



Exploring Migration in Chhattisgarh: A Socio –Economic Inquiry

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Abstract

Migration is a pervasive and ongoing phenomenon in Chhattisgarh, driven by a combination of push factors that compel individuals to leave their localities in pursuit of better opportunities. Employment remains the primary reason for male out-migration, while marriage is the predominant driver of female migration. High poverty rates and socio-economic vulnerabilities among Scheduled Tribes (STs) further complicate the migration landscape in the state. Data from the Census 2011 D-series on migration reveal that the rate of male and female out-migration from Chhattisgarh for economic reasons, such as work and employment, is double the national average. This underscores the state's economic dependence on migration. Migrants from poorer and less developed regions, like Chhattisgarh, often prefer industrialized and urbanized states as destinations, with Maharashtra emerging as the most popular choice for migrants from the state. While high rates of migration from poorer states can result in a loss of human capital needed for local development, migration also offers potential benefits, such as reducing unemployment and generating remittances. This dual impact highlights the need for a nuanced approach to migration policy. This paper also examines trends in reason-specific intra-state migration among the ST community, offering valuable insights for designing targeted policies. Migration in Chhattisgarh reflects and perpetuates socio-economic inequalities, necessitating a comprehensive approach to address its challenges. A detailed



understanding of these trends is essential for addressing economic disparities and promoting inclusive development. A holistic strategy is required, focusing on rural development, infrastructure enhancement, and policy reforms that support migrants at both their points of origin and their destinations.

Keywords: Chhattisgarh, Migration, Displacement, Inter-State migration, Intra-State Migration, Scheduled Tribes.

1. Introduction

The state of Chhattisgarh was formed on 1st November 2000, following its separation from the state of Madhya Pradesh. Spanning an area of 135,194 square kilometres, the state comprises 18 districts, 146 blocks, and 19,744 inhabited villages. Chhattisgarh is one of India's eight Empowered Action Group (EAG)¹ states. Notably, it has a significant Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, accounting for 30.6% of its total population, as per the Census 2011. This proportion is among the highest in the country, second only to the North-Eastern states. Against this backdrop, this paper explores the migration patterns in Chhattisgarh, focusing on major interstate destinations and the primary causes driving migration from the state.

Chhattisgarh primarily relies on a **mono-cropped, rain-fed rice production system**, which offers limited employment opportunities to its rural population. Employment is largely restricted to the **kharif season**, leaving the other two seasons—**rabi and summer**—with minimal labour demand. This seasonal nature of agriculture creates significant underemployment and compels rural labourers to seek alternative sources of income.

Migration in Chhattisgarh is driven by a combination of push factors that force individuals to move from their localities in search of better opportunities. These include absence of year-round agricultural or industrial jobs in rural areas. Insufficient income from existing work, making local employment unsustainable. Dependence on rain-fed agriculture limits productivity and agricultural intensity. Fragmented and insufficient land for farming, leaving

¹ ¹ The EAG states include Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Jharkhand.



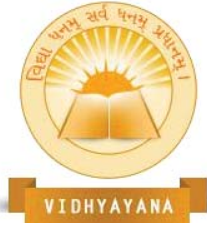
families without adequate livelihoods. Low levels of education and widespread poverty hinder local economic development. Additional economic pressure due to high dependency ratios in large family sizes. Natural Calamities with frequent environmental challenges such as droughts and floods further disrupt rural livelihoods. These factors collectively push a significant portion of Chhattisgarh's rural population to migrate, often as a survival strategy.

Approximately 4.62% of Chhattisgarh's total population migrates annually to different regions (Parganiha, 2002). Within District: 11.30% migrate within their home districts. Out of District: 16.50% migrate to other districts within the state. Out of State: A substantial 72.20% migrate beyond the state's borders. As per the National Sample Survey (2007-2008) construction is the most popular occupation for short-term migrants, accounting for 36.2% of overall short-term migration. 20.4% of migrants are employed in seasonal agricultural activities. 15.9% work in manufacturing, highlighting limited industrial employment opportunities. The scarcity of small and cottage industries in Chhattisgarh's villages further restricts local employment options, perpetuating the cycle of migration. The Office of the Labour Commissioner identified seven districts in Chhattisgarh as the worst affected by migration namely Rajnandgaon, Ballarpur, Raipur, Durg, Mahasamund, Janjgir-Champa, Kawardha. These districts experience high rates of out-migration due to limited economic opportunities and inadequate rural infrastructure (DRDA Office, Durg, 2006).

