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# Recent Trends of Rural Youths and Labour Communities Out-Migration from Malda District of West Bengal (India): A Case Study

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### ABSTRACT:

Migration plays a vital role for the transformation of a society and population changing. In our country there are Rural-Urban, Urban-Rural, Urban-Urban, Rural –Rural migration take place. Moreover, Inter-state, Inter-district migration are also take place. The main objectives of this research work is to know the major causes of rural youth migration, to examine the seasonal and temporal pattern of migration, working profile, income levels, motives of rural youth migration and to suggest some valuable remedial measures to reduce rural youth migration Malda district region. Malda district of West Bengal has been selected as the research study area which is called Gateway of North Bengal and famous for Mango and Raw silk production. The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. For the collection of primary data a near about 226 respondents has been selected based on convenience and purposive sampling. The results of the study shows that major causes of youth out migration in the Malda district region are- Unemployment, poverty, low wages in agriculture sector labour, debtness, lack of industry etc. The study also reveals that highest percentage of inter-state migration pattern has been take place. In recent years many of rural youths are also migrated to Gulf counties (International Migration) in search of employment and higher wages. The researchers suggested that Central as well as State government should generate more employment through MGNREGA schemes among the different villages of Malda district for reducing rural-urban migration, Ministry of Rural Development and Department of Panchyati Raj, West Bengal should launch and practices various extension and outreach awareness programe in the study area, so the people may get aware of different policies and Schemes of Central Government as well as State Government from time to time among the rural areas of the study area .

**Key Words (Index Term):** Out-Migration, Diaspora, *Dadon* System, Shortage of labour, Income, International Migration, Remittance,

### Introduction:

Migration refers to the movement of people from one place to another, it may be permanent or temporary, as well as a short or long term condition. India lives in its villages. Almost 68.8 per cent of the population lives in rural areas (2011, Census). All forms of works manual or intellectual for earning bread is called labour. Labour workforce is the most important constituent in any country, for its development. Labour constitutes the most neglected class in the Indian rural structure. They are unskilled, unorganized and belong to the lower caste group. Migration plays a vital role for the transformation of a society in one way or other. Migration, a demographic event plays an important role in the growth of population of any region and may vary from place to place. Millions of people left their home (especially in rural areas) in search of work, shelter, better opportunities or some other reasons. Migration, like fertility and mortality, holds a place of prominence in a geographical analysis of population change in any area ( Trewartha, 1969). Migration cannot be considered a mere shift of people from one place to another, as it is fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space-content and space-relationship of an area (Ghosal, 1962). Out-migration among the rural youths has been crucial in the human society, it creates shortage of labour. Rural Out-migration can have a positive impact on livelihoods of household through flow of remittances and economic development of the regions. Migration plays a significant role socio-economic development and political setting at the national and International level. Long distance migration is mostly preferred by male population as men are considered to the sole bread earner in our society and female are expected to stay behind and look after the family. According to former UNO General Secretary Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and a better future. It is part of social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family. William L. Swing said that we cannot and should not people from migration. We have to give them a better life at home. Migration is a process, not a problem.

**Bogul (1959)** considers a movement of people as an instrument of cultural diffusion and social integration that result into more meaningful distribution of population. **Nafisa Banu (2014 )** pointed out that out migration is an index to increase the population in migration states. Out migration is mainly males selective, for getting employment and higher wages. The study also provoked that Forced migration from the West are increased and migrants were going to Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Kolkata, Punjab, Haryana states. **Rafique (2003)** exposed that labour migrants from Murshidabad district of West Bengal are

very vulnerable when they travel to the other areas of the states. The works provide by the contractors are very risky and arduous type. They are working 12 hours of work daily. The study also reveals that at the work sites places the labour are reside in jhuggi (temporary housing) and quality of food provide by the contractors is also not healthy. **Areful Hoque and Daud Ahmed (2018)** examine the causes and motives of labour community out migration from Malda district of West Bengal. The researchers reveals that main causes of labour out migration is poverty, unemployment, lack of industry, lower wages in agricultural sector etc. Moreover researcher find out that most of the migrants are migrated under *dadon system* (get some money in advance). **Areful Hoque and Mohammad Taufique (2017)** observed that 90 percent of Scheduled Tribes (ST) peoples are confined only to Bamongola, Gazole, Habibpur and Old Malda Community Development Block of Malda district. Their study shows that most of Scheduled Tribes (ST) Communities people are migrated in a group wise under *dadon system* by labour contractors. Major causes of out-migration among Tribal communities due to poverty, unemployment, lower wages in agricultural sector, lack of industries, lack of education opportunities etc. Their study reveals that Inter-state migration is taken place which is highest percentage. **Somen Das (2015)** highlighted that relocation among the ST peoples play a important role in social change and their culture-tradition. The study also reveals that most of the ST peoples in the study are lower level of education background and they are working informal sector. Moreover their study shows that most of the ST peoples are migrated to metropolitan cities of country because it pays relatively higher wages.

