

# SHORT-DURATION MALE MIGRATION, AND WOMEN'S AUTONOMY EVIDENCE FROM RURAL INDIA

**Itishree Pattnaik**

Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad  
&

**Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt**

Crawford School of Public Policy  
The Australian National University, Canberra

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# A COMPLEX DEBATE

- **Declining agricultural income**
  - Unprofitable farming (Agarwal 2016)
- **High level of unemployment**
  - ‘Sticky unemployment’ 8.2% (Agarwal & Chandrasekhar 2015)
- **Increase in short-duration migration**
  - Higher in rural than urban areas (Korra 2011; Keshari & Bhagat 2010)
  - Distress-induced nature of migration (Garikipati 2008; Agarwal & Chandrasekhar 2015)
  - Gender-selective nature of migration (NCF 2006; Kanchi 2010; Paris et.al., 2005; Dutta & Kumar 2011; Coffey et.al., 2015; Adhikari & Hobley 2015; Kakti 2017)

# SHORT-DURATION MIGRATION: NATURE

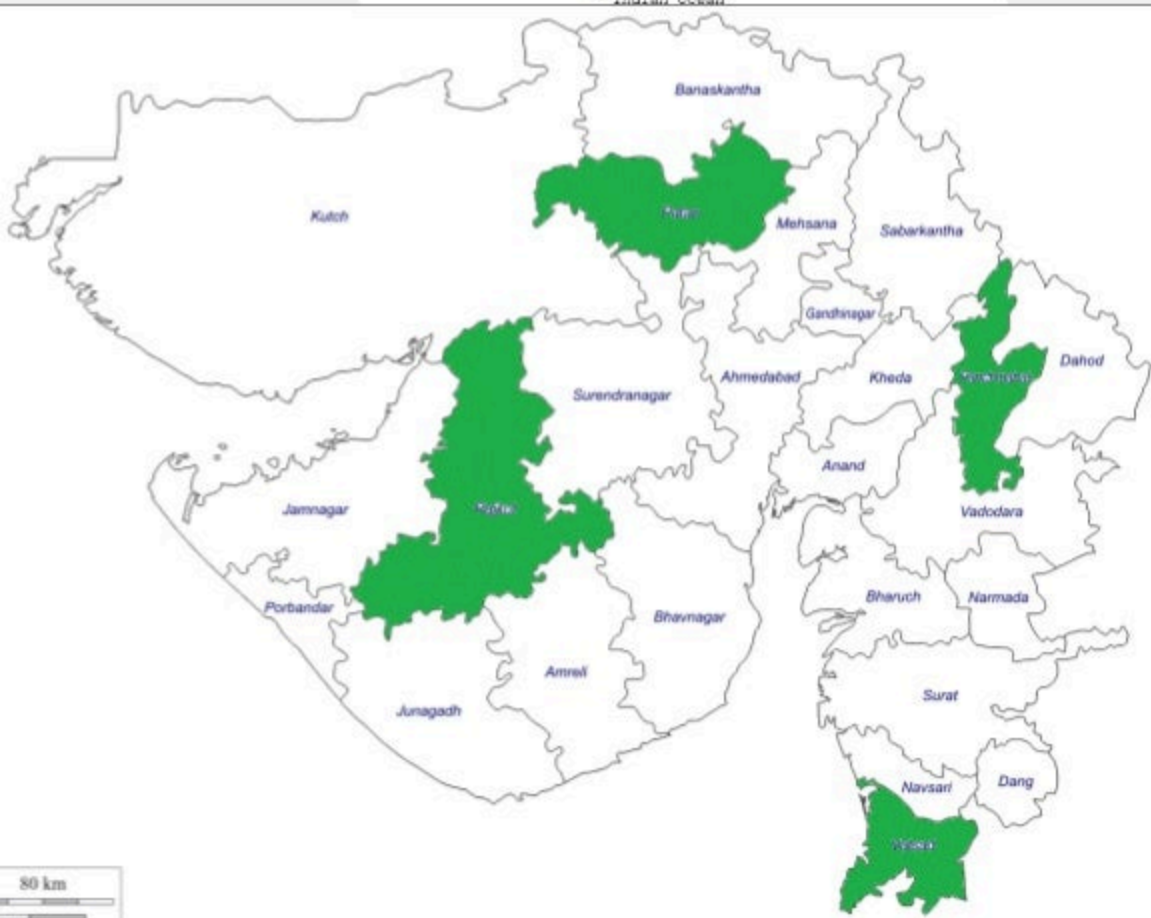
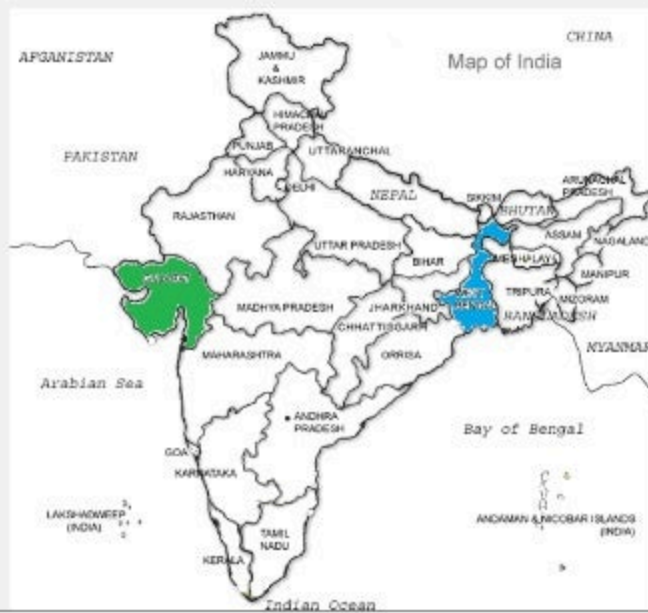
- **Has a gendered face**
  - Only 5 females for every 28 males (Kochkin & Sircar 2014)
- **Impact of male migration on women: diverse views**
  - Remittance-vs-work burden
  - Impact on families: complex, multi-channelled & context-specific
- Inconclusive evidence.
- *Varies according to the nature of migration itself, which is not yet elaborately discussed in literature.*
  - **Seasonal**
  - **Irregular-short duration**
- *Depends upon who migrates and who is left behind?*

## FOCUS OF THE STUDY

To analyze the impact of male-migration on women's labour in farm work, livestock rearing, household management and financial management.

