

Migration and Urban Transition in India: Implications for Development

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The context

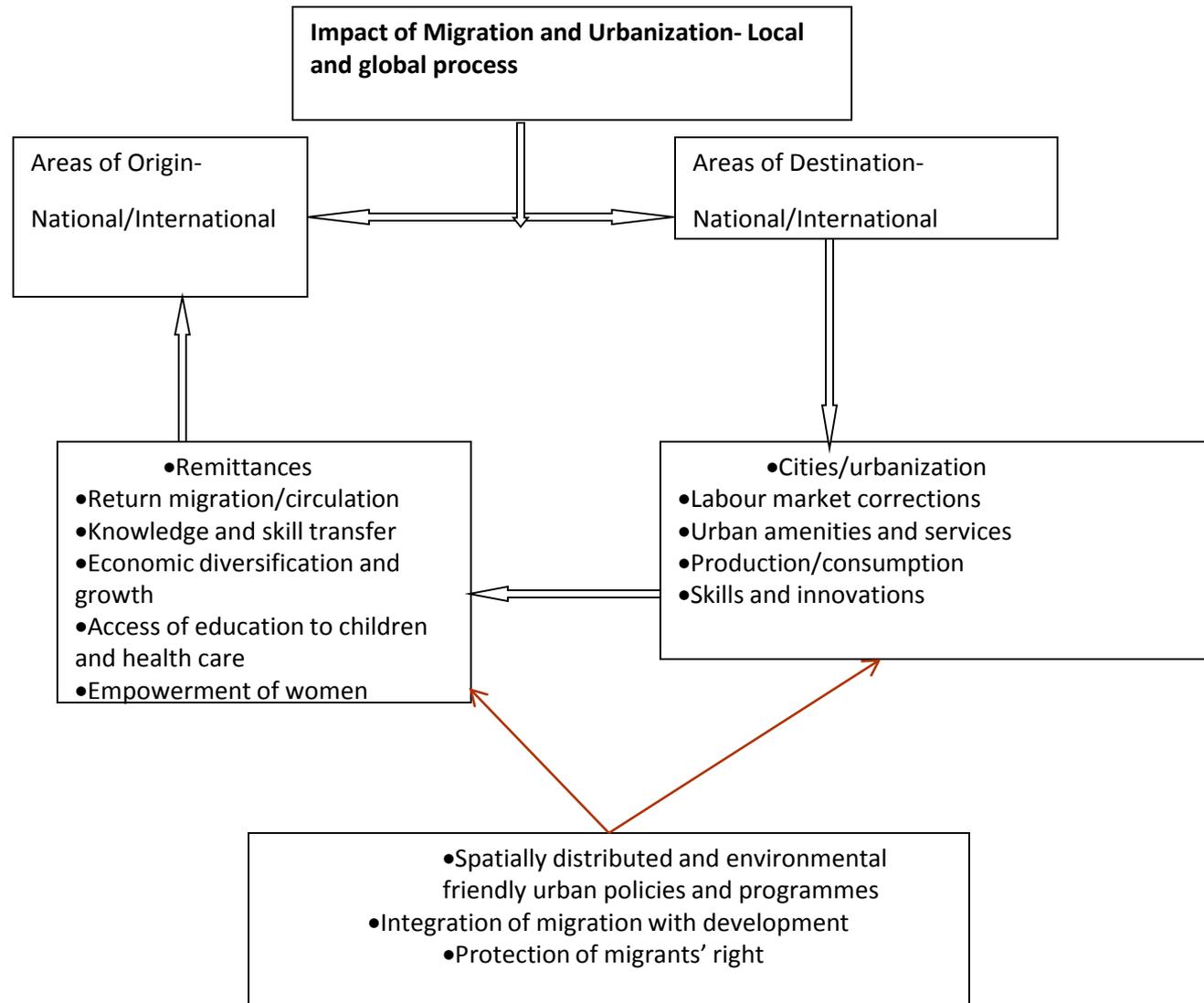
- Migration both internal and international has been a contested issue.
- There has been a dominant view that migration- particularly rural to urban migration should be reduced.
- Linkage between migration and urbanization- taking a different trajectory in developing countries compared to developed world.