**Table 1. 1: Types of Migration in India**

Migration Types	
Internal Migration (Based on Origin and Destination)	Rural to Urban (32 %) Urban to Urban (15 %) Urban to Rural (6 %) Rural to Rural (47 %)
Internal Migration (Based on Regional / Intra-National)	Intra District Inter District Inter State
International Migration	Emigration Immigration Refugee Migration

Source: Geography of Population (Concept, Determinants and World Patterns), R. C. Chandna, 2015, pp. 112-123.

### Statement of Problems:

Out- Migration from Malda district of West Bengal is a well recognized phenomenon in migration literature. Out-Migration is an important phenomenon for demographic and social change in an area. Out migration from Malda district is not a recent phenomenon and it is not confined to national boundary but also International level. The present paper deals with the various aspects of rural youth out migration from rural areas. Since most of the rural youths and labour communities out-migration is temporary and long-distance it creates mainly problems of shortage of labour. In recent years, unemployment, frequent crop failure, indebtedness, inadequate credit facilities, lack of alternative opportunities, droughts and poverty level, lack of industries, in rural areas have been increasing, thereby leading to despair or distress conditions in the rural sector. As a result the rural poor, labour and marginal small farmer communities are on the move, temporarily leaving their homes in search of employment and livelihood in other prosperous (urban) areas in the country. Based on the place of birth and place of enumeration, internal migrants can be classified into three types –intra district, inter district and interstate. These combined basic problems and challenges faced by rural youths and labour communities in rural areas provoked the researcher to undertake this study in particularly. The outcomes or findings from this study will be very helpful for Administrators, Policymakers, Economists, Sociologists, Researchers, Academicians, Journalists, NGO workers, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of West Bengal as well as the Central Government of India for their policy making.

### Objectives of Research:

Keeping in the view of rural youths and labour communities out- migration in Malda district of West Bengal in particular, the following objectives have been taken into consideration:

- ❖ To investigate the major causes of youths and labour communities out-migration from rural areas of Malda district of West Bengal.
- ❖ To examine the recent trends of migration, seasonal and temporal pattern of migration, working profile, income levels, and motives of rural youth and labour communities out- migration in the study area.
- ❖ To suggest some valuable remedial measures to reduce rural youth and labour communities out- migration from rural areas of Malda district of West Bengal.

## A Geographical Outline of Study Area:

Malda district of West Bengal has been selected as research study area. Malda district is entirely located in North Bengal, it is also known as Gateway of India. It is also called City of Mango. It lies in North Bengal on lower Indo-Gangetic plain. The latitudinal range of Malda lies between 24°40'20" North and 25°32'08" North, and the longitudinal range is 87°45'50" East and 88°28'10" East. For administrative purpose the district has been divided into 15 Community Development Block and two sub-division namely Malda Sadar and Chanchal Sadar. The district is very much famous for Mango Production, Litchi production, Jute Production and Sericulture activity (Raw Silk production) and notorious for fake currency making, illegal weapons making. Majority of the male population of this district are migrants labour, agricultural labour and Hawkers due none availability of any large scale, medium scale industries, majority of female population in rural are engaged in bidi making household industries. According to 2011 Census of India still 86.14 per cent population are belong to rural area.

