in contributing to the development process in a number of ways. Infrastructural development of urban areas provides employment. Opening of the banks and other financial institutions attract skilled labour. Students from various places are attracted towards the areas with good educational institutions for higher studies. Establishment of educational and technical institutions and coaching centres has acted as pull factor for students in search of knowledge. Though Bihar is less urbanized compared to the major states in the country, the pace of urbanization in the state has increased rapidly in recent years. Apart from Patna, the other promising cities in Bihar are Gaya, Nalanda, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Begusarai and Purnea. According to 2011 census, the total population of Bihar is 103.80 million of which 11.72 million constitute urban population. The city of Patna has experienced a tremendous growth in the last decade. From a mere population of 1.34 lakh to about 16.83 lakh in 2011, the urban growth of Patna is magnificent. In this growth process migration plays a significant role.

Migration or mobility is not a new phenomenon but it is changing in the context of the globalized world. The extent and scale of migration especially female migration has increased manifold. Half of the migrants in the world are women. Many women accompany or join family members. Some of them migrate on their own for higher education or better employment opportunities. Many of them are principal wage earners for themselves and their families. Most women have moved voluntarily but a significant number are forced migrants who have fled conflict, crime, and other natural disasters that affect their habitat and livelihood. The mobility of women like their male counterparts significantly affects the place of origin and destination in a significant way. Female mobility in Patna has increased significantly in recent years. Some of the major reasons for this increase are as follows: higher educational facilities, better livelihood option, and better standard of living in the capital city of Bihar. Further, influx of large number of male migrants has also increased female migrants through the institution of marriage. Thus, Patna, the capital city of Bihar is attracting a large number of female migrants too who are contributing to the overall urbanization process too.

With this background the current work has been based on the following hypotheses.

Hypotheses :

1. Urbanization has attracted migration of women along with their husbands.
2. More job opportunities in modern Patna have attracted both skilled and unskilled labourers towards Patna.
3. Large number of educational institutions and coaching centres have attracted many girl students towards Patna.
4. Migrants are satisfied with their life in Patna than their place of origin.

The **objectives** of the current study are:

1. To know the level of urbanization in Patna.
2. To know the occupational level of female migrants.
3. To know the educational attainment and educational aspirations of female migrants.
4. To know the social environment of the female migrants
5. To know whether urbanization has helped the satisfaction level of migrants or not.

Database :

The study has been done by choosing one hundred female migrants of Patna by employing stratified random sample survey procedure in three zones i.e. western, central and eastern zones of Patna Municipal Corporation area. The study covered 40 female migrant workers (20 skilled and 20 unskilled), 30 housewives and 30 students. Thus it covers a cross section of the society to testify the hypotheses and fulfill the objectives.

Methodology :

The research work has been done in three distinct phases. Under pre-field survey, relevant literature has been reviewed, Government publication has been consulted, published data has been collected and the base map has been prepared. Under field survey stage, the questionnaire has been prepared and the sample survey of one hundred female migrants has been carried out. After completion of field survey, the data has been compiled and the relevant tables and suitable diagrams have been prepared. At the end, with the help of the project report, the paper has been prepared.

Study Area:

The present study area is Patna Municipal Corporation area. Patna is located between 25° 30'N to 25° 38'N latitude 85° 5'E to 85° 10'E longitude.

It is the capital city of the state of Bihar. It is one of the most ancient cities of India. It is a typical linear city, located on the right bank levee of River Ganga. It is surrounded by three rivers: The Ganga, the Gandak and in the past the Sone. The river Punpun flows parallel to the Ganga and joins it at 12 k.m. east at Fatwa. Physiographically, the surface of the land has a general slope towards south, but elevates further in the south. This type of topography gives Patna the shape of the saucer, resulting in water logging. The total span of Patna municipal corporation area is around 101 sq. k.m. with the population size of 1,683,200 (Census of India, 2011). The total area of Patna has been divided into 72 wards, which have been further rearranged into three zones- West, Central and East Patna respectively (Sarkar et al 2011).