UN Initiatives

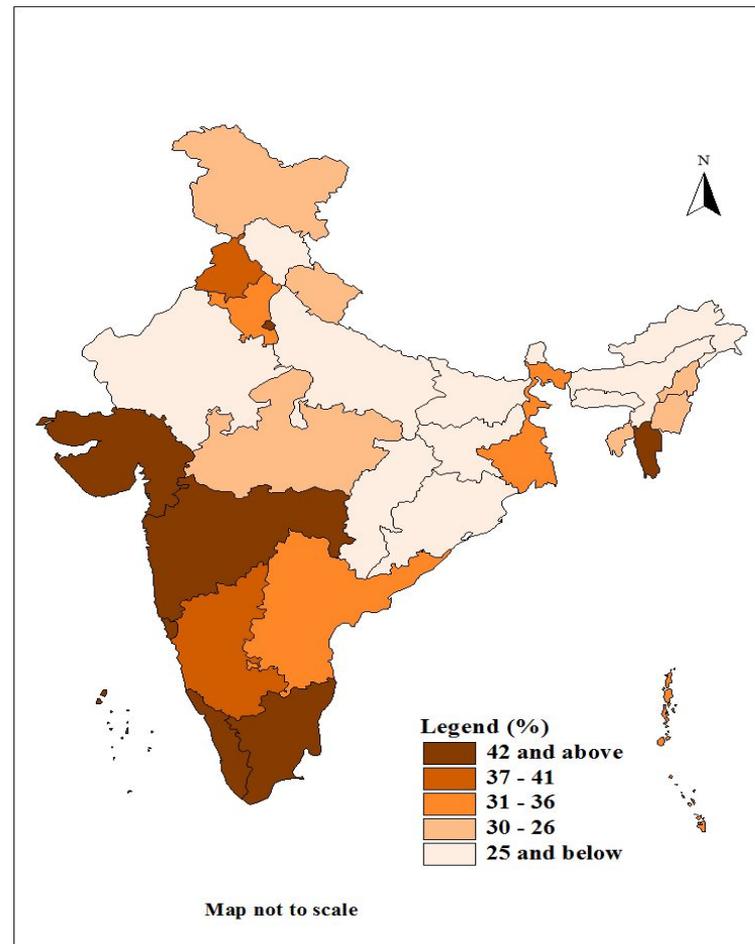
- The ICPD held in 1994 recognized the profound impact of urbanization for livelihood, way of life and values of individuals.
- ICPD further stressed that orderly international migration helps the countries of origin with remittances while benefitting the destination countries with human resources. It also argued to facilitate the return of migrants and their reintegration in home countries.
- However, MDGs were largely silent on the issue of migration.
- On the other hand, SDGs have taken up issues of migration and urbanization in a very articulate way.
- Goal 8: 'Economic Growth and Decent Work' recommends to protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

- Goal 10 ‘Reduce Inequality within and among Countries’ suggests to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
- Goal 17 in respect with ‘Global Partnership’ acknowledges data gaps in the field of migration and recommends to strengthen disaggregated data including migratory status.
- The New Urban Agenda reaffirms the objectives of SDGs in achieving sustainable cities and urbanization. It acknowledges that safe, orderly and regular migration through planned and well-managed migration policies enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities and strengthen urban-rural linkages

