

# RECONFIGURATION OF GENDER NORMS AMIDST RURAL-TO-URBAN MIGRATION IN KARNATAKA

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## Abstract

*This study uses a mixed-methods research methodology to provide a thorough understanding of the changes taking place inside urban contexts as it examines the reconfiguration of gender norms during rural-to-urban migration in Karnataka. The study uses focus groups, interviews, and surveys with 300 immigrant families to investigate how migration affects gender roles by integrating qualitative and quantitative methods. The results show notable changes in gender norms, indicating a trend towards greater gender equality. These changes include a rise in the participation of migrants in the society and in financial decision-making. Many people nevertheless carry out their conventional duties, like housework, despite these changes. The study also emphasizes how experiences differ according to age, gender, and work status, highlighting how complicated this change is. In order to address the changing gender dynamics in urban settings and promote gender equality in the context of continuous migratory movements, the findings highlight the need for additional research and focused policy initiatives.*

**Keywords:** Gender Norms,Amidst,Rural-To-Urban,Migration,Karnataka

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## 1.INTRODUCTION

In the case of Karnataka, where there has been a notable population shift in recent decades, the phenomenon of rural-to-urban migration has played a crucial role in forming societal institutions. Traditional gender roles have undergone a significant reconfiguration as a result of this migration trend, which is motivated by the desire for improved living, educational, and economic prospects. The comparatively more open and diverse urban social fabric challenges the strict, patriarchal standards that frequently characterize rural settings as people and families move from rural to urban settings. In Karnataka, this change signifies a transformative journey in the lives of men and women as well as a simple geographic relocation. Greater female autonomy and engagement in the workforce, educational system, and public life are made possible by the renegotiation of gender norms made possible by the metropolitan landscape's diversified opportunities and exposure to diverse cultural dynamics. But when migrants negotiate the conflicts between societal norms and the fresh opportunities afforded by city living, this reconfiguration is intricate and multidimensional. A fascinating lens through which to see the changing dynamics of gender relations is provided by the confluence of migration and gender norms in Karnataka. This intersection highlights the ways in which migration acts as both a catalyst for change and a site of resistance to deeply ingrained social structures. The purpose of this research is to investigate these changes, with particular attention to the ways in which migration from rural to urban areas affects the reevaluation of gender roles, the difficulties encountered by migrants throughout this process, and the wider consequences for gender equality in the quickly urbanizing state of Karnataka.

### 1.1 Historical Context of Rural-to-Urban Migration in Karnataka

Over the past few decades, Karnataka's rural-to-urban migration trend has changed dramatically due to a mix of social, educational, and economic factors. At first, the main reasons behind migration were the desire to relocate to cities in order to pursue better job prospects and higher living standards. This trend has accelerated over time as a result of the fast industrialization and growth of cities like Bengaluru and Mysuru, which have drawn people from rural areas to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities and advancements in education. Migration

patterns across time show an increasing trend towards urbanization, which has had a significant impact on gender standards. Traditional gender roles are being questioned more and more by people from rural areas moving to cities, which is changing societal norms and opportunities for both men and women.

## 1.2 Traditional Gender Norms in Rural Karnataka

Traditional gender norms that establish different and frequently limiting roles for men and women are strongly ingrained in patriarchal ideals in rural Karnataka. Traditionally, women are assigned to caregiving and household duties, while males are expected to be the main providers of income and decision-makers. Social and economic chances are greatly impacted by this patriarchal structure, which restricts women's access to work and education while preserving their inferior standing in the home and community. Practices including women's limited mobility, early marriage, and restricted involvement in public and economic activities are examples of gender-based constraints. These deeply ingrained customs support the established power structures in rural communities and obstruct women's empowerment, therefore continuing a cycle of inequity.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITREATURE

**Abolga's(2022)**study offers a thorough examination of the variables influencing rural-urban migration in Kumasi, Ghana. The study highlights the main drivers of migration as being access to better living conditions, educational opportunities, and economic opportunities. Abolga draws attention to the ways in which these motivating factors cause notable changes in the socioeconomic dynamics and patterns of settlement inside metropolitan areas. The study sheds light on the intricate interactions between urban settlement and migration patterns, demonstrating the effects of rural migration on housing, social services, and urban infrastructure.

**Bahn, Tell, and Zurayk(2021)** Examine the social changes that result from people moving from rural to urban areas in the Middle East and North Africa. Their research looks at how relationships, social institutions, and cultural practices are affected by migration. The writers talk on the difficulties that immigrants have integrating into varied urban settings and adjusting to

new social standards. In order to give readers a more comprehensive knowledge of these processes in various regional contexts, this chapter offers a comparative viewpoint on how gender dynamics and social life are impacted by migration from rural to urban areas.

