



The Pull Factors Driving Migration, Immigration And Infiltration From Bangladesh To West Bengal

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Abstract:

This study explores the pull factors that drive migration, immigration and infiltration from Bangladesh to West Bengal, India. This paper refers that infiltration is mentioned here in two perspectives. Those who are entered in West Bengal, India based on various pull factors. In another, those who are engaged in terrorist activities. After 5th August, the political phenomenon of Bangladesh became more terrible and horrible. Retrospectively, this incident has given bad impact on West Bengal, in case of immigration. The research identifies verity of Migration, such as employment prospects in agriculture, industry, and informal sectors, as key drivers. The proximity of the two regions, along with shared cultural and linguistic ties, also plays a significant role in encouraging migration. Additionally, the availability of better healthcare, education, and living standards in West Bengal compared to rural areas of Bangladesh further strengthens its attractiveness. The historical, social, and political relationships between the two regions contribute to a sense of familiarity and ease for migrants. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of these pull factors.

(Keywords: Pull Factors, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Cross-border Infiltration, Migration, Impact etc.)

Introduction: Migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal has been a long-standing phenomenon, influenced by a variety of socio-economic, cultural, and political factors. This movement, which primarily occurs across the porous Indo-Bangladesh border, is driven by the appeal of better opportunities and improved living standards. While much attention has been paid to the pull factors—such as economic Opportunity, political willingness, and same culture —this study focuses on the *pull factors* that attract individuals and families to migrate to West Bengal.

Pull Factors:

- **Porous, Easily, Proximity and Accessibility Negotiable Border with Bangladesh**
- **High Growth of Population & Population Density in Bangladesh**
- **Sharp Deterioration in the Land-Man Ratio in Bangladesh**
- **Better Economic Opportunities in West Bengal**
- **Better Healthcare Facilities in West Bengal**
- **Educational Opportunities**
- **Political Stability and Opportunities**
- **Interesting religious elements encouraging immigration from Bangladesh to West Bengal**
- **Co-related Socio-culture and Language**
- **Better opportunities to get shelter after infiltration**
- **Humanitarian and Refugee Movement**
- **Foreign act specifically CAA**
- **language barrier**
- **Corruption**
- **poor economic status**

One of the most significant pull factors driving migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal is the **porous and easily negotiable border** between the two regions. India shares a total of 14,880km land borders, with the neighbouring countries, within West Bengal share with Bangladesh 2230km, about 843.59km rivers and has a coastline that stretch across 7516km, even without no fencing nearabout 850km. The boarder is characterized by a mix of natural and man-made barriers, but it remains highly pervious in many areas.

Geographical Proximity: West Bengal shares a long border with Bangladesh, which makes

migration more feasible, especially in rural areas. The proximity allows easier movement, both legally and illegally, across the border.

Transportation Links: Improved transportation infrastructure, including bus, train, and road networks between Bangladesh and West Bengal, makes the migration process more convenient and affordable.

Another significant pull factor driving migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal is the high **population growth** and resulting population density within Bangladesh. With a population exceeding 160 million in a relatively small geographical area, Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

In West Bengal, migrants from Bangladesh can find work in various sectors, including agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and the informal economy. Additionally, the relatively lower cost of living compared to larger Indian cities makes West Bengal an attractive alternative.

Thus, the population pressures in Bangladesh—both in terms of growth and density—serve as a key pull factor, encouraging migration to West Bengal in search of better economic prospects and a higher standard of living.

A critical pull factor driving migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal is the **sharp deterioration in the land-man ratio in Bangladesh**. This refers to the decreasing amount of arable land available per person, which has been exacerbated by rapid population growth, urbanization, and environmental challenges such as flooding, river erosion, and soil degradation. The land-man ratio in Bangladesh is estimated to be 0.06 hectares per person, which is among the lowest in the world. So that Bangladeshi people continue to infiltrate West Bengal.

West Bengal has more stable land-man ratio and better opportunities for land-based livelihoods. West Bengal's agricultural regions offer larger and more productive plots of land, alongside opportunities in urban centres where industrial and service sector jobs are more plentiful. Additionally, the availability of land in West Bengal for agriculture or settlement is often seen as more accessible compared to the increasingly crowded and less fertile lands in Bangladesh.

Another significant pull factors driving migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal are the **availability of better healthcare facilities, economic opportunities, and educational scopes**. While Bangladesh has made significant strides in recent decades, many rural and urban areas continue to face economic challenges, including limited job opportunities, low wages, and underdeveloped infrastructure. In contrast, West Bengal offers more diversified and developed economic prospects that attract migrants seeking improved livelihoods. The better economic prospects in West Bengal, through both the availability of jobs and the promise of a higher standard of living, are key motivators for Bangladeshis seeking to improve their economic status and overall quality of life.

