

## Analyzing internal migration in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh

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### Abstract:

As rapid urbanization transforms regions across India, understanding migration patterns becomes important for effective urban planning and policy-making. Raebareli, a district in Uttar Pradesh, will witness substantial urban development due to its inclusion in the State Capital Region, prompting this study to explore migration trends in the area. This study aims to analyze internal migration patterns in Raebareli, focusing on the drivers, streams, and demographic characteristics of migrants, providing crucial insights for future policy frameworks. This research utilizes secondary data from the Census of India's D-series Migration tables to assess intra-district, inter-district, and inter-state migration patterns. The study focuses on in-migrants in both rural and urban regions of Raebareli, analyzing volume, reasons, and spatial distribution. The study finds that rural migration is mainly driven by marriage, which constitutes the largest proportion of in-migration, with women accounting for the majority of migrants. Interestingly, work-related migration is almost equally split between rural and urban areas, indicating a strong employment base in rural regions. Furthermore, the majority of migrants have resided in the district for over 10 years, indicating long-term settlement trends. Migration from neighboring districts such as Sultanpur and Pratapgarh dominates, while inter-state migration remains minimal. These findings emphasize the importance of developing targeted rural policies, improving urban infrastructure, and creating regional employment opportunities to accommodate future migration inflows. This study can guide strategic planning for urban expansion and rural development in Raebareli.

**Keywords:** Census, Migration, State Capital Region, Urbanization, Women & Rural Development.

**Introduction:** The term internal migration refers to the migration within the boundaries of a given nation. It is operationally defined in terms of residential moves across civil divisions such as districts, states, rural, and urban areas (Pathak and Ram, 2015). All migrations that take place within the territorial jurisdiction of a country are distinguished as internal migrations (Chandna, 2016). Migration is not merely a movement of people, but it is a fundamental factor helping to explain the ever-changing space-content and space-

relations in a country (Gosal, 1961).

It has been generally observed that migration tends to flow towards the areas of greater economic opportunities, urban industrial concentration, and areas with abundant development activities (Vaidyanathan, 1967 & Gosal and Krishan, 1975).

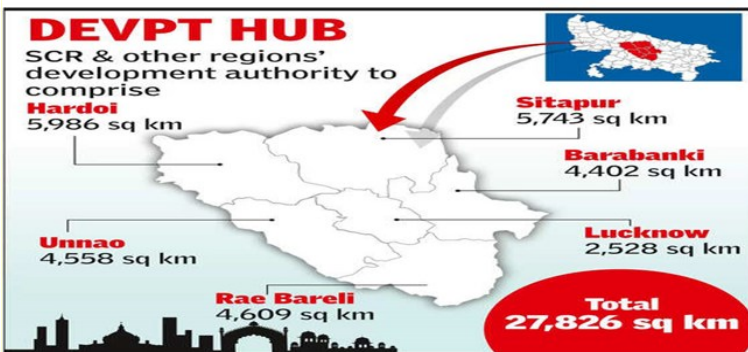
Migration and occupational structure are often an outcome of traditional social/caste stratification in India (Madheswaran and Attewell 2007; Morris, 1965). With 68% of all the workers being cultivators and agricultural laborers, the district is more likely to experience in and out-migration. The rural-urban migration stream makes significant contributions to the process of urbanization and indicates the attractiveness of an urban center (Bose, 1967). Further, the main factors of migration are often related to expanding employment opportunities, encouragement by close relatives, and expectation of a better life in the urban area (Majumdar and Majumdar, 1978). With growing urbanization, these cultivators and agricultural laborers are more likely to migrate to have better income opportunities.

The district population constitutes 30% of people from the Scheduled Caste. Singh (2018) found that credit constraints play a very important role in undertaking migration sections, especially for underprivileged and poor households in rural Uttar Pradesh. Muller and Shareef (2010) found positive relationships between remittances received and schooling attendance of teens, and this magnitude is highest among marginalized and downtrodden classes. Unemployment, land ownership, and maximization of their income are the most important determinants for rural-urban migration. Singh (2014) found that social networks play a very important role in facilitating migration. Improved transportation, communication, amenities, rural-urban interaction, and changes in social values have also promoted urban migration (Cherunilam, 1987). Regarding the type of migration, the usual statistics reveal that there is an inverse relation between the number of in-migrants to cities and the distance of migration (Gosal, 1961). This study was carried out as there was no structured data available about the district on migration. Since Raebareli is expected to grow at a very rapid pace in the

coming years, it becomes even more pertinent to do a study on migration patterns so that policy measures can be taken to ensure seamless movement of people in the times to come.