- Does short-duration male migration increase or decrease work burdens of women?
- Does it empower or disempower women?
- What happens when women are left behind in comparison to households without male out-migration?
- How do the local cultures, different crops, diverse climates and dissimilar social-economic compositions of population make difference in the outcomes in understanding the gendered ways of the households?





- Four districts in each state  
 – 16 villages across various agro-climatic zones.

# DATA AND SAMPLING METHODS

- Four districts in each state – covers various agro-climatic zones.
- Eight blocks - Eight villages in each state: selected for: dominance of agriculture, higher than district average of women in agriculture.
- In each village - house listing (Census of village)
- Stratified Random sampling
- 800 households – 400 each in Gujarat and West Bengal.
- Our respondent: the woman who was “most involved in agriculture”
- Data: Both qualitative (interviews) and quantitative (structured questionnaires) – Mixed method





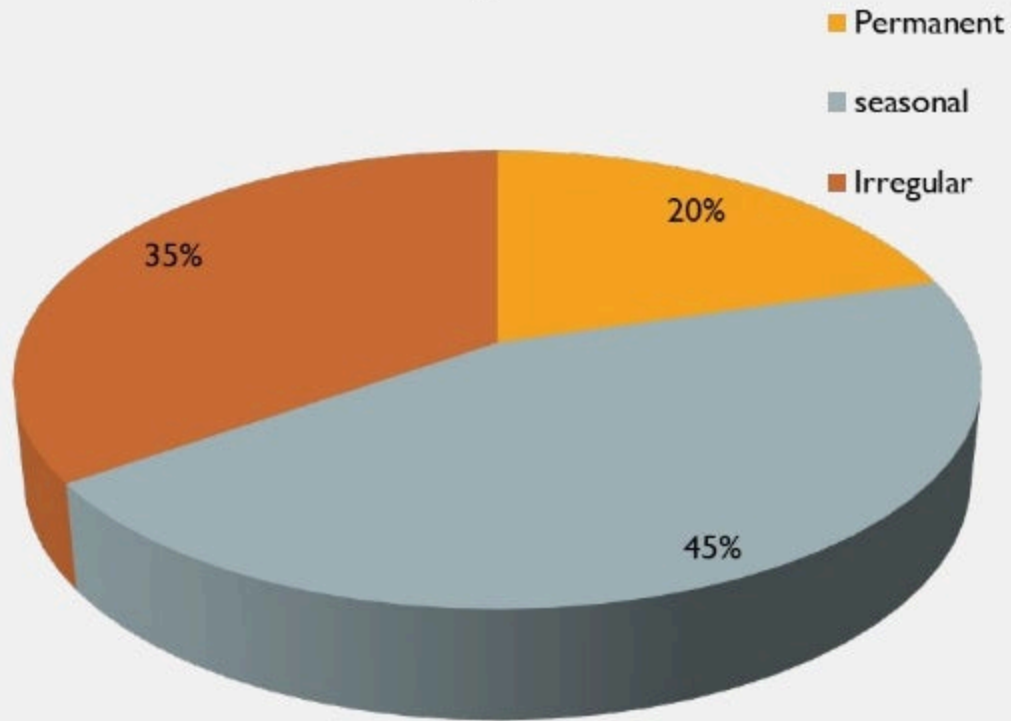
# Characteristics of Migrant Households

	Gujarat		West Bengal	
	Migrants	Non-migrants	Migrants	Non-migrants
	<b>Landholding-wise</b>			
<b>Marginal</b>	<b>57.3</b>	42.7	<b>45.1</b>	54.9
<b>Small</b>	46.9	53.1	32.1	67.9
<b>Medium and large</b>	45.2	54.8	–	–
<b>Total</b>	52.2	47.8	41.9	58.1
	<b>Cast group-wise</b>			
<b>General</b>	<b>60.0</b>	40.0	<b>36.5</b>	63.5
<b>STs</b>	<b>61.9</b>	38.1	<b>44.9</b>	55.1
<b>SCs</b>	28.0	72.0	<b>45.7</b>	54.3
<b>Other Backward Classes</b>	46.6	53.4	38.8	61.2
<b>Total</b>	52.2	47.8	41.9	58.1