Many Bangladeshis also struggle to obtain adequate medical care, especially in remote or economically disadvantaged regions. In opposite, West Bengal offers more advanced healthcare services, making it a prime destination for those seeking improved medical treatment and services. In urban areas like Kolkata, West Bengal boasts a wide range of well-established hospitals, clinics, and healthcare institutions, many of which offer specialized services that may not be readily available in Bangladesh. These include advanced medical technologies, better-trained healthcare professionals, and a higher standard of care. In Bangladesh, especially those living in rural areas or urban slums, seeking medical care often involves significant challenges, including long travel distances, inadequate facilities, and high costs for private treatment. In West Bengal, the relative proximity, advanced medical facilities, and lower treatment costs in comparison to more developed countries make healthcare more accessible. As a result, many Bangladeshis migrate in search of better medical services, whether for regular health check-ups, surgeries, or treatment for chronic diseases.

Better education system: West Bengal offers not only better economic opportunities and health care facilities but also a suitable educational scopes

West Bengal is home to prestigious universities, schools, and educational institutions. Students from Bangladesh often migrate to access quality education in fields like engineering, medicine, and humanities, along with opportunities for scholarships and affordable fees. Institutions like Jadavpur University, Presidency University, Calcutta University, and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) attract students from Bangladesh seeking globally recognized degrees.

Political environment: West Bengal offers relatively better political stability and security, compared to parts of Bangladesh, which have faced political unrest, violence, and corruption. This has made West Bengal an attractive destination for migrants seeking peace and stability.

Social services and welfare programs: The Indian government and West Bengal's state authorities provide various services, subsidies, and welfare programs, which can attract migrants seeking better living conditions or access to healthcare and education.

Stability in India: While Bangladesh has gone through political instability, economic crises, and periods of violence, India, particularly West Bengal, offers a more stable political environment. This security attracts migrants seeking safety and a better quality of life.

Religious and Political Freedom: Some Bangladeshis, particularly religious minorities (like Hindus), migrate to West Bengal in search of greater religious freedom and tolerance.

interesting religious elements encouraging immigration from Bangladesh to West Bengal

Migration from **Bangladesh to West Bengal** depend on a variety of **pull factors**. **Religious elements** are one of the pull factors. It is particularly significant in encouraging such movement. **Religious elements** shared cultural, linguistic, and religious ties between Bangladesh and West Bengal. It often forms West Bengal as an attractive destination for Bangladeshi migrants finding better religious and spiritual opportunities. All religious festivals are celebrated in West Bengal peacefully.

Such as **Eid, Durga Puja, Muharram, Shab-e-Barat, Pohela Boishakh, and Kali Puja** with great enthusiasm.

The majority of people in both **Bangladesh** and **West Bengal** follow **Islamic** and **Hindu religions**. The religious, cultural, and linguistic equalities between the two regions create it easier for people to move and integrate into the social fabric of West Bengal. The **Bengali culture** (including festivals, food, music, and religious practices) builds a sense of willing and ease. it makes migration a natural choice for many religious people seeking community and religious mobilization.

Religious Peace and Safety: Many religious groups from Bangladesh, particularly religious minorities, migrate to West Bengal seeking a **safe and peaceful environment** to practice their faith without fear of persecution. West Bengal's environment of **religious pluralism** provides a level of comfort and security for those seeking protection from religious intolerance or violence that may have been experienced back home. In present situation of Bangladesh, we notice that the Muslim Fundamentalists express their aggressive nature of violence on the minorities.

Co-related Socio-culture and Language

Bengali is the common and main language spoken by the people in both Bangladesh and West Bengal. This linguistic unity builds up a facilitated environment for Bangladeshi to infiltrate West Bengal. Especially in two regions, having same socio-cultural activities, there are many similarities seen between them.

Better opportunities to get shelter after infiltration

One of the main reasons of infiltration is to get a better and suitable shelter. In this paper better shelter allures that the support of political leader, a group of infiltrators and relatives. Here relatives mean to the closest people of infiltrators.

Social Networks

Established Diaspora Communities: There are already significant Bangladeshi communities in West Bengal, particularly in urban centres like Kolkata. These existing social networks provide support, such as accommodation, job information, and social connections, which make it easier for new migrants to settle. **EXAMPLE RESENDLY SONARPUR FIVE BANGLADESHI ARE ARESTED THOSE WHO ARE IMIGRANT AND TAKE A JOB IN A TEXTILE MIL**

Family Reunification: Many migrants from Bangladesh move to join family members already residing in West Bengal, often motivated by the desire to reunite with loved ones.