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents a brief literature review. In section 3, we discuss the data and methodology used. Section 4 discusses the migration scenario in Chhattisgarh. In section 5, we discuss our concluding remarks. We also included a few policy options in section 5.

2. Literature Review

In the state of Chhattisgarh, which has a large tribal population, an agricultural economy and limited industry, migration has been a major economic driver. Since rural migrants are not a homogeneous group, the nature and patterns of migration vary within social groups (Mitra and Murayama, 2008). Migration is often influenced by social and developmental patterns. One of the most important causes of migration is uneven development. There are also differences



between regions and between different economic classes. The landless poor constitute a significant portion of the migrant population and mostly come from lower castes, indigenous communities and economically backward areas.

Internal migration refers to population movement across a political or administrative boundary, which means changing the usual place of residence. The notion of internal migration-rural-to-urban-captured the interest of both academics and policymakers only after the ground breaking contribution of Lewis in 1954. Availability of good quality arable land still remains among the most powerful economic factors that determines both the size and direction of population migration.

Chhattisgarh stands out as a vital case study for examining migration, particularly among indigenous populations, for two key reasons. Firstly, the state's southern region has historically played a pivotal role in understanding India's tribal communities and their interactions with mainstream society. Secondly, Chhattisgarh serves as the epicentre of the Naxalite insurgency, a conflict that has significantly influenced migration dynamics and displacement patterns within the state.

A distinction must be made between migration and displacement, particularly in cases of forceful internal movement. While migration can include both voluntary and involuntary elements, driven by a mix of pull (opportunity) and push (necessity) factors, displacement is exclusively a result of push factors. Displacement occurs due to political crises, ethnic conflicts, natural disasters, or development-induced pressures, compelling people to leave their homes against their will. Internally Displaced People (IDPs) differ from refugees in that they relocate within their country's borders rather than crossing into another nation.

In Chhattisgarh, displacement has been exacerbated by political conflict between state authorities and the Naxalite insurgency. Counter-insurgency measures, such as the creation of the Salwa Judum, a state-supported anti-Naxalite movement, led to widespread displacement of civilians. Entire areas in regions like Bhairamgarh, Geedam, and Bijapur were depopulated under police and administrative supervision. According to official estimates, approximately 15,000 people from 420 villages were forced into temporary camps, where they lived as



refugees. Regular economic activities, such as weekly haats (markets), ceased, and the area was militarized with new roads and paramilitary stations, effectively transforming it into a cantonment. This displacement has had far-reaching impacts on the livelihoods and cultural fabric of the affected communities, as highlighted in the IDMC report (February 2006)².

The literature highlights the deep interconnection between migration and the socio-economic realities of Chhattisgarh. Addressing migration challenges requires a multi-pronged approach that combines better infrastructure, local employment generation, and effective implementation of welfare schemes. The policies should focus on creating sustainable livelihoods in rural areas to reduce the push factors driving migration.

3. Data and Methodology

This research paper draws its insights from a wide range of secondary data sources and incorporates qualitative reflections from interactions with local communities. The secondary data has been obtained from credible resources, including Government Reports and Statistics Publications by the State Government and other official bodies, Civil Society Assessments which includes analyses and field reports by non-governmental organizations. Media sources, articles and features from magazines and newspapers offering socio-economic perspectives have also been considered. These sources have been supplemented by informal interactions with individuals and groups, enabling the inclusion of lived experiences and local perspectives in the study.

By integrating comprehensive secondary data with qualitative insights from community interactions, this study seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of migration in Chhattisgarh. The findings reflect the enduring relevance of rural-to-rural and intra-state migration, driven by the interplay of tradition, economic necessity, and socio-cultural dynamics. This approach ensures a well-rounded analysis that captures both statistical trends and human experiences.