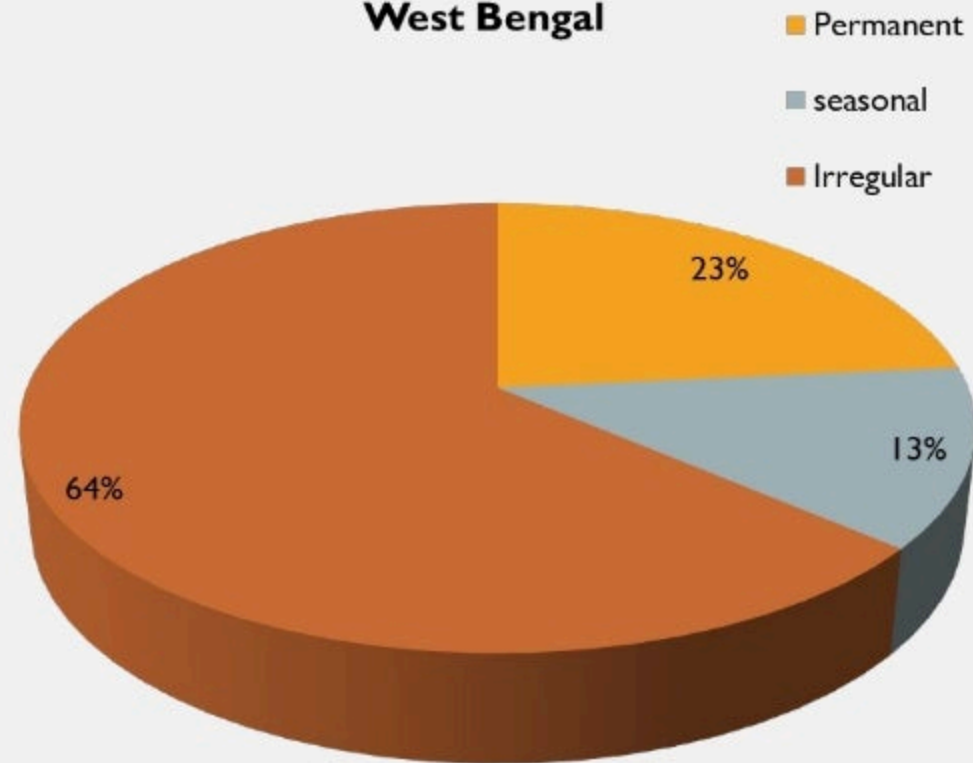


# TYPE OF MIGRATION IN TWO STATES

**Gujarat**



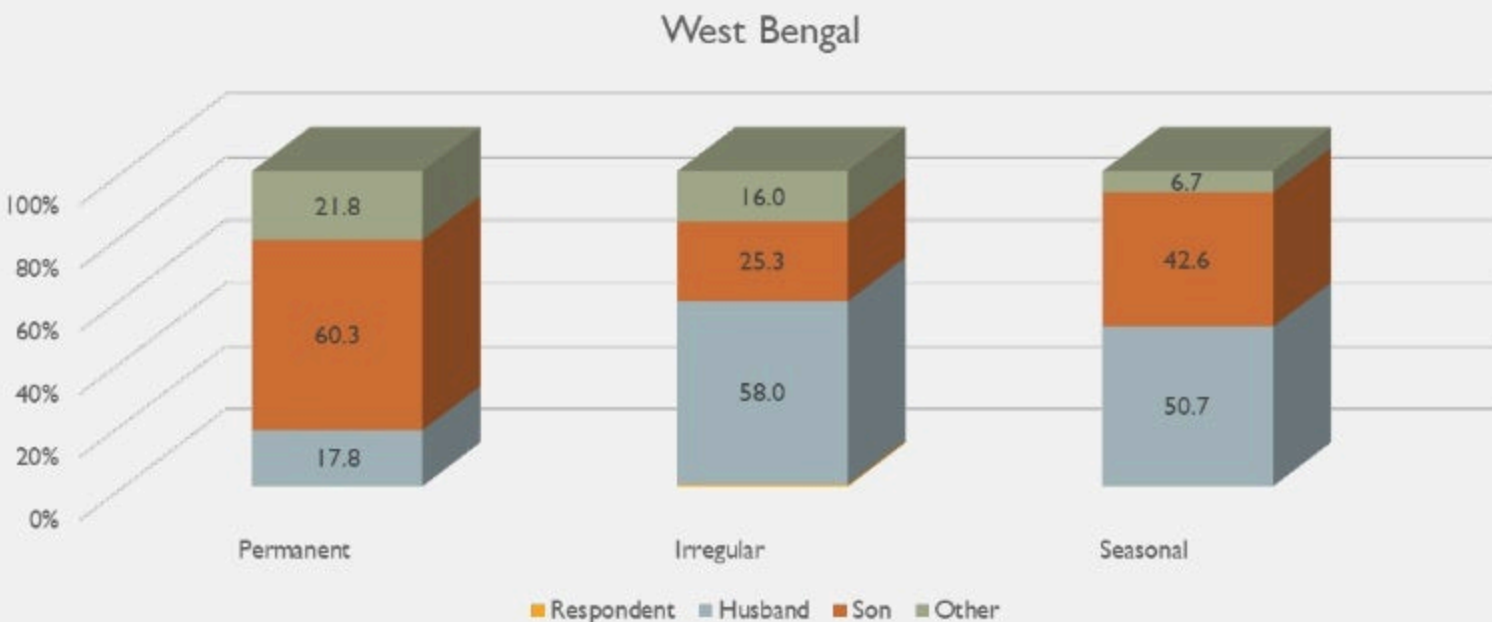
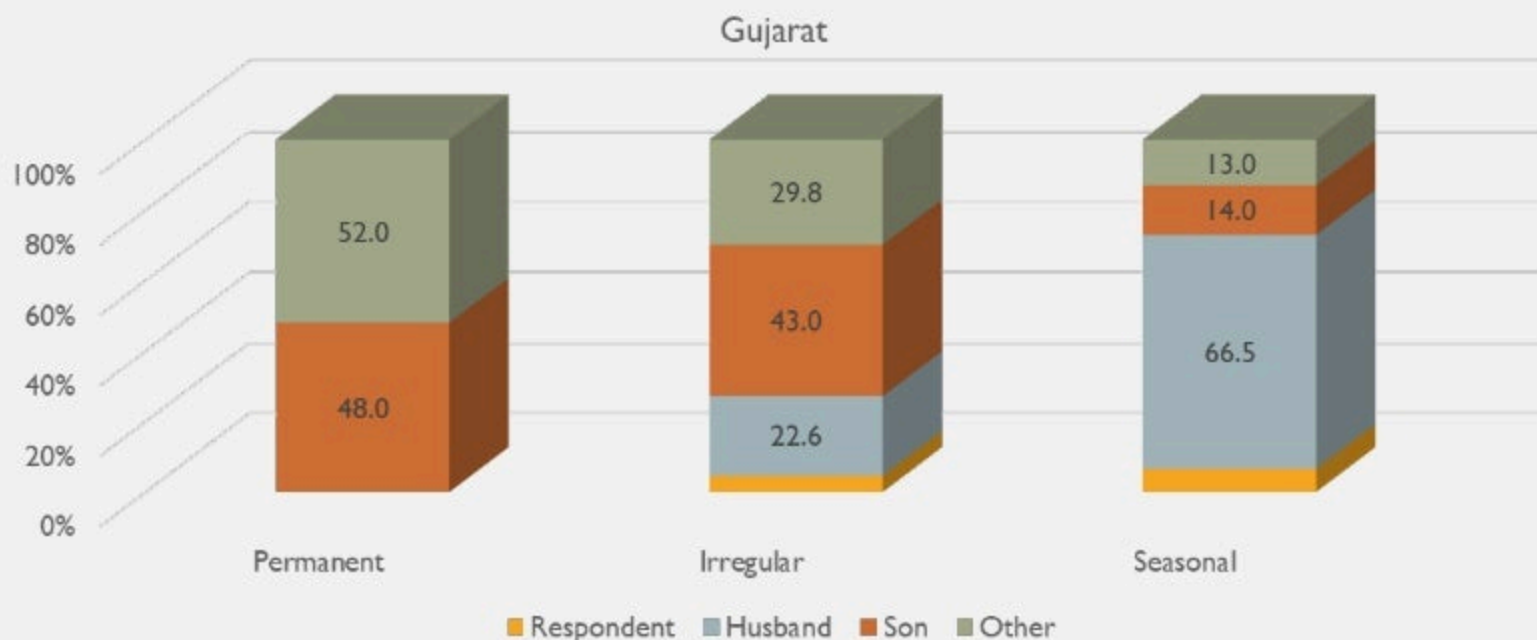
**West Bengal**