**Study Area:** Raebareli district lies at 26.23' North latitude and 81.24' East longitude. It is the 27th largest district of Uttar Pradesh, lying south of the Awadh region. It has an area of 4609 sq km with 6 tehsils, 9 towns, and 1733 villages. It has a population of more than 34 lakhs, of which 91% live in rural areas. Its economy is largely agrarian, with a significant portion of the workforce engaged in agriculture and allied activities, making it a compelling case for studying migration patterns as the district undergoes urbanization. Due to the presence of national institutes like National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Unchhahar, and the Indian Telecom Industry (ITI), the district has attracted skilled manpower in the past. Institutes like the Rail Coach Factory and AIIMS became fully operational after the Census 2011, so their impact on migration is unaccounted for. Located just adjacent to the state capital Lucknow, Raebareli has a strategic location within Uttar Pradesh's State Capital Region (SCR) (image 1), which is expected to witness significant urban.

Image 1: State Capital Region



**Source:** Times of India Website

development in the coming years. Its inclusion in SCR makes it a hub for migration from surrounding under-served districts such as Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, and Fatehpur. Raebareli's current infrastructure remains primarily rural, with only 9% of its population living in urban areas. The expansion of its urban boundaries, driven by increasing investments in education, healthcare, and industry, will likely reshape migration patterns in the district, attracting both skilled and unskilled labor from nearby regions and potentially altering the rural-urban migration balance. On the one hand, it offers new economic opportunities for migrants seeking employment in emerging sectors. On the other hand, the influx of migrants could strain existing

infrastructure, especially in urban areas where housing and public services are already limited. Effective urban planning will be critical in managing this growth to ensure that both residents and migrants benefit from the district's development. The district's socio-economic structure, including its large Scheduled Caste population (30%), and the reliance on social networks for migration decisions, further complicates the migration landscape.

**Methodology:** In this study, secondary data from the Census of India 2011 Migration D-Series tables were used, which are publicly available through the Office of the Registrar General of India. To examine internal migration patterns in Raebareli district, migration data were filtered from the broader Uttar Pradesh dataset using district-level codes. Specifically, the D3 table provided data on the volume, causes, and streams of migration, while the D9 table was used to assess the spatial distribution of inter-district migration. Migration data were classified into three categories: intra-district (within the district), inter-district (between districts within the state), and inter-state (between states). The analysis focused on in-migrants to both rural and urban areas of Raebareli, which were classified based on the census definitions of settlements. The causes of migration were categorized based on the predefined categories in the Census D-3 series table, including marriage, employment, business, education, household movement, and others. Each migrant was classified under one of these categories based on their reported reason for migration. These categories were then analyzed for rural and urban streams to identify trends and patterns across different regions.

Descriptive statistics, such as percentages, were calculated to identify migration trends across gender, region, and migration reasons. Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis and the preparation of tables and graphs summarizing migration volumes and patterns. These tables were designed to highlight key patterns, such as gender differences, rural-urban migration trends, and the spatial distribution of migrants across districts and states. While the Census of India 2011 remains the most comprehensive source of migration data at the district-level, one limitation of this study is its reliance on decade-old information, which may not fully reflect the accelerated urbanization (AIIMS and Rail Coach Factory became fully operational after 2011) trends in Raebareli over the last decade and it presents a limitation in capturing recent migration trends. Some basic facts about the district are taken from the district census data handbook of 2011.

**Results and discussion:**

**Volume of migration:** The internal migration in

Raebareli during 2011 was 9.44 lakhs (Table 1), of which 83.1% were females and 16.9% were males. Mostly the migration was in rural areas, which was 86.7%, of which 86.8% were females, which corresponds to marriage as the primary reason. It also indicates a strong influence of traditional social norms on migration patterns. Whether it is rural or urban, females dominate the numbers in migration. This suggests that migration policy must account for the specific needs of female migrants, especially in rural areas. The total immigrants in 2011 was 27.72% of the total population of the district. Urban migration corresponded to 40.68% of the total urban population, suggesting that urban centers in Raebareli are also experiencing a significant influx. This highlights the growing appeal of urban areas due to better access to services such as healthcare, education, and employment. However, in comparison to rural in-migration, i.e., 26%, it can be deduced that urban infrastructure may not yet be fully prepared to accommodate a large number of migrants.