² INDIA: Tens of thousands newly displaced in northeastern and central states A profile of the internal displacement situation 9 February, 2006 , report by Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre



4. Migration Scenario in Chhattisgarh

Migration is both a historical and contemporary human phenomenon, deeply rooted in socio-economic and cultural contexts. Across time and geography, there has been no period or society untouched by migration. However, the scale, nature, and implications of migration vary greatly: Large-scale migrations often occur due to economic opportunities, natural disasters, or conflicts. Migration can range from voluntary movements in search of better livelihoods to forced displacements caused by crises. It impacts individuals, families, and societies differently, reshaping demographics, economies, and cultural dynamics. In 2001, India's population was recorded at 1,029 million, of which 307 million (30%) were reported as migrants by place of birth. This figure increased to 315 million (31%) when migration was defined by the place of last residence.

Migration is classified based on direction and distance. Under the internal migration, four streams are identified: (a) rural to rural (R-R); (b) rural to urban (R-U); (c) urban to urban (U-U); (d) urban to rural (U-R). There are four primary types of migration direction-wise: Rural-to-Rural Migration: This is the most common form of migration, particularly in agrarian states like Chhattisgarh, where people move between villages for agricultural work or better living conditions. Rural-to-Urban Migration: Workers migrating to cities in search of employment in industries or services is a growing trend. Urban-to-Rural Migration: This includes reverse migration, often observed during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, where urban workers return to rural areas. Urban-to-Urban Migration: Movement between cities, typically for professional opportunities or lifestyle improvements.

Migration is also categorized based on the distance travelled. Intra-State Migration, predominantly observed in Chhattisgarh, involves people moving within the state, usually from rural to rural areas or rural to urban centres. Inter-State Migration, beyond state boundaries, often to metropolitan hubs like Mumbai, Delhi, or Bangalore, is less common but significant in certain cases.



The emphasis of this research is on understanding the **dominance of rural-to-rural migration** and the **prevalence of intra-state movements** in Chhattisgarh. These trends highlight the socio-economic characteristics of the state, where agriculture and allied activities remain primary livelihood sources. The analysis also considers how systemic factors, such as regional disparities, lack of infrastructure, and social networks, influence migration patterns.

(i) Gross decadal percentage of intra and inter-state migration of Chhattisgarh (2011)

Table 1 provides a detailed analysis of migration patterns in Chhattisgarh, highlighting out-migration to other states and internal migration within the state. The data captures the distribution of inter-district and intra-district migrants within the state boundaries. The key findings shows that the inter-state out-migration in Chhattisgarh which is a total of 6,93,632 individuals who migrated out of Chhattisgarh to other states, accounts for 8.41% of the total migration. The data on intra-state migration reflects that the majority of migration occurred within Chhattisgarh itself, with 91.59% of migrants (equivalent to 75,54,503 individuals) moving internally. The breakdown of intra-state migration which includes inter-district migration shows that approximately 28.68% of intra-state migrants (21,66,862 individuals) moved between districts. Intra-district migration in Chhattisgarh shows a significant 71.32% of intra-state migrants (53,87,641 individuals) relocated within the same district.

The data reflects that migration in Chhattisgarh is predominantly intra-state, with the majority of individuals relocating within their home districts or to neighbouring districts. In contrast, inter-state migration accounts for a smaller proportion, underscoring the localized nature of mobility in the state. This trend may be attributed to socio-economic and cultural factors, including strong rural ties and localized livelihood opportunities. By presenting migration data in a clear and structured manner, this analysis provides valuable insights into the mobility patterns of Chhattisgarh's population as of 2011.