# Short-Duration Migration: Dominance of male migration

	Male Only	Female Only	Male and Female	Total
Gujarat	74.8	9.5	15.7	100
West Bengal	89.3	2.4	8.3	100

# Who migrates and who are left behind?



## Flow of Remittance (share to the total annual income)

		Among the Migrant households	Gujarat	West Bengal
<b>Total in two states</b>			55.74	35.50
<b>Migration wise</b>	<b>type-</b>	Permanent	40.05	39.45
		Short-term seasonal	50.64	28.12
		Short-term irregular	<b>68.80</b>	<b>35.43</b>
<b>Economic wise</b>	<b>status-</b>	Low income	<b>59.27</b>	<b>40.11</b>
		Middle income	<b>57.72</b>	34.72
		High income	42.52	33.62

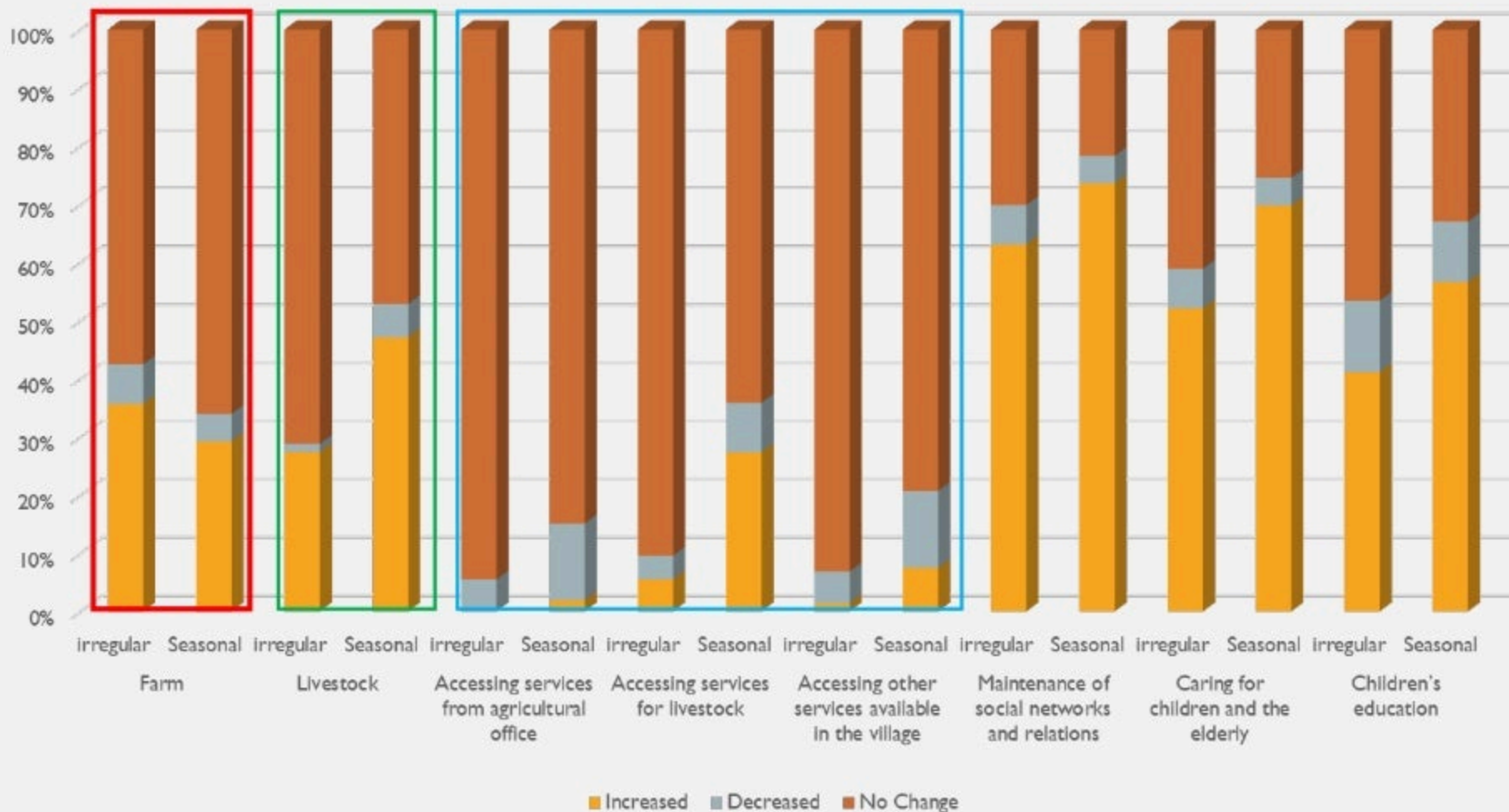


# Shifting Work Burden with Male Migration

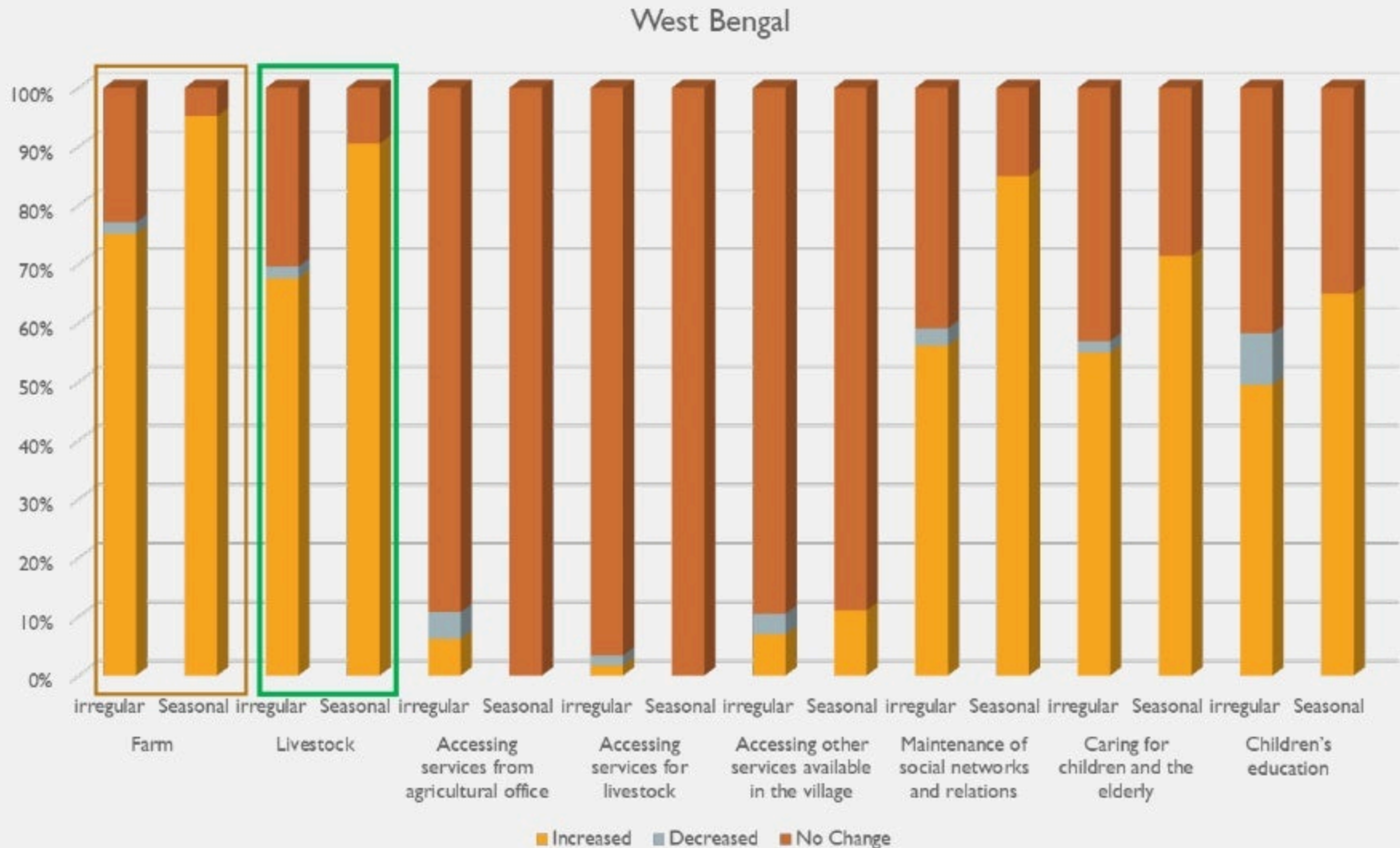
	Gujarat			West Bengal		
Type of family	Nuclear	Joint	Total	Nuclear	Joint	Total
<b>Agriculture</b>						
Other male members at home	20.8	50.7	39.5	19.0	37.0	35.5
Female members at home (including young girls)	<b>77.1</b>	48.1	58.9	<b>81.0</b>	61.1	63.3
Hired men or women	2.1	1.2	1.6	–	1.9	1.2
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Livestock</b>						
Other male members at home	11.0	42.2	27.3	30.8	36.8	34.7
Female members at home (including young girls)	85.3	52.2	68.0	69.2	61.9	64.5
Hired men or women	3.7	5.6	4.7	–	1.3	0.8
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100