**Table 1: Volume of internal In-Migrants in Raebareli, 2011**

Total in migrants		Rural		Urban	
944322		86.7		13.3	
Female	Male	F	M	F	M
83.1	16.9	86.8	13.2	58.9	41.1

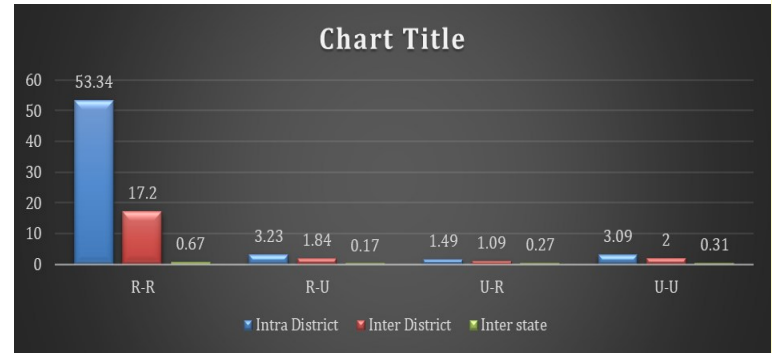
Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011

**Proportion and streams of migration:** Bar Chart 1 describes the proportion of migrants in different categories. Intra-district migration constitutes 74.23% of the total internal migration, of which 89% is in rural areas that too 71% (bar chart 2) is from rural to rural, which shows migration is happening mostly within the district, driven by local factors like marriage or rural employment opportunities. Only 11.36% of people migrated to urban areas within the district, which indicates Raebareli’s urbanization may be slower than expected, or urban migration might follow a more gradual, later wave. Inter-district migration is 24.18%, of which also majority is to rural areas, i.e., 82%. Inter-state migration is just 1.57%, of which 33.79% is to urban regions of the districts, which may be because national-level institutes of the district are acting as an economic magnet and are attracting skilled manpower.

**Bar Chart 1: Proportion of Migration**



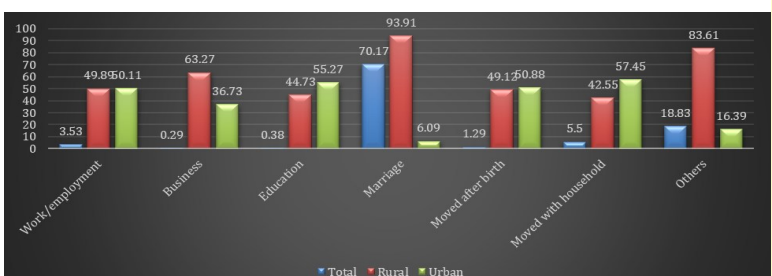
Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011



Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011

**Reasons for migration:-**In the bar chart 3 reasons for migration, it can be seen that marriage accounts for 70.17% of the total migration that too 93.91% in rural regions of the district. Interestingly, people migrating for business and work/employment purposes are moving to rural areas with 63.27% and 49.89% respectively. It suggests that employment opportunities within rural areas (perhaps agriculture or rural industries) play a larger role than anticipated. Business activity in rural regions also indicates economic potential in these areas, possibly small-scale industries or local enterprises. This also indicates that rural economies are not being abandoned for urban jobs at the rate seen in other parts of the country. Work/ employment migration shows a relatively even split between rural and urban destinations (with 49.89% migrating for work in rural areas and 50.11% to urban areas), which is quite unusual as urban areas are typically seen as hubs for employment. Major reasons to migrate to urban areas are moving with household (57.45%), education (55.27%), moving after birth (50.88%), and work/employment (50.11%). This suggests that the lack of local public services in rural areas is a key factor driving urban migration, reflecting a rural-urban service gap. The migration for education (55.27%), although relatively low overall, points to an education infrastructure gap in rural areas. 44.73% of people migrating for education to rural areas may be due to the absence of good schools in their area, so they might have migrated to a nearby rural area with better educational facilities.

