

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that the thesis entitled 'SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MIGRATION:A STUDY OF WEST BENGAL' has been prepared by me under the guidance of Professor Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal & Professor V.K. Ramachandran, Professor (Retired), Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru. No part of this thesis has formed the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship previously.



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### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Socio-economic Aspects of Migration from Rural India & A Study of West Bengal”, submitted to the University of North Bengal, India, for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, is a bonafide record of the research work done by Ms. Yasodhara Das under our supervision. It is also certified that this work has not previously formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Associateship, Fellowship or any other similar title, to the candidate. The thesis is an independent and honest work of the candidate. To the best of our knowledge she bears a good moral character.

  
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## PREFACE

Every seventh person in the world today is a migrant. Globally over 244 million people are international migrants and around 763 million are internal migrants (World Migration Report 2018). According to Census of India 2011, there were 454 million migrants in India. This has risen by 139 million from 315 million in 2001 and 220 million in 1991, a doubling over 1991-2011 (Report of the working Group of Migration 2017). The number of people migrating within the geographical boundaries of their country of origin i.e. internal migrants in the world is about four times the number of migrants who cross international borders. Even on the remittance front, the NSS estimates that international remittances received in India comprised about half of the domestic remittances received (Tumbe 2011). Therefore, internal migration comes across as a crucial study area, globally as well as in the context of India. In this thesis I delve into the magnitude of internal migrants in India, characteristics of internal migrants and migrant households at the place of origin of the migrant and the work and living conditions of these internal migrants at a selected migrant destination. I attempt to study all these with special reference to West Bengal in particular.

In India migration for employment is an important livelihood strategy for people in rural areas. The drivers of such migration are complex and diverse, important ones of which are the lack of employment opportunities (farm and non-farm) in one's place of origin, land fragmentation and better employment opportunities in other growth sectors (Deshingkar & Farrington, 2009). There is also great variation in the duration of migration among different sections of the rural work force. Migration may be permanent settlement, long-term migration where organic links are maintained with the place of rural origin, medium-term migration, and short-term migration, including migration for weeks and days in the year. Short-term migration is common in rural India.

Research on the socio-economic characteristics of migrant workers, the work and living conditions that migrant encounters, and the impact of migrant earnings on the rural household incomes, is thus necessary for an understanding of a crucial segment of India's labour force.

In this thesis, I have tried to do so. I hope it serves its purpose.



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