Table: 1 Distribution of Inter-state and Intra-state Migrants and Distribution of Inter-District and Intra-District Migrants (in percentage)

Region	Inter-State	Intra-State	Inter-District	Intra-District
Chhattisgarh	8.41	91.59	28.68	71.32
All India	12.06	87.94	29.86	70.14

Source: Calculated using Census 2011, D-3

(ii) Reasons for Out-Migration: Trends in Chhattisgarh Compared to National Trends

Migration reasons serve as a key indicator of a region's socio-economic development and can highlight disparities in opportunities and resources (Sarkar, 2014). In Chhattisgarh, out-migration patterns reflect broader trends observed across economically less developed states, aligning with findings in migration literature at the national level. Recent research on migration in India highlights that employment-related out-migration is particularly dominant in the Empowered Action Group (EAG) states, which include Chhattisgarh (Sarkar, 2019). These states, characterized by lower-income levels and limited industrialization, often experience high out-migration rates as individuals seek better livelihood opportunities in more developed regions. Census 2011 D-Series Data confirms that migration for employment purposes is significantly higher in states like Chhattisgarh compared to more developed regions of India. Studies (Bhagat, 2009; Chandrasekhar & Sharma, 2014) suggest that the outflow of working-age individuals from these states leads to the loss of human capital, which hampers long-term socio-economic development.

Migration trends in Chhattisgarh, as in the rest of India, display distinct gender-specific patterns. **Male migration** is dominated by **employment-related reasons**, including job search and labour opportunities in sectors such as construction, agriculture, and manufacturing. The lack of sufficient employment opportunities within the state pushes men to migrate to urban and industrial hubs in neighbouring states or metropolitan areas. **Female Migration** is predominantly driven by **marriage**, a trend that is culturally and socially prevalent across India.



Women's migration for work remains significantly lower, although it is gradually increasing in urban sectors. Analysing these patterns separately for men and women is crucial, as aggregate data may obscure the underlying causes and create a biased understanding of migration trends.

When compared to national figures, Chhattisgarh reflects a sharper divide between employment-driven male migration and marriage-driven female migration. The share of men migrating for employment reasons is relatively higher in Chhattisgarh than the national average, reflecting the state's economic challenges. The proportion of women migrating for marriage in Chhattisgarh aligns closely with the all-India trend, suggesting the influence of cultural norms across states.

High out-migration rates for employment in Chhattisgarh underscore the lack of local opportunities and point to the need for targeted interventions to create jobs within the state. While male migration impacts the workforce dynamics, female migration due to marriage influences demographic patterns, particularly in rural areas. The dual pressures of human capital loss and an underdeveloped local economy place Chhattisgarh in a vulnerable position, necessitating comprehensive development strategies.

Table: 2 Reasons for Migration among Male Migrants in Chhattisgarh and All India (in percentage)

Reasons for Migration	All India	Chhattisgarh
Work/Employment	23.96	46.61
Business	1.83	1.44
Education	2.26	2.26
Marriage	3.66	3.01
Moved after birth	13.74	5.39
Moved with household	20.31	25.70
Others	34.24	15.58
Total	100	100

Source: Calculated using Census-2011, D-3



Table 2 highlights the reasons for migration among male migrants across India, with a specific focus on the state of Chhattisgarh. The data reveals significant insights into the socio-economic realities of migration in the region. Nationally, 24% of male migrants move for work- or employment-related reasons. In Chhattisgarh, this figure is substantially higher, at 47%, more than double the all-India average. The high rate of employment-related migration in Chhattisgarh underscores the state's economic dependence on migration as a key livelihood strategy. This trend reflects limited local job opportunities, compelling a significant portion of the population to seek work outside the state.

Migration for business accounts for a mere 2% both at the national level and in Chhattisgarh. The parity with the national average suggests that entrepreneurship or business-related migration is not a significant driver for male migration in Chhattisgarh. This could be attributed to the lack of business ecosystems or support structures that encourage entrepreneurial activities. Migration for education, particularly higher education, is vital for developing human capital. The proportion of male migrants moving for education in Chhattisgarh mirrors the national average. Literature indicates that education-related migration often yields high returns in both source and destination job markets (Lucas, 1997; Kochar, 2004; Kundu, 2007). Migrants pursuing higher education are more likely to secure better opportunities and contribute to economic growth at both ends of the migration spectrum. Despite the parity with national trends, the data suggests that Chhattisgarh could benefit from targeted policies to enhance access to education and reduce the barriers to education-related migration.