Organized Immigration Tools and Political Party: A group of people assist immigrated Bangladeshis through a exchange of money. They also help Bangladeshi people in making of the fake Aadhar card, voter card and pan card. **Example recently from Basirhat a contractual postman are arested for fack passport scam.**

The ruling Political party unwillingly has supported legal and illegal migrants in case of making their identity proofs. The party is received an advantage to get more votes from these migrants. **Example 24- year- old sajibul islam and 26- year- old mustakin mondal are arrested from murshidabad. they are residents of nowda's durlabhpur village and bhola village, respectively.**

Humanitarian and Refugee Movement

Refugee Status: In some cases, migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal has been driven by crises such as natural disasters (e.g., floods, cyclones) or political unrest. West Bengal, being geographically close, often becomes a haven for displaced individuals seeking refuge.

Government Assistance and Policies: At times, the Indian government and NGOs have provided support to refugees and displaced people, which further encourages migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal.

Efficient Technical Border Management west Bengal & Bangladesh boarder are vulnerable for in the context of Technical Boarder Management.

If you're asking about efficient technical border management or effective border management in a technical sense (possibly referring to the management of migration or border control through technology and systems), I can certainly help with that. Technical Border Management usually refers to the systems, tools, and processes employed to oversee and control borders using technology, data systems, and infrastructure.

Efficient **technical border management** plays a crucial role in managing migration, ensuring national security, and facilitating the smooth and safe movement of people and goods across borders. Below are some key points that relate to **efficient technical border management** and its pull factors.

Insufficient Technical Border Management (likely referring to **efficient technical border management**), **technology-driven solutions** play a crucial role in controlling migration while ensuring security and humanitarian needs are met. Advanced systems, such as biometric verification, AI-based predictive modelling, data analytics, and e-governance, help streamline and improve the process of managing migration flows, particularly in regions like **West Bengal** where migration from **Bangladesh** is significant.

If you meant something different by "Sufficient" please clarify, and I'd be happy to adjust the explanation to meet your query more closely!

Citizenship Amendments: In recent years, Indian political policies, particularly around the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**, have had a significant influence on migration. The CAA, which offers citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, has led to mixed reactions in West Bengal. While some see it as a welcoming gesture

for minority communities, others view it as a political tool to shift demographics. This has contributed to increased migration flows as some individuals in Bangladesh's minority communities seek refuge in India.

The language barrier between the **Border Security Force (BSF)** and the local populations along the India-Bangladesh border, as well as the general push factors driving migration from Bangladesh to West Bengal, is a complex issue. While the BSF is tasked with securing the border, its lack of fluency in local languages like Bengali can make its interactions with local residents and migrants more difficult. This communication gap often leads to tensions, misunderstandings, and potentially escalates migration pressures as people from Bangladesh seek to cross into West Bengal for better opportunities.

Corruption within the **Border Security Force (BSF)** contributes to **illegal migration** from Bangladesh to West Bengal by **facilitating illegal border crossings** and creating an environment where **vulnerable migrants** are exploited. The presence of corruption exacerbates existing **push factors** such as economic hardship, political instability, environmental disasters, and the search for better opportunities in West Bengal. While corruption in the BSF does not directly drive migration, it creates **loopholes** that allow migrants to cross borders more easily and often without facing the consequences they would under normal enforcement. This complex interaction of **corruption and migration drivers** presents significant challenges for both Bangladesh and India in managing migration and securing their shared border.

In west Bengal, many boarder districts are considered to have a poor economic status– they have helped to theme (those who are Immigrant). EXAMPLE – IN 2024, THREE BANGLADESHIS ARE ARRESTED BY BSF FROM HINGALGANJ.

Conclusion:

The Immigration from Bangladesh to West Bengal is driven by a combination of economic, social, and environmental pull factors that make the region an attractive destination. Economically, West Bengal offers better job opportunities, higher wages, and a relatively stable market for agricultural and industrial employment. Many migrants are drawn by the potential for a higher standard of living, with access to more developed infrastructure and public services compared to rural areas in Bangladesh. Additionally, the proximity of West Bengal to Bangladesh, sharing similar cultural and linguistic ties, eases the process of relocation and integration, allowing migrants to feel a sense of community and familiarity.

Social factors, such as the availability of better healthcare and educational opportunities for children, also play a significant role. Migrants often perceive the quality of life in West Bengal as being superior, with better access to public services and urban amenities. Furthermore, political stability in West Bengal, in contrast to the occasional political unrest and economic hardships in Bangladesh, is an important pull factor that assures safety and security for migrants.

Environmental factors, such as frequent natural disasters in Bangladesh, including floods and cyclones, also push people towards the relative safety of West Bengal. Combined, these economic, social, and environmental factors create a compelling case for migration, driving many Bangladeshis to West Bengal in search of improved opportunities and a better quality of life. The migration trend continues as people seek to better their futures in a region that offers both familiarity and growth potential.

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