# Male Migration and Change in Women's Workload in Gujarat (in Percentages)

Gujarat

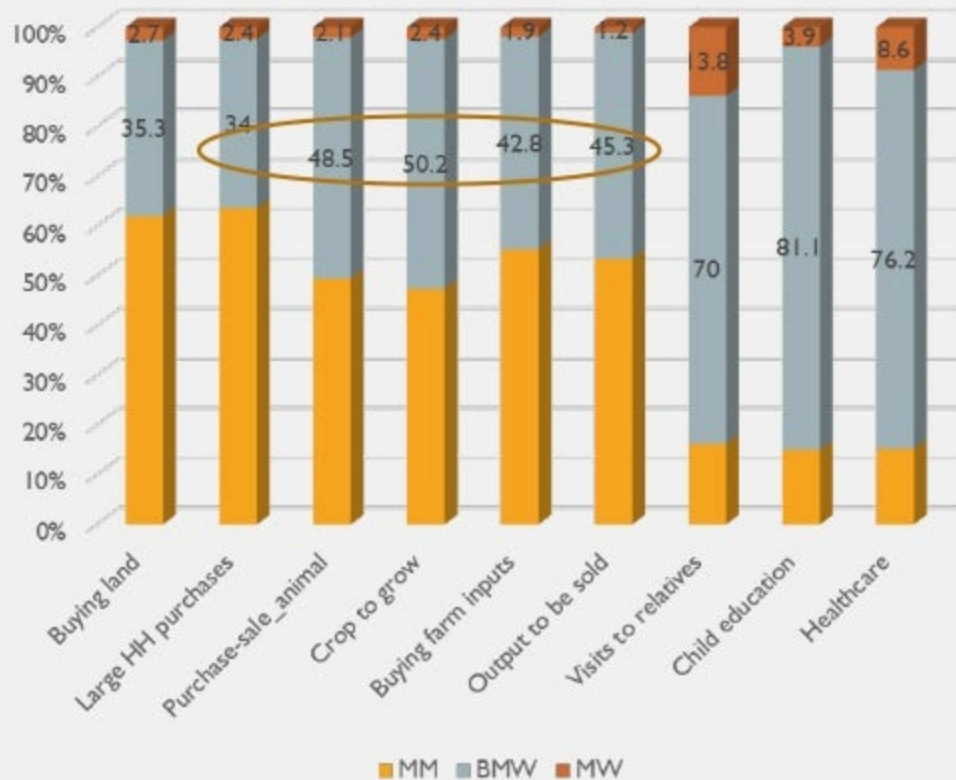


# Male Migration and Change in Women's Workload in West Bengal (in Percentages)

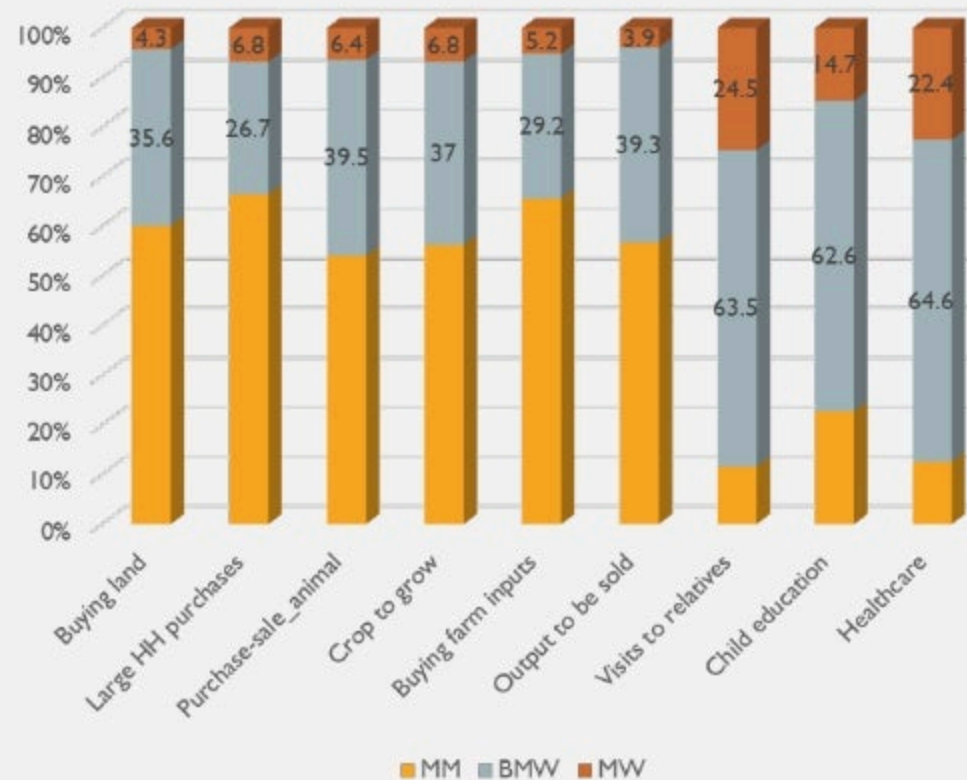


# Male Migration and Women's Decision-making in Gujarat

Gujarat- With Migration



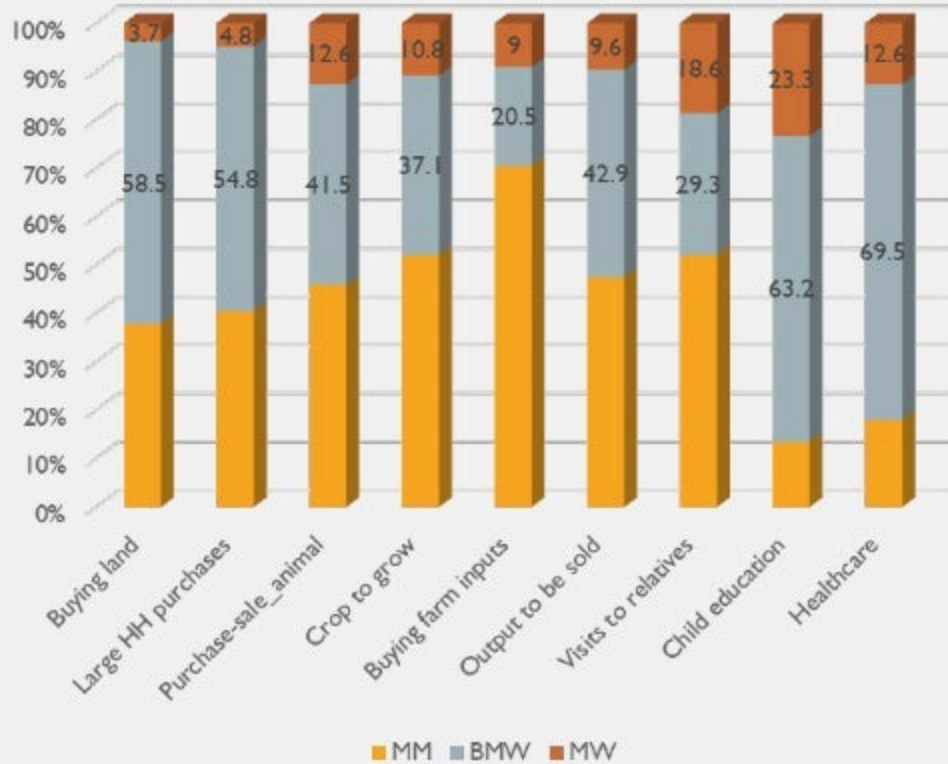
Gujarat-Without Migration



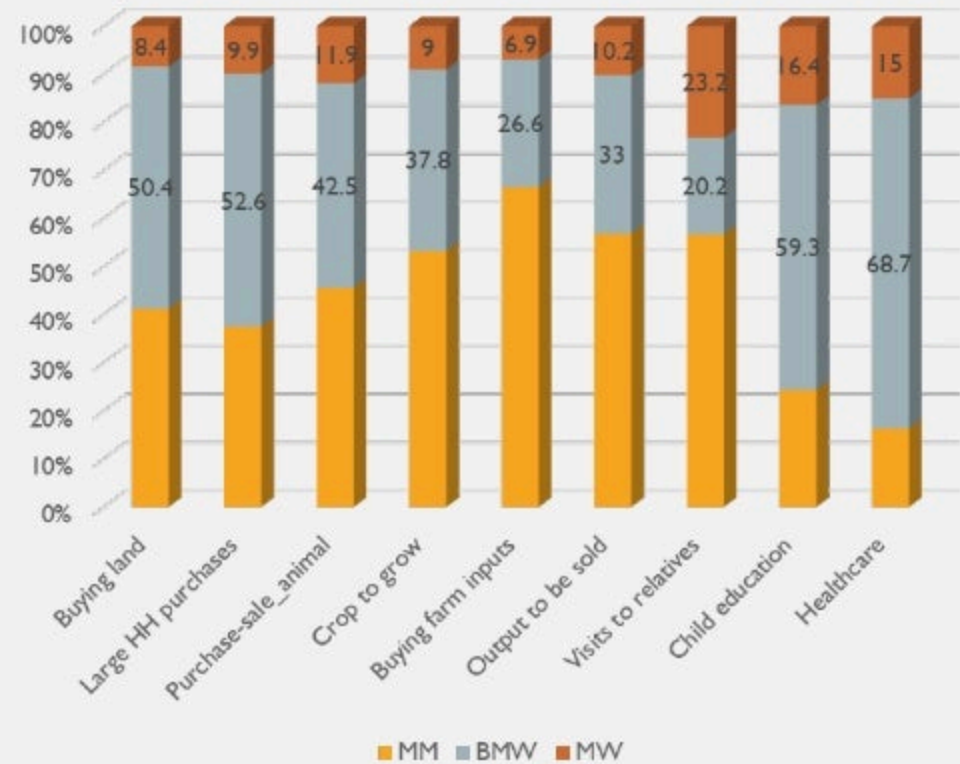


# Male Migration and Women's Decision-making in West Bengal

WB-with Migration



WB-without Migration



## KEY FINDINGS

- Rate of migration is higher in Gujarat
- Within the state – it varies across region
- Migration is highest among the marginal land owners and tribal communities in both states
- High rates of migration among the younger people
- Short-duration migration is the prominent feature – but is **seasonal in Gujarat** and **irregular in West Bengal**
- Males dominate migration in both states but higher proportions in West Bengal
- Male migration leads to shift in work burdens – higher in West Bengal. Nature of migration possibly related to this