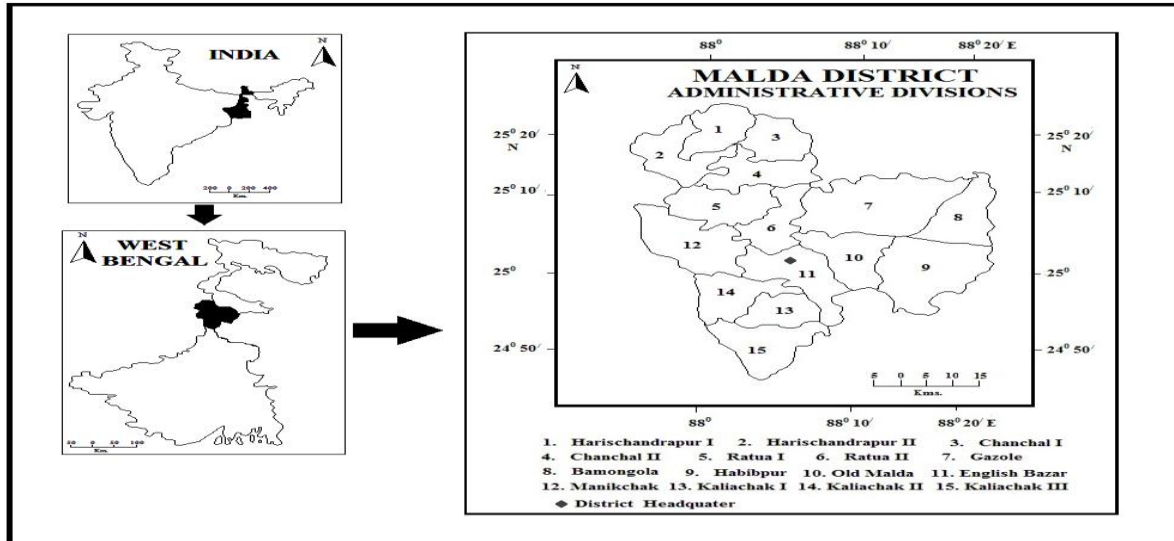


Figure 1: Location map of the Study Area

## Database and Research Methodology:

The present research work is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. For collection of primary data, field survey has been conducted at village level and respondents are selected based on random and purposive sampling method. A total of 226 respondents have been selected based on convenience and purposive sampling. The survey was conducted during the month of May to October Month ( tentatively 6 month duration), 2022-23, during the festival of Eid-ul Fitr, Eid al adha (Bakri Eid), Rath Yatra Mohraaram, Durga Puja, Diwali (Kali Puja) because on the occasion and celebration of festival maximum migrants workers are return in their home.

The secondary data has been collected from District Statistical Handbook, Malda Collectorate 2011, Census of India 2011, Annual Report related to Demographic Statistics 2011-12, Books, Research Paper, Journals, Newspaper, Researchgate, Google Scholar etc.

After the collection of data for showing the result Simple Percentage Method has been MS excel and SPSS, Computer Cartography has used for tabulations for making of bar and pie diagram and conducting the various tests.

Table 1. 2: Method of Selection of Sampled Respondents

Primary Field Survey Household level	106
Telephonic / Mobile Survey	75
Mailing / Whatsapp Questionnaire	45
Total	226

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

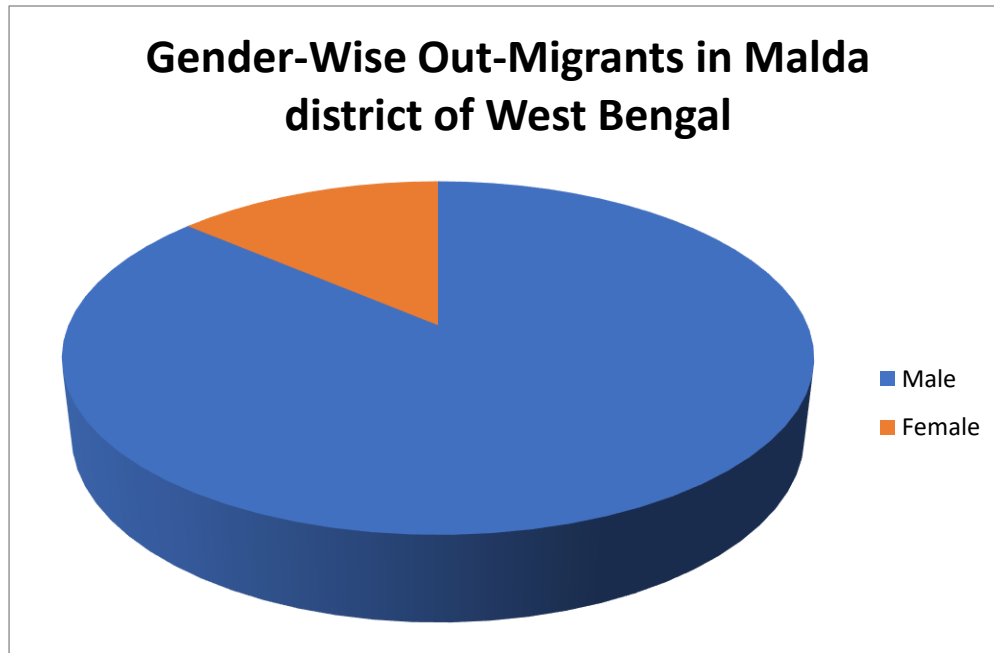
## Result and Analysis:

**Table 1.2: Gender-Wise Out Migrants Respondents**

Gender	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Male	195	86.28
Female	31	13.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1. 2 depict that 86. 28 per cent respondents are Male which is highest and 13.72 per cent respondents are Female which is lowest percent.