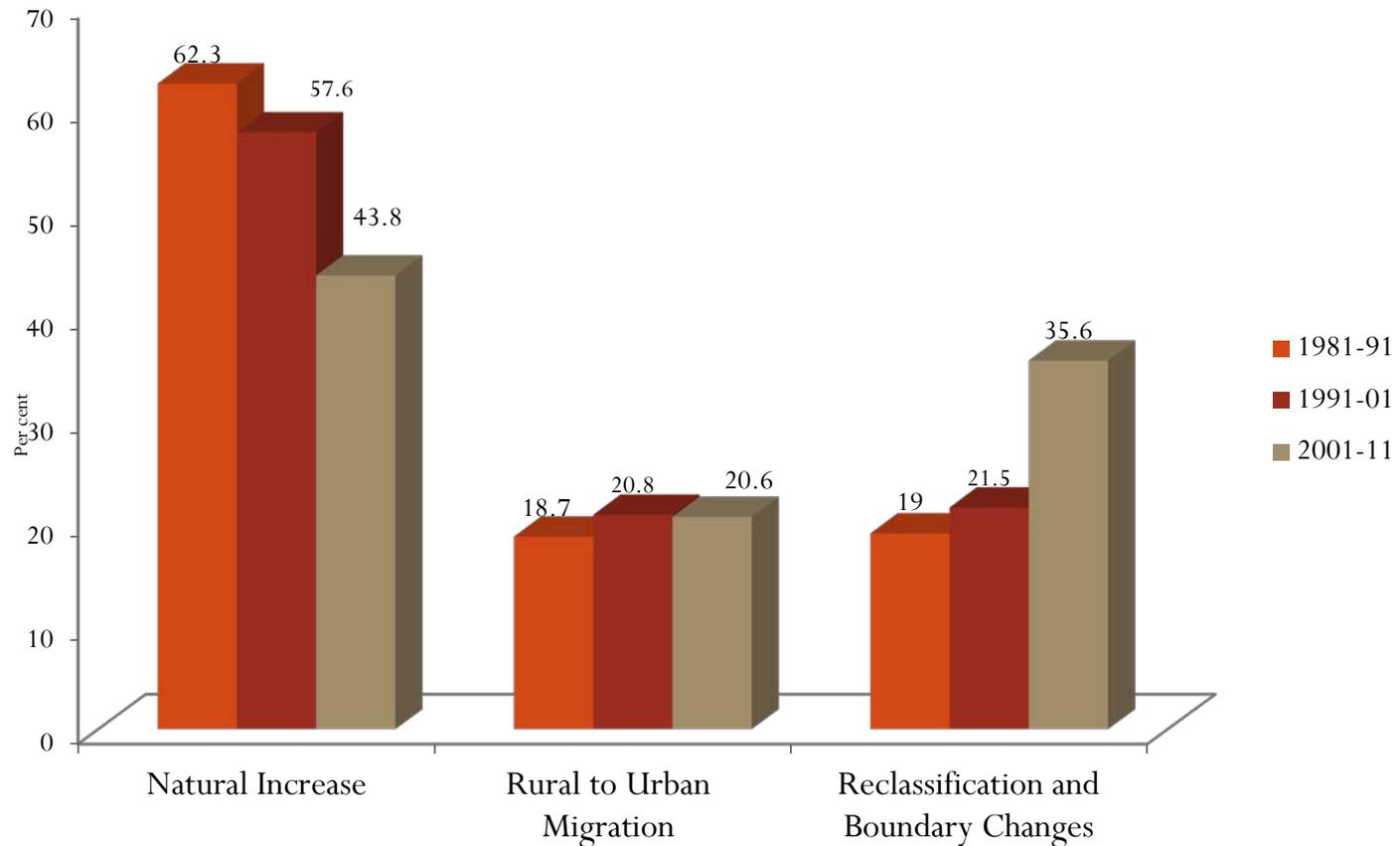
Pathways of the impact of migration and urbanization on development