# IMPLICATIONS

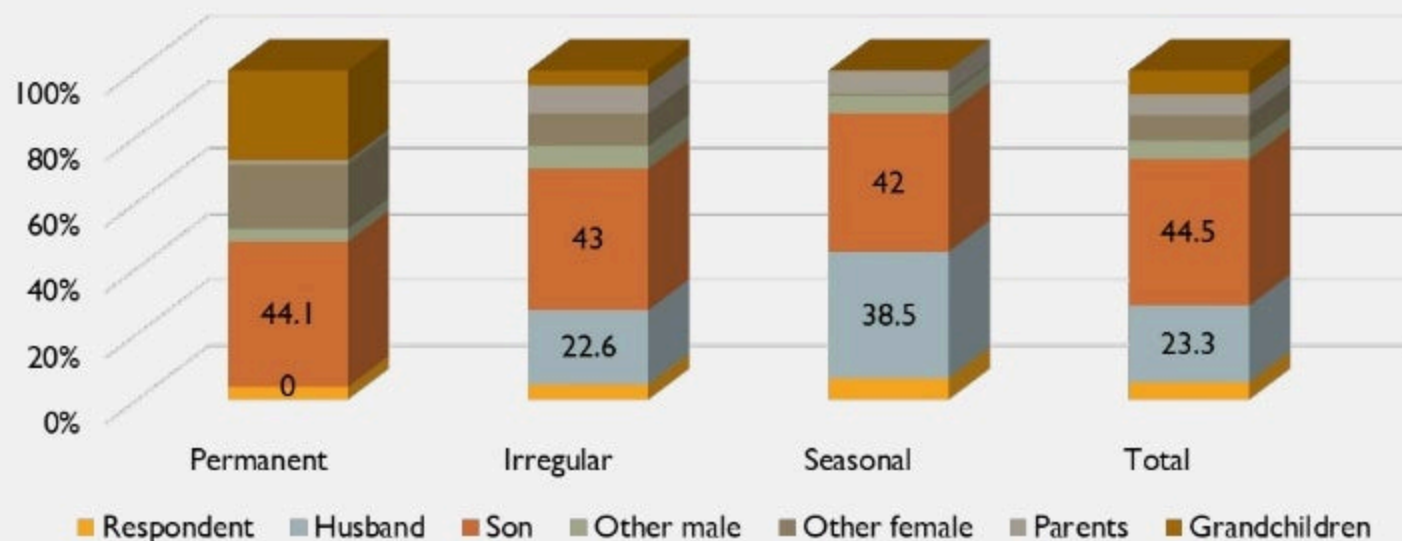
- **Shift in work burdens towards younger girls**
  - School drop-out among girls - in Panchmahal & Patan in Gujarat
  - Remittance incomes lead to increase in education expenditure but mainly for boys (found in most part of West Bengal & in Valsad)
- **Irregular remittance flows - food insecurity** (common in West Bengal)
- Impacts on women vary according to the nature & type of migration, which in turn depend upon the specific agrarian context
- Migration increases work burdens, but does not impact the autonomy, or help in knowledge-creation of left-behind women. The future of Indian farming being feminised, it has a serious implication