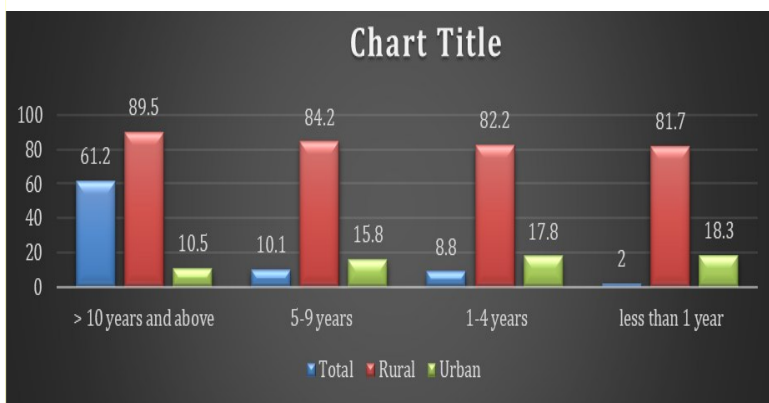
Bar Chart 3: Reasons for Migration



**Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011**

**Duration of Migration:-**Migrants residing for more than 10 years (bar chart 4) are the largest in number, i.e., 61.2% of whom are 89.5% in rural regions. This indicates that most migrants are long-term settlers, with only smaller numbers (2%) being recent (under one year). Since it is evident from Table 1 and bar chart 3 that women migrate to rural areas due to marriage, where women move to live with their husband’s family, so long-term settlers may be females. It can also be deduced that there are stable living conditions, secure livelihoods, family connections, and affordable living costs in the rural areas of Raebareli. However, the relatively low number of recent migrants may also indicate barriers to migration, such as a lack of job opportunities, housing shortages, or infrastructural limitations. In urban areas, people residing for more than 10 years may be due to the reasons of marriage, moving with household, and others (bar chart 2). In the category of duration of residence, 5-9 years, rural migrants also dominate.

Bar Chart 4: Duration of Migration



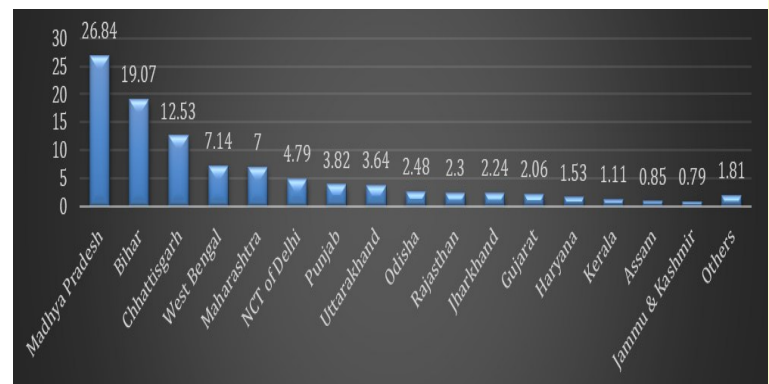
**Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011**

**Spatial distribution of migration:**

More than 58% of inter-state migrants (bar chart 5) are mostly from the states that share their boundary with the state of enumeration, i.e., Uttar Pradesh. These states are Madhya Pradesh (26.84%), Bihar (19.07%), and Chhattisgarh (12.53%). This clearly shows the inverse relation of distance with migration. The proportion of migrants decreases as the distance from Raebareli increases. This also highlights the importance of proximity in migration decisions, where people tend to migrate shorter distances for economic opportunities or social connections. There are also significant inter-state migrants from West Bengal (7.14%), Maharashtra (7%), and NCT of Delhi (4.79%), which suggests that certain sectors in Raebareli (ITI, NIFT, and NTPC Unchhahar, which were existing before the Census 2011) might be attracting skilled workers from farther regions.