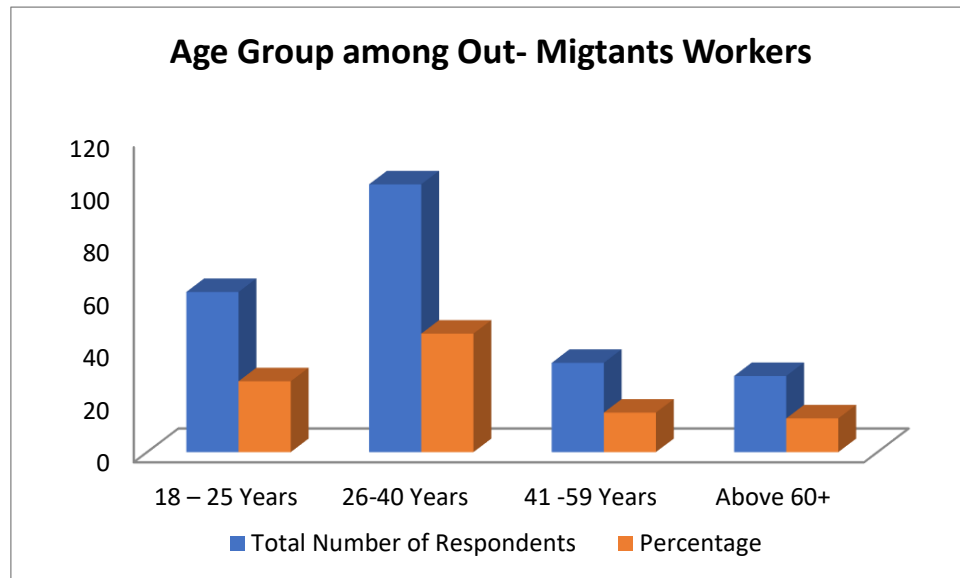


**Table 1.3 Age-Group among Out Migrants Respondents**

Age-Group	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
18 – 25 Years	61	26.99
26-40 Years	102	45.13
41 -59 Years	34	15.04
Above 60+	29	12.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1.3 shows that 45.13 per cent of the respondents are belong to age- group between 26-40 Years which was highest percentage and only 12. 84 percent of the respondents are belong to age- group between Above 60+ years.



**Table 1. 4 : Major Causes of Migration among Out Migrants Respondents**

Major Causes of Out-Migration	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Poverty	23	10. 17
Unemployment	96	42. 48
Debt	12	5. 30
Construction for House	18	7. 97
Marriage	27	11. 95
Disease Treatment	11	4. 86
Crop Failure	8	3. 53
Full fill Basic Needs / Children's Education	31	13. 71
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1. 4 depicts that major causes of out-migration is Unemployment which is 42. 48 per cent and 3. 53 per cent respondent's reason is crop failure due to droughts condition and losses money and to repay loan they migrated.

**Table 1. 5 : Types of Migration performed by Out Migrants Respondents**

Types of Migration Performed	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Group Migration	56	24. 77
Dadon System by Labour Contractors	154	68. 14
Single	16	7. 07
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1. 5 depicts that 68. 14 percent of respondents are migrated under dadon system (Pay some money in advance and works for a certain period, after the certain period complete contractors pay the rest of money).

**Table 1 . 6 Major Destination Place among Out-Migration**

Destination Place	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Delhi and NCR	24	10. 61
Mumbai (Maharashtra)	16	7. 07
Jammu & Kashmir	21	9. 29
Bengaluru (Karnataka)	27	11. 95
Kolkata	26	11. 50
Kerala	12	5. 30

Gujarat	10	4.42
Punjab	6	2.65
Gurugram (Haryana)	13	5.75
Ghaziabad / NOIDA	11	4.86
Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	8	3.53
Hyderabad (Telengana)	23	10.17
Gulf Countries (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar), Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh	29	12.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1.6 shows that 11.95 per cent of respondents are migrated to Bengaluru (Karnataka) and only 2.65 per cent of respondents are migrated to Punjab. In recent years 12.83 per cent of rural youths and labour communities are also migrated to Gulf countries (International Migration) in search of employment and higher wages.

**Table 1.7 : Types of Works Performed by Out- Migrants at destination place**

Types of Works Performed	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Hotel / Restaurants (Cook, Waiter and Cleaners)	23	10.17
Drivers	18	7.97
Masson at construction sites	70	30.93
Private Job	28	12.38
Security Guard	8	3.53
Online delivery services	16	7.07
Painting	21	9.29
Agricultural Works	28	12.38
Any Others Works	14	6.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1.7 shows that 30.93 per cent of respondent are perform Masson at construction sites and only 3.53 per cent of respondent are perform Security Guard at the destination place.