Level of urbanization, 2011

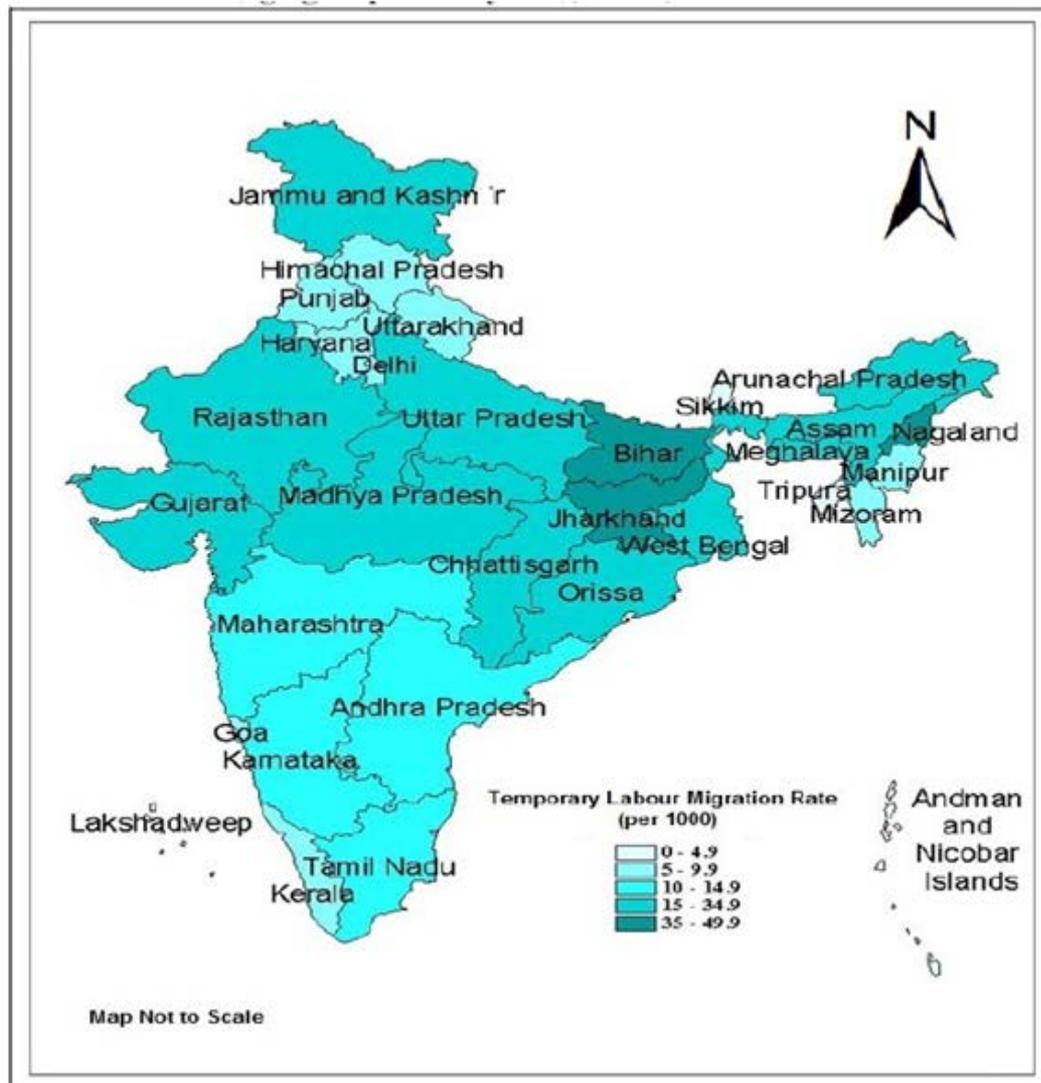


Components of urban growth, India



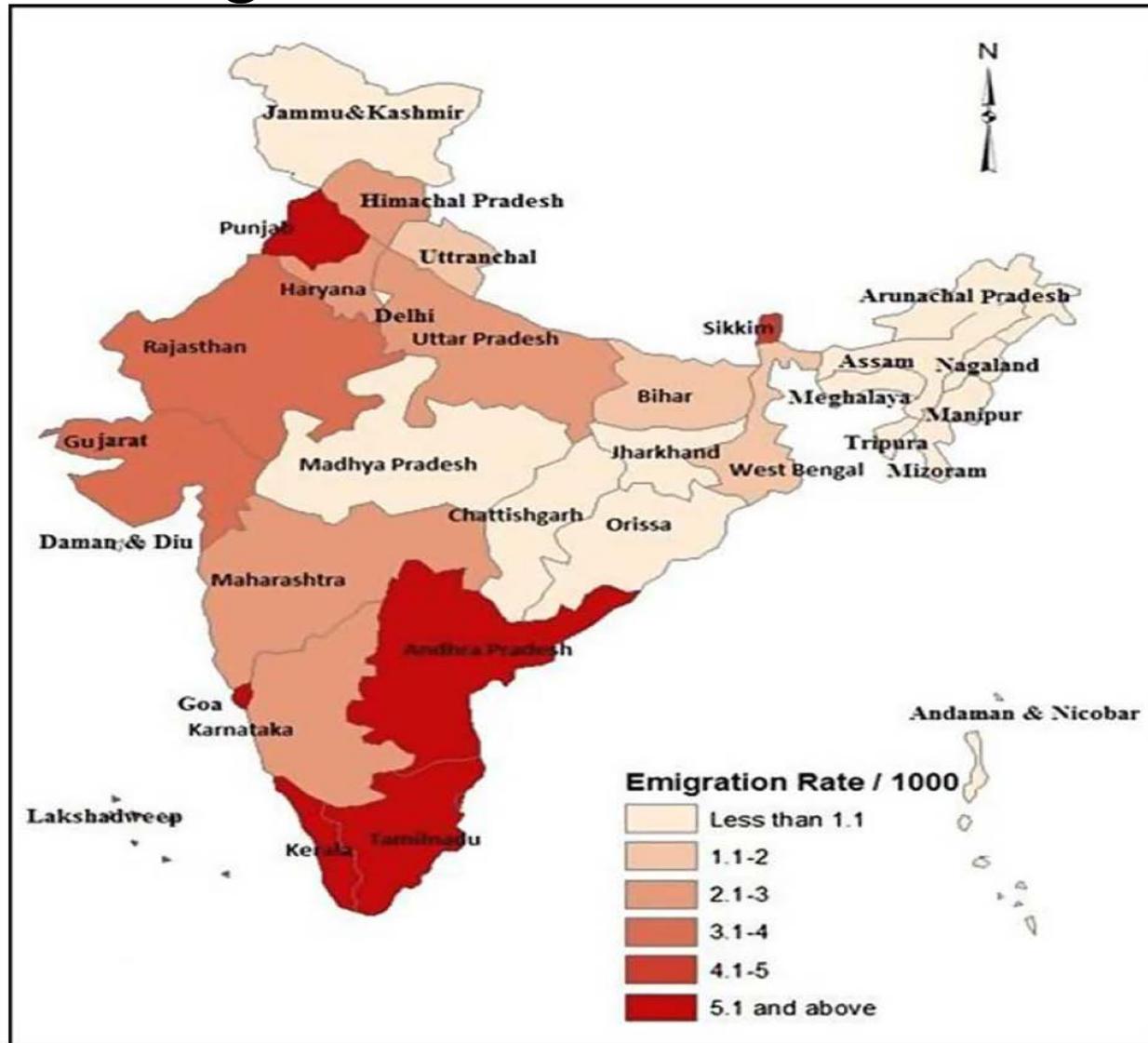
Source: Bhagat 2012

Seasonal and temporary migration, India, 2007-08



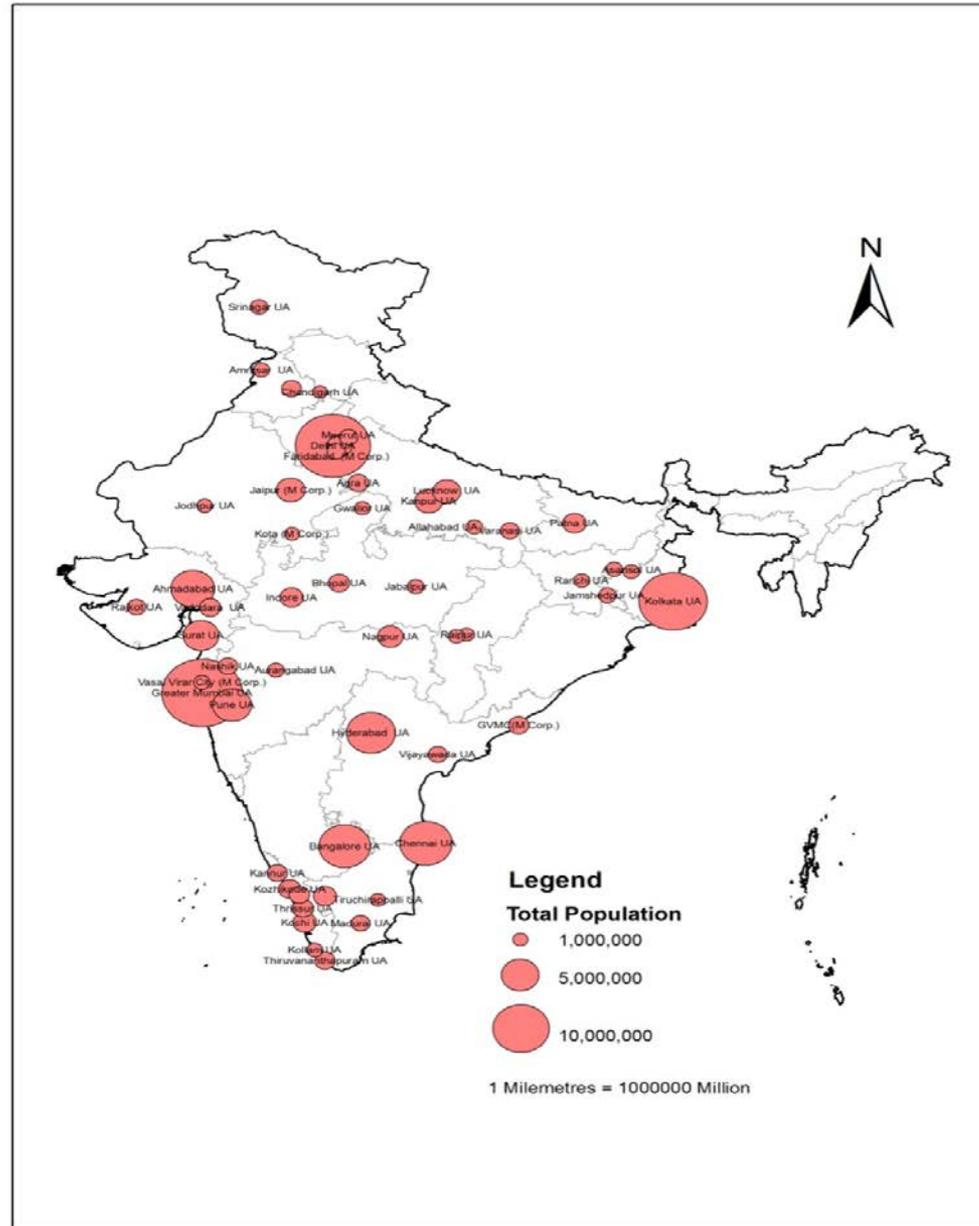
Source:
Keshri and
Bhagat 2013

Emigration rate, India, 2007-08



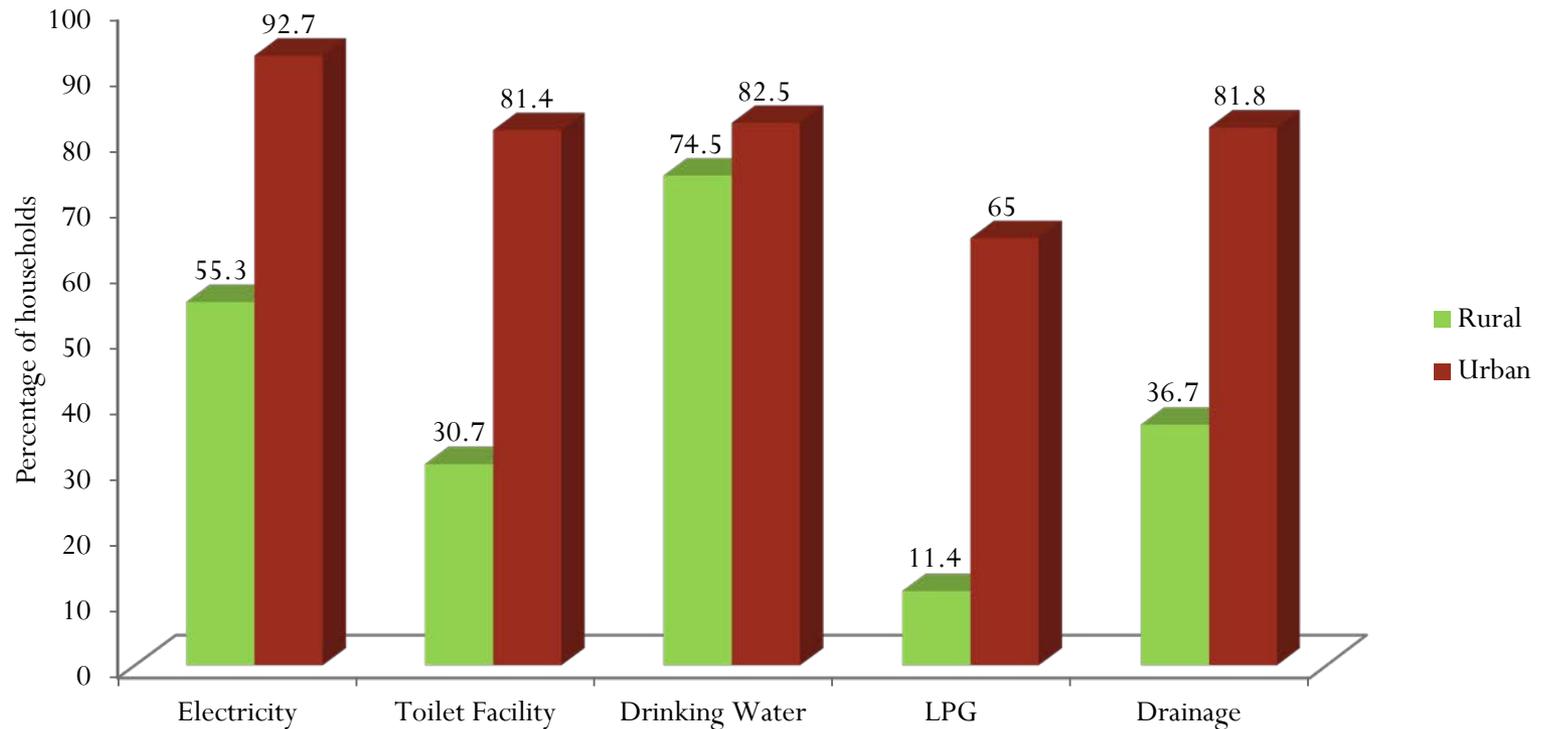
Source: Bhagat,
Keshri and Ali
2013

Million plus cities, India 2011



Source: Bhagat 2014

Percentage of households with access to basic amenities in rural and urban areas, India, 2011



Source: Census of India 2001
and 2011

Access to basic amenities among poor (bottom 40 % in wealth index) by size class, India, 2005-06

Size Class	Electricity	Any toilet facility	Improved source of drinking water	LPG
Mega city (>5 million)	75.6	51.8	97.0	1.3
Million city (1 -5 million)	49.6	38.1	96.8	2.0
City (1 lakh-1 million)	52.8	24.3	86.3	1.0
Large town (50,000- 1 lakh)	43.0	20.9	94.3	0.0