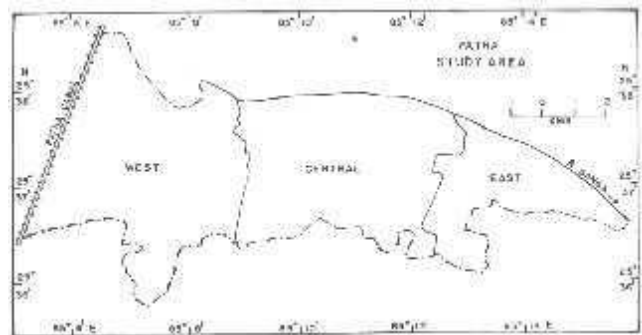


Fig. 1

To cover the cross section of the female migrants of the city, the survey has been conducted in Bailey road and Boring Road areas of Patna West, Ashok Rajpath and Bankipur area in Patna Central and Patna City and Gulzarbagh area in Patna East.

Analysis :

The present paper has analysed different aspects of urbanization and female mobility in Patna. The study has been done keeping in mind the objectives of the study and to prove the hypotheses.

Trends of Urbanization in Patna :

The city of Patna has experienced tremendous growth in the last century. From a meagre population of 1.34 lakh, the population of Patna has increased to 9.56 lakh in 1991 and 1.38 lakh in 2001 (Ghose & Sinha, 1995). In the last census it became 1.68 million. The following table shows the urbanization trend in Patna Municipal Corporation area.

Table 1 : Growth of Population in Patna M.C. (1901-2011)

Year	Population	Growth of Population (in %)
1901	1,34,785	—
1911	1,36,153	1.01
1921	1,19,976	-13.48
1931	1,59,690	33.10
1941	1,96,415	23.00
1951	2,83,479	44.33
1961	3,51,591	24.03
1971	4,75,300	35.19
1981	8,13,963	71.25
1991	9,56,417	17.50
2001	1,376,950	43.97
2011	1,683,200	22.24

Sources of Data: Census of India, Bihar, 2001, 2011.

From table 1, it is clear that the growth of population in Patna was steady till 1971 except for the year 1921, when along with the rest of the country, there was a slight decline in population growth. But, after 1971, there was an abrupt rise in the growth of population mainly because of migration from the rural areas due to natural factors.

Demographic Composition of Sample Population :

'Demographic Composition' is the statistical and mathematical study of the size, composition and spatial distribution of human populations and

how those features change over time. 'Migration' on the other hand is a form of spatial mobility of population between one geographical unit and another involving a permanent change of residence. Based on the sample survey few parameters of demographic composition have been presented in the following table. These are : type of family, family members, marital status, age group, religion, caste, etc.

Table 2 : Demographic Composition of Female Migrants of Patna M.C.(% of Total)*

Status	Type of Family				Marital Status				Religion			Caste			
	N	J	E	UM	M	D	W	Hin	Mus	Sikh	Chr	Gen	SC	ST	OBC
Housewife	80	18	2	0	95	0	5	65	15	-		80	15	-	5
Skilled Workers	87	10	3	20	75	5	-	90	10	-		5	15	15	70
Unskilled Workers	72	26	2	-	83	10	7	66.6	16.7	10	6.7	53.3	23.33	-	23.33
Students	90	0	10	93	7	0	0	83.33	3.3		13.3	43.3	3.33	6.7	46.7

*Based on Sample Survey

From table 2, it is clear that most of the female migrants live in nuclear families. Marriage is almost universal among female migrants except students and 20% of skilled workers, who are busy in their careers and have postponed their marriage plans. Hinduism is the primary religion among sample population though the survey covered considerable number of Muslim migrants too. Interestingly 70% of the skilled, 23.33% of unskilled workers and 46.7% of students are from OBC categories who have left their home for betterment. Housewives, on the other hand, are mostly from general category which indicates a lower female work participation ratio among general population despite their better educational level.

Reasons for Migration :

Insecurity in village life, reduced demand for agricultural labour, the changing economic structure of the rural settlements, social and other deficiencies at the local and community level, lack of higher educational opportunities in villages, lack

of employment opportunities have acted as a push factor for constant immigration to Patna from nearby villages.