The disproportionately high rate of employment-related migration in Chhattisgarh reflects its economic challenges and the reliance on external labour markets for livelihoods. The parity in education and business-related migration indicates areas where further development could align the state's potential with broader national aspirations. Policies aimed at improving local job opportunities, fostering entrepreneurship, and enhancing access to quality education could help reduce the state's dependence on migration as an economic strategy, ultimately contributing to more sustainable socio-economic development.



**Table: 3 Reasons for Migration among Female Migrants in Chhattisgarh and All India
(in percentage)**

Reasons for Migration	All India	Chhattisgarh
Work/Employment	2.06	8.93
Business	0.29	0.38
Education	0.70	0.71
Marriage	66.48	57.70
Moved after birth	4.45	2.32
Moved with household	11.72	20.56
Others	14.30	9.39
Total	100	100

Source: Calculated using Census-2011, D-3

Table 3 provides a comparative analysis of the reasons for migration among female migrants in Chhattisgarh and at the national level. The data reveals notable differences in migration patterns, shedding light on the unique socio-economic dynamics of the state. At the national level, only 2% of female migrant's report work- or employment-related reasons for migration. In Chhattisgarh, this figure is significantly higher, at 8.93%, more than four times the national average. The elevated rate of work-related migration among women in Chhattisgarh reflects a comparatively higher economic participation by women in the state. This trend may also indicate greater reliance on women's earnings in Chhattisgarh's households, especially in labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture and small-scale industries.

The proportion of women migrating for business-related reasons is marginal across India, with an all-India average of 0.29%. In Chhattisgarh, the rate is slightly higher, at 0.38%. Although business-related migration remains minimal for female migrants in Chhattisgarh, the slight increase above the national average could point to emerging entrepreneurial opportunities or a growing role for women in family-run businesses within the state.



Marriage remains the most dominant reason for female migration in India. Nationally, **66.48%** of female migration is attributed to marriage. In Chhattisgarh, this proportion is significantly lower, at **57.70%**. The reduced share of marriage-related migration in Chhattisgarh suggests a broader range of migration drivers for women, particularly employment, business, and household movement. It also highlights a more diversified socio-economic role for women in the state compared to the national average.

The lower propensity for marriage-related migration in Chhattisgarh can be attributed to the state's comparatively higher **work- and employment-related migration**. Women's participation in the labour force contributes significantly to this trend. **Business migration**, though minimal, it reflects evolving economic opportunities. The "moved with household" category indicates family-centric migration patterns, where women relocate as part of collective household decisions.

The data demonstrates that while marriage remains the primary driver of female migration in Chhattisgarh, its share is notably lower than the national average. In contrast, the state exhibits a higher prevalence of employment- and business-related migration among women, indicating their increasing involvement in economic activities. These trends suggest a shift in traditional migration patterns, with Chhattisgarh showing signs of socio-economic progress in terms of women's participation in the workforce and migration decisions. Policies aimed at further empowering women through skill development, entrepreneurship support, and access to employment opportunities could enhance these positive trends and reduce gender disparities in migration outcomes.

(iii) Migration Trends Among Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh

As previously noted, Chhattisgarh is among the states with the highest Scheduled Tribe (ST) populations in India, following the North-Eastern states. This makes it crucial to examine migration patterns within this community in detail. High poverty rates and socio-economic vulnerabilities among STs add significant complexity to the migration discourse in Chhattisgarh. According to the Tendulkar Methodology, 52.5% of the rural ST population in Chhattisgarh lived below the poverty line (BPL) in 2011-12 (Scheduled Tribe Statistical



Profile, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GOI)³. One of the key causes of migration is acute poverty and debt among the STs. The financial hardships faced by tribal communities compel many to seek better livelihood opportunities outside their home regions (Kujur and Minz, 2021). Alienation from traditional lands and resources further exacerbates their economic challenges. The lack of diversified job opportunities and reliance on low-paying, seasonal agricultural work often forces members of the ST community to migrate.