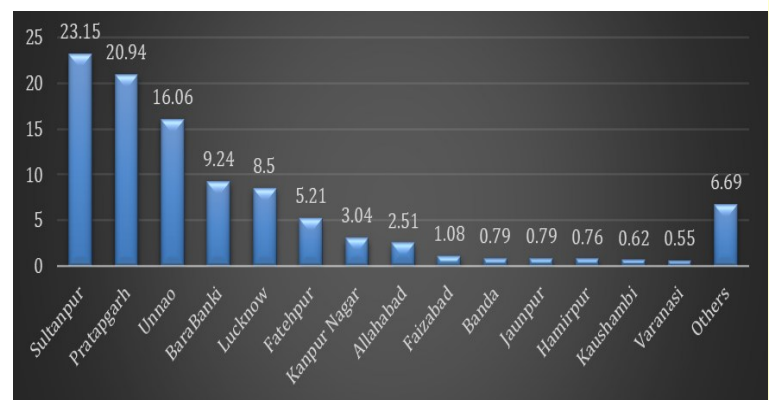
In terms of inter-district migrants, distance also plays a major role. More than 82% (bar chart 6) of the inter-district migrants are from the surrounding districts of Raebareli, indicating a strong regional migration pattern. People are more likely to migrate to nearby areas, likely due to cultural similarities, lower cost of relocation, and existing social networks. These districts are Sultanpur (23.15%), Pratapgarh (20.94%), Unnao (16.06%), Barabanki (9.24%), Lucknow (8.50%), Fatehpur (5.21%). This suggests that Raebareli has better economic opportunities than these neighboring districts, and it is serving as a regional hub for them. The regional infrastructure around Raebareli, particularly roads and transport, might play a crucial role in facilitating this type of migration.

Bar Chart 5: Inter-State spatial distribution



**Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011**

Bar Chart 6: Inter-district spatial distribution



**Source: Migration Tables, Census of India 2011**

**Conclusion:-**This study focuses on the internal migration patterns of Raebareli district, showing that the majority of migration is intra-district, motivated by social factors such as marriage, specifically in rural areas. Work/ employment migration is almost evenly distributed between rural and urban areas, emphasizing the existing economic significance of rural sectors. Furthermore, long-term settlement trends indicate that Raebareli provides stable living conditions for migrants, particularly in rural regions. Understanding these

migration patterns is important for policy formulation that balances the demand of rural development with the district's expected urbanization. For rural areas, there is a need for policies that cater to employment opportunities, educational access, and healthcare services to accommodate the influx of rural migrants. Whereas for urban areas, improving infrastructure, housing, and public services is critical to manage future waves of urban migration. Policymakers should prioritize regional collaboration with neighboring districts to manage the flow of migrants and reduce potential strain on resources. One limitation of this study is reliance on decade-old data that does not fully reflect the fast changes occurred in recent years. Future studies with more up-to-date data would give deeper insights into emerging migration trends. It could also explore the socio-economic impacts of migration in Raebareilly post-urbanization, particularly focusing on the changing roles of women migrants and the economic outcomes of rural employment migration. In-depth qualitative studies could also provide a deeper understanding of the social networks facilitating regional migration.

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## Borders and Balance: Navigating India's Migration Challenge with Lessons from the U.S.

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Illegal migration has been a complex and sensitive issue in India for decades, but in recent years, it has taken center stage in political debates and discussions. As the nation grapples with questions of security, national identity, and demographic change, it becomes crucial to look beyond our borders and see how other democracies tackle similar challenges while remaining true to their democratic values. Among these countries, the United States stands out, not solely for its history of mass migration, strict border enforcement, and extensive security apparatus but also for the significant political debates that surround it. The U.S.'s experience offers both positive and cautionary lessons for India's future policy choices. From the heated debates regarding Assam to national headlines about the CAA and NRC, the question of '*who belongs and who doesn't*' has taken center stage in political and public discourse.

### Understanding India's Migration Dilemma -

India's migration history has been shaped by its ancient and colonial past, as well as its geopolitical relations. The country shares an extremely porous border stretching over 4,000 kilometers with Bangladesh, which remains a major point of concern, particularly in states such as Assam and West Bengal. Over the decades, factors such as political instability in the neighbouring countries, economic hardships, and at times political motives have pushed migrants into India, raising serious concerns over demographic change and putting pressure on the political system of the country. This has fueled genuine concerns and fears of cultural and economic marginalization.

The Indian government took various steps in response to these issues. These include the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) which aims to provide fast-track Indian citizenship for certain persecuted religious minorities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) who fled persecution from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh; and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to document Indian citizens and identify illegal immigrants. Both measures have sparked intense political debates and discussions: praised by some for taking necessary steps for national security and being accused by some of