Apart from that migrants here are attracted to pull factors like higher educational opportunities, greater employment opportunities, the chances of getting higher education, which might ease out depressed economic condition of native village (Ghose & Sinha 1995). Thus, mobility and migration has become synonymous with urbanization and an effort to improve the socio-economic condition of an individual. In case of female migration, marriage is an important reason due to prevailing system in the country. An influx of large number of male migrants in Patna have also increased female migrants through the institution of marriage. But, in post independence period, women have become more mobile than men especially over shorter distance for multifarious reasons too.

Since women are ready to work for any wage, they are in great demand, contributing to the feminization of labour migration ((Das & Murmu, 2010). Many middle and upper middle class women migrate to cities to improve their educational credentials and to get suitable employment opportunities in a quest for social advancement and also to enhance their status in marriage market. The semi-literate young girls are migrating to towns to work in food processing industries, retail sectors, beauty parlours, petrol pumps etc. to augment family income. Families which have some land holdings in rural areas send their daughters to work mostly as domestic servants where they are supposed to be safe in the custody of the lady of the house. First, the elder daughter is sent out and is replaced by her siblings as they get married. 'The wife instead of staying back in the village prefers to join her husband in the hope of getting some employment in the destination area' (Das & Murmu 2010).

The sample population have cited the following reasons for migration. The reasons vary according to their categories.

Table 3 : Reasons of Migration for Female Migrants of Patna M.C. (in percent of Total)*

Reasons for Migration	Housewife	Skilled Labour	Unskilled Labour	Students
Marriage	100	65	-	-
Education	-	15	-	100
Job	-	10	20	-
Moved with family	-	10	60	-
Family Dispute	-	-	20	-
Total	100	100	100	100

*Based on sample survey

Marriage is one of the primary reasons for female migration in Patna. All the housewives (100%) have migrated to Patna after their marriage. Among skilled labour also, 65% of them have migrated for marriage and joined the job after that. Thus, it supports the first hypothesis.

After marriage, education is one of the primary reasons for female migration. During post independence period, lack of higher educational opportunities and uncertainties in village life has prompted a lot of unmarried girls to move to different destinations. Even in capital Patna, half of the girl students are migrants, who have migrated to avail greater educational opportunities in the city or to prepare for IIT, Medical, UPSC, BPSC, Banking services examinations etc. with the help of numerous coaching institutes. For unskilled workers, 20% of unmarried sample population have moved to work as domestic help while rest of them have migrated with their families or due to family dispute and are working as vegetable sellers, fruit sellers or construction workers to become self sufficient.

Thus, it can be said that urbanization in Patna has attracted a large number of female migrants who have moved either with their husbands or individually in pursuit of higher education for students or job opportunities for skilled or unskilled workers.

Economic Status :

Pattern and cause of women migration are changing in India. An increasing proportion of women are moving towards urban areas particularly to big cities for reasons other than marriage. The sex ratio of urban population is improving. The sex ratio of migrant population is found to be higher than the sex ratio of non-migrant population. Distribution of workers among employment related women migrants by occupational divisions showed that majority of women workers are found to be concentrated in the bottom and top of the occupational hierarchy. Majority of the illiterate and semi-literate migrants are clustering in unorganized sectors mainly as street vendors or in service sectors as domestic servants or in construction activities as labour. The women with educational level above matriculate are heavily concentrating in professional and technical related work categories or in service sectors like banking or teaching jobs.

Type of jobs of the female migrants of Patna has been presented in the following table.

Table 4 : Type of Jobs of female Migrants of Patna M.C.(in percent)*

Status	Self Employed	Government	Private	Total
Housewife	0	0	0	100
Skilled Worker	25	15	60	100
Unskilled Worker	70	15	15	100
Student	10	0	0	100

*Based on sample survey

From the table, it is clear that Government jobs are rare among female migrants. Only 15% of

skilled and unskilled workers are engaged in government jobs. Skilled female migrants have come to the capital city of Bihar due to transfer while unskilled female migrants who are mostly engaged as sweepers or peons have joined jobs after their marriage. 60% of skilled female migrants are engaged in private sectors mainly in numerous private schools, hospitals and nursing homes etc. Unskilled workers have limited opportunities in this sector too. Even then, they are engaged in private schools as helpers. But 70 % of unskilled workers and 25% of skilled workers are working as self employed individuals due to limited opportunities in organized sectors.