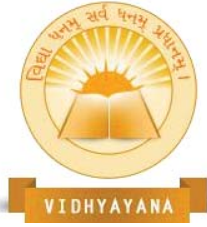
Women from tribal communities in Chhattisgarh are actively involved in migration and economic activities. Tribal societies in the state are noted for their relatively egalitarian social structure, where women are equal contributors to household income (Kumar and Deogharia, 2017). Tribal women frequently join the migrant workforce, often employed in sectors such as agriculture, construction, or domestic labour, highlighting their critical role in sustaining the household economy.

While inter-state migration data for the ST community is limited, available data and studies suggest that migration among STs is predominantly intra-state, with individuals moving from remote tribal areas to nearby districts or urban centres within Chhattisgarh. Reasons for intra-state migration include access to temporary or seasonal employment opportunities in industries or markets and better access to public services and infrastructure in urban or semi-urban areas.

Due to the unavailability of granular inter-state migration data specific to the ST community, this section focuses solely on intra-state migration patterns. The lack of comprehensive data on inter-state migration for STs makes it difficult to evaluate the full scope of their movement and the associated challenges.

The migration patterns of the Scheduled Tribe population in Chhattisgarh are deeply influenced by systemic poverty, limited economic opportunities, and resource alienation. Tribal women play an integral role in migration streams, contributing significantly to household economies. While intra-state migration remains the dominant trend, the absence of detailed inter-state migration data poses challenges for a complete understanding of this community's mobility.

³ <https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/Statistics/Statistics8518.pdf>



Addressing these issues requires targeted policies that focus on poverty alleviation, resource access, and sustainable local employment opportunities, ensuring that migration becomes a choice rather than a necessity for tribal communities in Chhattisgarh.

(iv) Reasons for Intra-State Migration Among Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh

Table 4 highlights the reasons for intra-state migration among Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in Chhattisgarh, disaggregated by gender. The data reveals distinct patterns for male and female migrants, reflecting the socio-economic and cultural dynamics of the region.

Among male ST migrants, 28.14% migrate for work or employment, making it the most dominant reason for their mobility within the state. This underscores the reliance on intra-state migration as a livelihood strategy in Chhattisgarh, especially in labor-intensive sectors such as agriculture, construction, and small-scale industries. A noteworthy 8.69% of male migrants cite education as the reason for migration. This highlights the growing recognition of education's importance within tribal communities, as well as their aspirations for upward socio-economic mobility. A significant proportion of male migrants fall under the "moved with household" category, indicating that family-based migration is a prevalent practice. This trend reflects the cohesive nature of tribal societies, where migration decisions are often collective.

Migration due to marriage remains the predominant reason for intra-state mobility among ST women, consistent with broader trends across India. This cultural practice drives a majority of female migration within the state. While a smaller percentage of women migrate for work or employment compared to men, their active participation in the labour force is still noteworthy, reflecting the relatively egalitarian structure of tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. Tribal women also migrate for educational purposes, although the proportion is limited. This reflects incremental progress in educational access and the growing role of education in shaping migration decisions for women in tribal societies.



Table :4 Reason for Intra-State Male and Female Migration among ST Community (in Percentage) in Chhattisgarh

Reasons for Migration	Male	Female
Work/Employment	28.14	2.06
Business	0.16	0.10
Education	8.69	1.98
Marriage	9.95	81.21
Moved after birth	6.11	1.16
Moved with household	22.07	7.07
Others	24.88	6.43
Total	100	100

Source: Compiled from Census 2011, D-3 (ST)

These findings highlight the socio-economic aspirations of ST communities in Chhattisgarh, as well as the role of cultural norms in shaping migration patterns. Policies aimed at improving local employment opportunities, enhancing access to education, and supporting women's participation in the workforce could further empower tribal communities and reduce the necessity of migration as a survival strategy.

(v) Leading Destination States for Inter-State Migrants from Chhattisgarh

This analysis identifies the primary destination states for inter-state migrants originating from Chhattisgarh. The data indicates that the majority of migrants move to neighbouring states, reflecting regional proximity and shared socio-economic ties.