Small town (< 50,000)	51.8	20.5	89.8	0.6

Source : Bhagat 2013

Key areas of impact of migration

i.) *Labour Demand and Supply* – fills gaps in demand for and supply of labour; efficiently allocates skilled and unskilled labour; cheap labour, disciplined and willingness to work.

ii) *Remittances* – provides insurance against risks to households in the areas of origin; increases consumer expenditure and investment in health, education and assets formation.

iii) *Return Migration* – brings knowledge, skills and innovation (known as social remittances).

iv) *Skill Development* – migration is an informal process of skill development. It enhances knowledge and skills of migrants through exposure and interaction with the outside world. New skills are learnt from co-workers and friends at the place of destination.

Livelihood and remittances

- Seasonal and temporary migration in India is 7 times larger. Seasonal and temporary mobility is part of livelihood strategies and income security in India (Keshri and Bhagat 2013).
- Internal remittances are double that of international remittances
- Majority of households receiving remittances spend on household consumption, followed by health and education (Bhagat 2014).
- Poor migrant households receiving remittances spend more on food (Kumar and Bhagat 2012).
- Remittances have positive role in poverty reduction (Bhagat 2010; de Haan 2011).
- Remittances also help in agricultural investment and economic diversification in the rural areas (Kumar and Bhagat 2017).

Skill and knowledge transfers

- Migration is also a process of skill formation. Many migrants bring their relatives, friends and co-villagers once they have firmly established in urban areas. Some migrants also upgrade their skill level and learn two and more skills (Deshinker and Akter 2009; Bhagat 2014).
- About one-third emigrants from India return back. They are the potential source of knowledge and skill transfer (Bhagat et al 2017). The study on social remittances are lacking, and the reintegration of returnees with the development gaining attention.

Migration, urban and development policies

- Urban development is a state subject in India, but there is a lack of integrated urban development strategy at state level.
- Integrated and spatially distributed urbanization with emphasis on small and medium cities and towns promoting linkages with rural areas is also lacking.
- The Indian constitution guarantees freedom of movement as a fundamental right of all citizens (Article 19, but there are strong barriers to migration).

- Integration of migration with development such as financial inclusion and incentives for investment need to be promoted.
- There is hardly any policy for reintegration of return migrants
- Migrants' inclusion and protection of their rights is not at all the priority.

Thank you