Educational Status :

Education plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country. Migration increasingly offers women education and career opportunity that may not be available or be denied to them at home. It also offers an alternative to marriage, the traditional role of homemaker and to some of the more negative cultural practices relating to women.

Patna, the capital of Bihar has recently emerged as the educational hub of the state. IIT, BIT, Chanakya Law institute, Chandragupta Management Institute and many private institutes are now offering various educational facilities to students. Young aspirants from rural Bihar and neighbouring states come to the city to avail the facilities offered here. Large numbers of female migrants in Patna are never married young women of less than 25 years of age who have shifted their place of residence for better education and career opportunities. Many educational institutes and coaching centres of national repute have branches to cater to the need of the students. This is indeed a healthy sign towards gender equality and women empowerment of the state.

Following table shows the educational attainment of female migrants of Patna.

Table 5 : Educational Attainment of Female Migrants of Patna M.C. (% of total)*

	Illiterate	Pri- mary	Pre- Pri- mary	Middle	Sec- ondary	Higher Sec- ondary	Grad- uation	P.G.
Housewife	-	-	-	6.6	3.3	6.6	70	13.5
Skilled	-	-	-	-	5	15	60	20
Unskilled	15	20	15	15	20	15	-	-
Student	-	-	-	6.7	3.3	56.6	30	3.3

*Based on sample survey

Female migrants of Patna are primarily literate except unskilled workers. Most of the housewives (70%) have educational attainment till graduation level while 60 percent of the skilled workers and 30% of the students are Graduate. 13.5 percent of the skilled workers have educational qualification upto the post graduation level. But, majority of the migrant students(56%) have attained educational level of higher secondary and moved to Patna to avail excellent coaching facilities for higher studies. Some of the working migrants are also attending coaching classes for better job opportunities. Thus, it can be said that large numbers of female migrants have moved to Patna for educational facilities and are contributing to the urbanization process too. Thus, it supports the third hypothesis too.

Female migrants attend different types of institutes in Patna M.C. area. 83% of students and 35% of skilled workers attend private institutes. Private institutes are popular for better educational facilities and placement opportunities while many lower income group parents prefer Government Institutes for their lower fee structure.

Social Environment :

‘Social Environment’ refers to the immediate physical and social settings in which people live. In the current study, the broad parameters of the social environment of the female migrants have been judged on the basis of the following variables.

Types of Houses :

Housing in India varies greatly and reflects the socio-economic milieu of the vast population. Patna is dotted with multifarious types of houses. Some of them are pucca, some semi-pucca and some are kutcha. Following table shows different types of houses of female migrants of Patna.

Table 6 : Type of Houses of Female Migrants of Patna M.C.(Percentage of Total)*

Status	Kutcha	Semi-Pucca	Pucca
Housewife	-	6.7	93.3
Skilled Worker	-	-	100
Unskilled Worker	25	55	20
Student	-	-	100

*Based on sample survey

From the table, it is clear that housing condition of unskilled migrants is unsatisfactory. 25% of them live in kutcha houses and 55% of them live in semi-pucca houses due to paucity of income. While 100% of skilled workers and students live in pucca houses, 93.3% of housewives live in pucca houses while housewives of lower income group live in semi-pucca houses.

Basic Facilities :

Female migrants have migrated for better facilities and social environment in an urban set up. Lot of them are satisfied with the existing basic facilities of electricity, drinking water and toilet which is clear from the following table.

Table 7 : Basic facilities available to Female Migrants of Patna M.C.(Percent of Total)*

Status	Electricity	Water	Toilet
Housewife	100	100	100
Skilled Worker	100	100	100
Unskilled Worker	50	100	85
Student	100	100	100

*Based on sample survey

All the sample housewives, skilled workers and students avail the basic facilities of the capital city. But, 50 percent of unskilled workers with their meagre income cannot afford electricity, while 15 percent of unskilled workers have toilet facilities outside the premises.

Overall, it can be said, the social environment of female migrants of Patna M.C. is satisfactory. Most of them, especially skilled labour and students feel their social surroundings are better compared to their place of origin. Majority of families have equality of status that helps in the all round development of female migrants.