Table 5 highlights the top states attracting inter-state migrants from Chhattisgarh, with the following breakdown. Maharashtra is the most popular destination, accounting for 26.17% of inter-state migrants. The second-largest destination is Madhya Pradesh drawing 19.66% of migrants, likely due to its historical and geographical connection with Chhattisgarh. Odisha



receives 13.07% of migrants, reflecting cultural and economic linkages. Uttar Pradesh accounts for 10.74% of migrants, demonstrating its significance as a migration destination. Undivided Andhra Pradesh (as per Census 2011) attracts 4.96% of migrants, showcasing its importance for employment opportunities during the time. Jharkhand hosts 4.84% of migrants, likely due to industrial employment prospects and its adjacency to Chhattisgarh.

Table: 5 Major Destination States for Inter-State Migrants from Chhattisgarh

Major Receiving States	Absolute Number	Percentage
Maharashtra	76,571	26.17
Madhya Pradesh	57,514	19.66
Odisha	38,256	13.07
Uttar Pradesh	31,435	10.75
Andhra Pradesh	14,517	4.96
Jharkhand	14,151	4.84
Gujarat	8,786	3.00
Rest of India	51,378	17.56
Total	2,92,608	100

Source: Compiled from Census 2011, D-13 (0-9 Years Duration of Residence)

The migration trends indicate that Chhattisgarhi migrants predominantly move to neighboring states such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, driven by geographic proximity, cultural affinity, and economic opportunities. This pattern underscores the importance of regional integration and cross-border labour dynamics in shaping migration flows from Chhattisgarh.

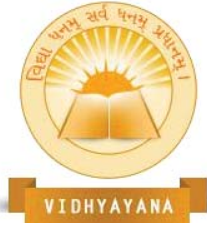


Concluding Remark

The reasons for migration in Chhattisgarh reflect its socio-economic realities and are consistent with trends observed in other EAG states. Employment remains the dominant driver for male out-migration, while marriage accounts for the majority of female migration. Understanding these trends in detail is essential for designing policies aimed at reducing economic disparities and fostering inclusive development within the state. Migration is a persistent and common phenomenon in Chhattisgarh, driven by a lack of year-round employment, poverty, and inadequate rural development. The combination of seasonal agricultural work, low industrial presence, and socio-economic challenges forces many individuals to migrate to urban centres or other states. Addressing these structural issues through enhanced irrigation, promotion of small industries, and improved educational opportunities could reduce the state's dependence on migration as a survival strategy.

The state of Chhattisgarh lags behind on various parameters of development. The Census 2011 D-series data on migration clearly establish that the rate of out-migration for males and females from the state for economic reasons such as 'work and employment' is more than double the all-India figure, reflecting the economic dependence on migration in the state. The paper also shows trends in reason-specific intra-state migration for the ST community. It is well-known that migrants from poor and backward states prefer more industrialised and urbanised states, but their choice of destinations has also evolved in a historical process. Thus, the preferred destination states vary; it is observed that for the migrants the most preferred destination state is Maharashtra for migrants from Chhattisgarh. One implication of high migration rates from the poorer states is that they are losing the human capital needed for their development (Bhagat 2009; Chandrasekhar and Sharma 2014). However, it can also be argued that economic migration benefits these states by reducing unemployment and gaining remittances

Migration in Chhattisgarh reflects and perpetuates socio-economic inequalities, necessitating a comprehensive approach to address its challenges. A holistic strategy should focus on rural development, infrastructure improvements, and policy reforms to support migrant workers both at their points of origin and destinations. Current interventions, such as **Chhattisgarh Skill**



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Development Mission, aim to reduce migration by enhancing local employment opportunities (GoCG Annual Report, 2021). Additionally, the **One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC)** scheme ensures access to subsidized food grains for migrant workers in destination states, easing their economic burden. Establishing a robust migrant worker database can further strengthen policymaking and targeted support initiatives. Promoting local employment through rural industries, sustainable agriculture, and allied activities like dairy farming can significantly reduce migration pressures. Furthermore, providing affordable housing and healthcare facilities for migrants at their destination can improve living conditions, ensuring migration becomes a choice rather than a necessity for the people of Chhattisgarh.



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