THANK YOU

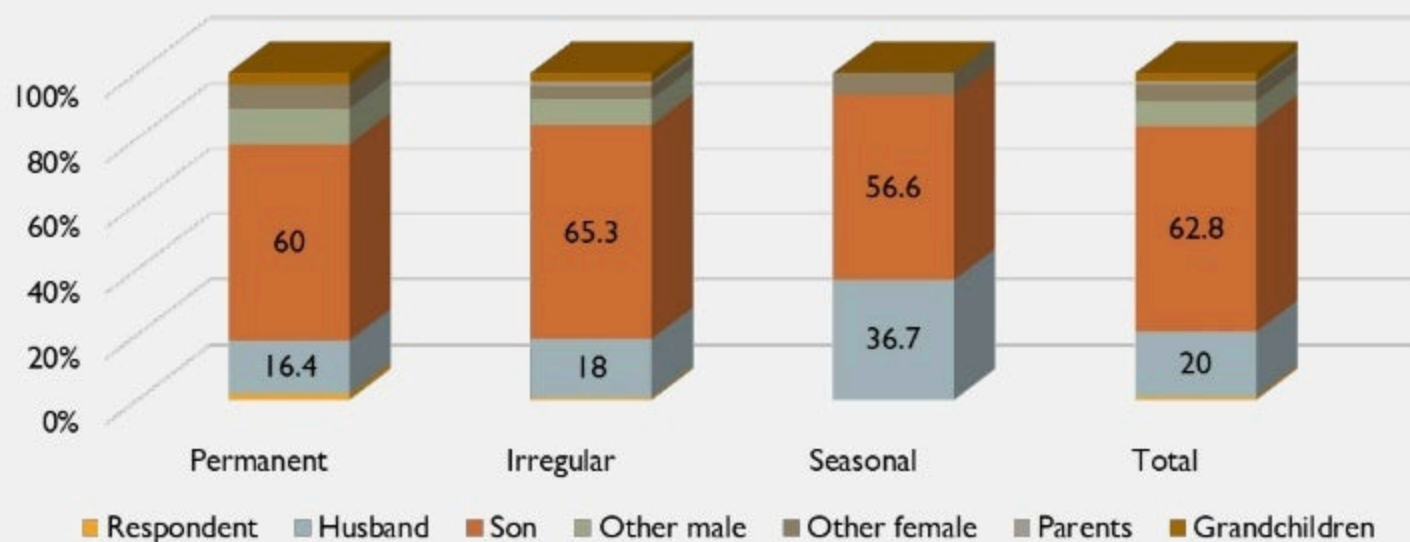


# Who migrates and who are left behind?

## Gujarat

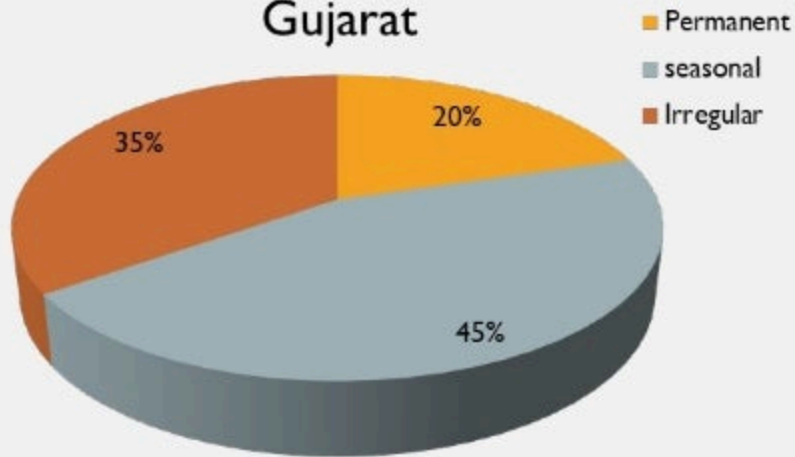


## West Bengal

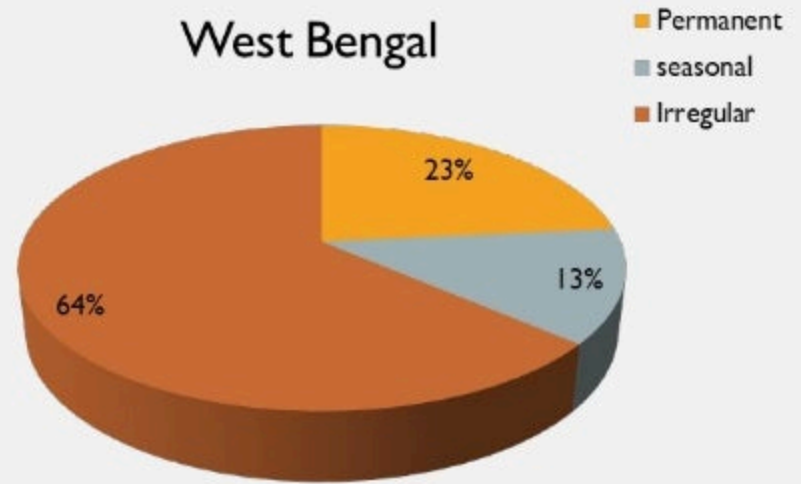


# REGION-WISE TYPE OF MIGRATION IN TWO STATES

## Gujarat



## West Bengal



Irregular 49%  
Permanent 35%

Seasonal 49%  
Irregular 46%

Permanent 50%

Seasonal 74%



Irregular 68%

Irregular 56%  
Permanent 30%

Irregular 66%

Irregular 61%

# Dominance of male migration

	Male Only	Female Only	Male and Female	Total
<b>Patan</b>	68.1	6.4	25.5	100
<b>Panchmahal</b>	87.5	3.8	8.8	100
<b>Rajkot</b>	62.5	8.3	29.2	100
<b>Valsad</b>	67.8	20.3	11.9	100
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Cooch Behar</b>	93.2	–	6.8	100
<b>Malda</b>	92.1	2.6	5.3	100
<b>Midnapore</b>	93.9	3.0	3.0	100
<b>Purulia</b>	76.9	5.1	17.9	100
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>100</b>

## Status of Migration in Gujarat and West Bengal (Households with at least one person migrating)

Gujarat		West Bengal	
Districts	Households (in %)	Districts	Households (in %)
Patan	47	Midnapore	33
Valsad	58	Cooch Behar	59
Rajkot	24	Purulia	39
Panchmahal	80	Malda	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>52*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>42**</b>

Notes: \* Total of 210 households; \*\* Total of 168 households.



# Male Migration and Women's Decision-making in Gujarat

Migration Status/ Decisions on Tasks	With Migration			Without Migration		
	MM	BMW	MW	MM	BMW	MW
Buying land or home	62.0	35.3	2.7	60.1	35.6	4.3
Large household purchases	63.6	34.0	2.4	66.5	26.7	6.8
Purchase or sale of animal	49.5	48.5	2.1	54.1	39.5	6.4
What crop to grow	47.4	50.2	2.4	56.3	37.0	6.8
Buying of farm inputs	55.3	42.8	1.9	65.6	29.2	5.2
Amount of farm produce to be sold	53.4	45.3	1.2	56.7	39.3	3.9
Daily household purchases	32.4	53.3	14.3	38.0	35.9	26.0
Visits to family or relatives	16.2	70.0	13.8	11.5	63.5	24.5
What food to be cooked	0.5	21.4	78.1	1.6	19.8	78.1
Buying vegetable	2.4	21.0	76.7	0.5	17.2	81.8
Children's education	15.0	81.1	3.9	22.7	62.6	14.7
Healthcare	15.2	76.2	8.6	12.5	64.6	22.4



# Male Migration and Women's Decision-making in West Bengal

Migration Status/ Decisions on Tasks	With Migration			Without Migration		
	MM	BMW	MW	MM	BMW	MW
Buying land or home	37.8	58.5	3.7	41.2	50.4	8.4
Large household purchases	40.5	54.8	4.8	37.5	52.6	9.9
Purchase or sale of animal	45.9	41.5	12.6	45.6	42.5	11.9
What crop to grow	52.1	37.1	10.8	53.2	37.8	9.0
Buying of farm inputs	70.5	20.5	9.0	66.5	26.6	6.9
Amount of farm produce to be sold	47.4	42.9	9.6	56.7	33.0	10.2
Daily household purchases	22.0	51.8	26.2	27.0	51.9	21.0
Visits to family or relatives	52.1	29.3	18.6	56.7	20.2	23.2
What food to be cooked	3.3	3.3	93.3	3.0	2.1	94.9
Buying vegetable	5.4	21.4	73.2	5.6	18.5	76.0
Children education	13.5	63.2	23.3	24.3	59.3	16.4
Healthcare	18.0	69.5	12.6	16.3	68.7	15.0

# Male Migration and Change in Women's Workload in West Bengal (in Percentages)