Life Satisfaction :

'Life satisfaction' is a measure of well-being and may be assessed in terms of mood, satisfaction in relation to others, and with self achieved goals, self concepts and self perceived ability to cope with daily life. Life satisfaction is very important for an individual. Without life satisfaction, one cannot sustain in the place of destination. Following table shows the level of life satisfaction in place of origin among female migrants of Patna M.C.

Table 8 : Level of satisfaction in place of origin among female migrants of Patna M.C.*

Status	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Housewife	3.3	20	73.3	3.3
Skilled Worker	-	40	25	35
Unskilled Worker	-	-	60	40

*Based on sample survey

From the table it is clear that 40% of the skilled workers were satisfied and 35% were dissatisfied in their place of origin. 25% of them were moderately satisfied. Among unskilled workers, 40% were dissatisfied and 60% of them were moderately satisfied in their place of origin. This has prompted them to migrate in pursuit of better life satisfaction. Following table shows their level of satisfaction in the place of destination i.e. Patna.

Table 9 : Level of Satisfaction in place of destination among female migrants of Patna M.C.*

Status	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Housewife	20	65	15	-
Skilled Worker	-	50	50	-
Unskilled Worker	16.6	63.3	20	-
Student	20	80	-	-

*Based on sample survey

From the table, it is clear that 50 percent of the skilled workers are satisfied in their place of destination and 50 percent of them are moderately satisfied. 20 percent of the housewives and students, 16.6 percent of the unskilled workers are highly satisfied in the place of destination. 80 percent of the students and 63.3 percent of unskilled workers are satisfied in their place of destination. Interestingly, none of the female migrants are dissatisfied in their place of destination. Moderate satisfaction among skilled and unskilled workers and housewives are due to traffic jams and daily hassles of life in Patna.

Overall, it can be said that migrants are more satisfied in their place of destination in comparison with the place of origin. The survey further indicates that 95% of the skilled workers and 60% of unskilled workers have work satisfaction. All the skilled workers, 55% of the unskilled workers, 70% of housewives and 30% of the students are satisfied in their social life. Family life among unskilled workers is less satisfactory in comparison to other categories because of increasing inflation and daily struggle for survival.

Thus, it can be said, that the level of satisfaction has enhanced manifold in place of destination compared to the place of origin. Thus it supports the fourth hypothesis too. Most of the female migrants are enjoying their lives in the place of destination and hoping their lives will be better in the near future.

Conclusion :

'Urbanization' is the natural increase in the proportion of the population residing in towns brought about by migration of rural population to towns or cities and or higher level of natural increase'. Patna has experienced a tremendous growth in the last decade. From a mere population of 1.34 lakh to about 17 lakh in 2011, the urban growth of Patna is magnificent. In this growth process, migration specially female migration plays a significant role. The main reason for the migrants to migrate is better employment opportunities, better wages, better educational facilities and no caste related tensions. Men, unlike their past generation are migrating with their families, if employed or are bringing their spouses once they are settled. It has definitely enhanced female mobility due to marriage. Researchers have identified a large number of migrant housewives. Besides, many girl students have migrated to Patna in search of knowledge or become self dependent leaving their villages where opportunities are limited. Workers both skilled and unskilled have migrated towards Patna in search of jobs or being transferred to Patna, the capital of Bihar.

While examining the level of satisfaction among female migrants of Patna, it is clear that the sample population is satisfied in their place of destination. 20 percent of the skilled workers, 16.6 percent of housewives, 20 percent of the students are highly satisfied in Patna. The rest of the sample population is either satisfied or moderately satisfied in Patna. Unskilled labour, struggling for their daily survival are facing various difficulties in this monetized world, but feel at home in the city than their native village.

Suggestions:

On the basis of this study of urbanization and female mobility in Patna, few points can be suggested:

- The city should provide more skill based career opportunities for girl students.
- Government must establish more hostels for girl students and working women.
- Establishment of more technical colleges with reservation for girl students will boost them.
- Discrimination of wages for unskilled female migrants should be interfered for their better standard of living.
- Poor female migrants should get their BPL card or Red card to avail the benefits provided by the Government.
- The supply of basic amenities like electricity, toilet and water should be proper and regular to all sections of population.
- Steps should be taken for the elimination of domestic violence against female migrants.
- Government should provide more security to all sections of female population of the city.

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