**Table 1.8 Status / Possession of Pradhan Mantri E-Shram Card among Out- Migrants**

Status / Possession of Pradhan Mantri E-Shram Card	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	185	81.86
No	41	18.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1.8 shows that 81.86 per cent of the respondents have Pradhan Mantri E-Shram card and most of them are benefited under this scheme and only 18.14 per cent of respondents does not have Pradhan Mantri E-Shram card.

**Table 1.9 : Benefitted by Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna**

Benefitted by Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	133	58.85
No	93	41.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1.9 shows that 58.85 per cent of the respondents are benefited under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY) and 41.15 per cent of the respondents are not benefited under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY)

**Table 1. 10 : Income Level among Out-Migrants**

Income Level (INR Monthly)	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
INR 0-10000	21	9. 29
INR 10001-20000	57	25. 22
INR 20001- 30000	118	52. 21
INR Above 30000	30	13. 27
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1. 10 shows that 52. 21 per cent of the respondents have earn INR 20001- 30000 monthly and only 9. 29 per cent of the respondents have earn INR 0- 10000 monthly.

**Table 1. 11: Seasonal Migration among Out-Migrants in Malda district of West Bengal**

Pattern of Seasonal Migration				
Months	Main Works	States	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage
July-August	Crop Transplanting (Paddy, Sugarcane) Horticulture (Apples)	Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir,	46	20. 35
November- January	Harvesting of Crops	Different States of India	102	45. 13
January-February	Transplanting	Punjab Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, South India (Pinapples)	56	24. 77
April-May	Harvesting	Different States of India	22	9.73
<b>Total</b>			<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, May- October Month, 2022

Table 1. 11 depicts that 45. 13 per cent of the respondents are migrated to different States of India in the month of November-January to perform agricultural works.

## Major Findings of the Study:

The major findings of this study are as follows:

1. The major causes of youth out migration in the Malda district of West Bengal region are- Unemployment, chronic poverty, low wages in agriculture sector labour, debtness, lack of industry, crop failure due to natural calamity (Flood, drought, unseasonal rainfall) etc.
2. The highest percentage of inter-state migration pattern has been taken place. The study clearly explain that most of the rural youth are migrate to large urban centre like Delhi and NCR, Mumbai, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Chennai, Kolkata etc.
3. In recent years 12.83 per cent of rural youths and labour communities are also migrated to Gulf counties (International Migration) in search of employment and higher wages.
4. Most of the migrant's youth are working 12 hours daily (08:00 a.m to 08:00 p.m) at the destination place of work sites.
5. The highest percentage of rural youth working sector is building construction works (Flats, Apartment and offices).
6. In Malda district regions E- Sharm card scheme is successful because most of them aware about this scheme.

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### Suggestion and Policy Implication:

- ❖ Malda district of West Bengal is notable for mango productions, household cottage productions. The raw materials from this product can easily establish industry (Medium and small scale) such as pickles industry from mango, among the different villages of Malda district. These industries will be generating ample employment and income among the peoples in the study area.
- ❖ The Central as well as State government should generate more employment through MGNREGA schemes among the different villages of Malda district.
- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Jharkhand, should fix the agriculture labour rate between of Rs. 350-500 per day.
- ❖ In case of crop failure due to the natural calamity (floods, drought, unseasonal rainfall) government should provides incentives to the victims farmers by Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojna to the affected farmers.
- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development and Panchyati Raj should launch various awareness programe in the study area, so the people may get aware of different policies and programme launch from time to time among the rural areas of the study area.

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### Conclusion:

Malda district in North Bengal is one of the poorest and backward region, flood affected region of West Bengal state. The socio-economic condition of labour communities and unemployed peoples in rural areas of region is very poor. In rural areas of this region main predominant occupation of the peoples are agriculture, cottage small household industry, sericulture and horticulture. There is lack of industry in the study area except Englishbazar block. Thus there is low level of employment opportunities in the region. Widespread poverty, unemployment and unawareness about the scheme of government of rural development all these factors have combinedly contributed to the forcefully out- migration of rural youths and labour community peoples from the Malda district of West Bengal to the more prosperous urban areas and metropolitan cities of the country. Malda district and West Bengal state undoubtedly still an out-migration district and state but if Malda district and West Bengal wants to maintain its attraction for migrants it requires various polices changes and impetus development is required in the aspects of Industry and employment generation.

### Acknowledgment:

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