**Liu and Dang's (2019)** investigate the patterns and institutional reactions of migration from rural to urban areas in Vietnam. The writers examine the forces behind migration, such as financial rewards and institutional structures that influence the experiences of migrants. They offer a thorough analysis of the ways in which labor markets, social policy, and urban planning are impacted by migratory trends. Understanding the institutional mechanisms that facilitate or impede migration and the ensuing socioeconomic effects on rural and urban areas is made possible in large part by this research.

**Lu's (2023)** The article centers on the tenacity of young migrants in overcoming the obstacles posed by urbanization. The study sheds insight on the coping techniques and adaptation tactics used by young migrants to get over socioeconomic barriers and adjust to life in the metropolis. Lu's study emphasizes the value of social networks, education, and community support in helping migrant youth develop resilience. This research advances our knowledge of the complex experiences of younger migrants and how urbanization affects their psychological and social welfare.

### **3. RESEARCH METHDOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Using a mixed-methods research design, the study integrates qualitative and quantitative techniques to investigate gender norm reconfiguration in the context of Karnataka's rural-to-urban migration. This method, which combines quantitative data to find patterns and trends with qualitative insights to investigate individual experiences and perspectives, enables a comprehensive understanding of the intricate social dynamics at work. Utilizing both approaches, the study seeks to present a comprehensive picture of the changes taking place in urban areas by providing a solid understanding of how migration affects gender roles and expectations.

### **3.2 Data Collection**

A combination of surveys, interviews, and focus groups with Karnataka's migrant families are used to gather data for the study. To collect quantitative data on demographic traits, migratory experiences, and shifts in gender norms, surveys are conducted. Qualitative insights into personal and family viewpoints regarding the influence of migration on gender roles can be obtained through in-depth interviews. Focus groups also help groups of migrants have conversations to investigate common experiences and opinions. This multimodal approach guarantees a thorough comprehension of the ways in which gender norms and family dynamics are impacted by migration from rural to urban areas.

### **3.3 Sampling**

In order to guarantee representation among migrant families in Karnataka across different demographic groupings, the selection strategy employs a stratified random sample approach. Key factors like age, gender, history of migration, and socioeconomic level are taken into consideration when selecting participants in order to capture a range of experiences and viewpoints. There are 300 participants in the sample, both male and female, and they are selected from various metropolitan regions where rural migrants have made their homes. This approach guarantees an equitable and thorough portrayal of the migrant community, so enabling a thorough examination of the reorganization of gender norms during migration.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

The obtained information is interpreted by a combination of statistical and thematic methodologies in data analysis. Thematic analysis is used to find and examine recurrent themes and patterns linked to gender norms and migration experiences in qualitative data from focus groups and interviews. This method aids in comprehending the complex viewpoints of immigrant families. Statistical analysis is used to compute descriptive statistics, like means and frequencies, and to run inferential tests, like chi-square tests, to find meaningful patterns and relationships in quantitative survey data. Combining these methods offers a thorough

understanding of how gender norms in Karnataka are impacted by migration from rural to urban areas.

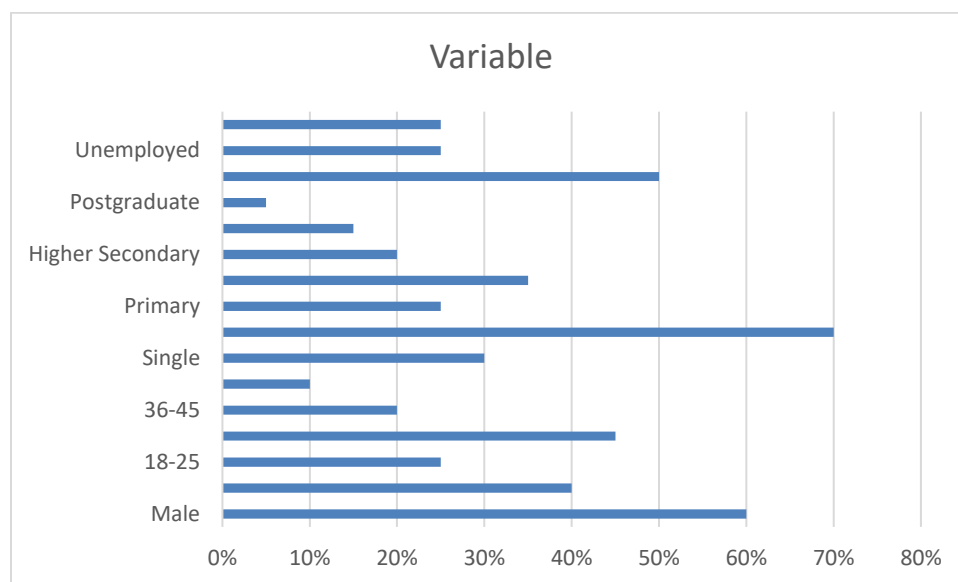
#### 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPERTATIONS

##### 4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Participants

**Table 1:Demographical profile**

Variable	Categories	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	120	60%
	Female	80	40%
Age Group	18-25	50	25%
	26-35	90	45%
	36-45	40	20%
	46-55	20	10%
Marital Status	Single	60	30%
	Married	140	70%
Education Level	Primary	50	25%
	Secondary	70	35%
	Higher Secondary	40	20%
	Undergraduate	30	15%
	Postgraduate	10	5%

Employment Status	Employed	100	50%
	Unemployed	50	25%
	Homemaker	50	25%



**Figure 1:** Graphical Representation on Demographical profile

**Gender Distribution:** There are 40% females and 60% males in the sample. The results pertaining to gender norms and attitudes may be impacted by the slightly higher presence of men in this distribution. The gender gap may result from unequal employment possibilities or migration patterns that affect male and female migrants in different ways.

**Age Group:** The bulk of participants (45%) are between the ages of 26 and 35, suggesting that most respondents are relatively young adults who are probably in a time of their jobs or family lives where gender roles are changing and migration is a big factor. 25% of the sample falls into the 18–25 age range, indicating a sizable proportion of younger migrants who might only be beginning to adjust to life in the city. The remaining age groups, which together account for 30%

of the sample (36–45 and 46–55), shed light on the effects of migration on gender norms and the experiences of older people.

The study's focus may be on homes where traditional gender roles are more ingrained and possibly more susceptible to large changes owing to migration, as shown by the bulk of participants (70%) who are married. The inclusion of thirty percent single people diversifies the sample and makes it possible to compare the experiences of married and single migrants.

Education Level: Participants' educational backgrounds vary; 35% have finished secondary school, 25% have just completed primary school, and 20% have completed higher secondary education. The proportion of people with undergraduate (15%) or doctoral degrees (5%), on the other hand, is lower. This distribution shows a variety of educational backgrounds, which could have an impact on how people perceive and modify gender roles in urban environments.

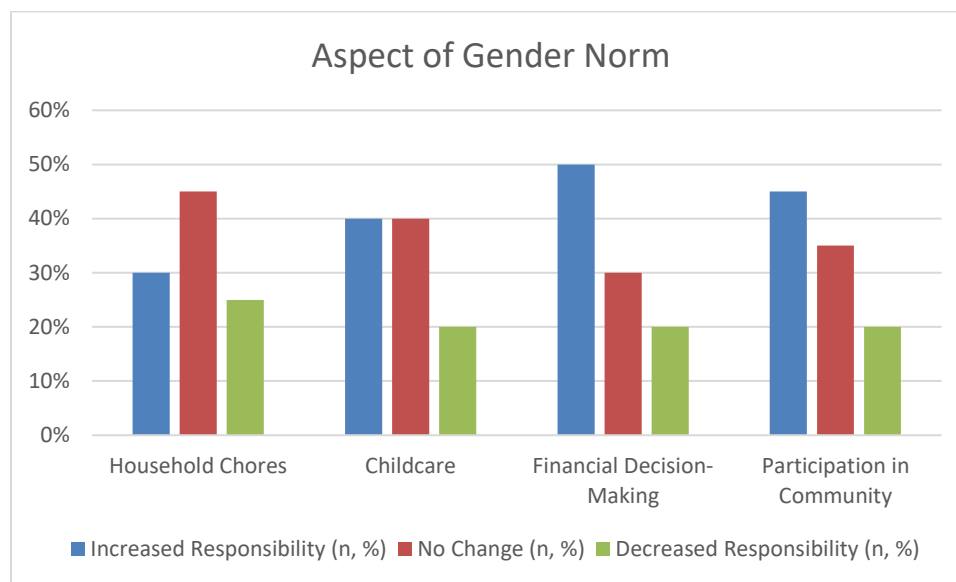
Work Status: Of the participants, half are employed, 25% are unemployed, and 25% are stay-at-home moms. Given the sizeable percentage of working-age people, it is possible that the migratory experiences of those in employment differ from those of the unemployed or stay-at-home parents. Understanding how economic engagement influences the reconfiguration of gender norms will be aided by the work status data.

**Table 2:** Seen Shifts in Gender Roles After Migration

Aspect of Gender Norm	Increased Responsibility (n, %)	No Change (n, %)	Decreased Responsibility (n, %)
Household Chores	60 (30%)	90 (45%)	50 (25%)
Childcare	80 (40%)	80 (40%)	40 (20%)
Financial Decision-Making	100 (50%)	60 (30%)	40 (20%)
Participation in	90 (45%)	70 (35%)	40 (20%)



<b>Community</b>			
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**Figure 2:** Graphical representation on Seen Shifts in Gender Roles After Migration

The examination of how migrants perceive their gender roles to have changed indicates notable changes in roles and engagement in different facets of daily life.

**Household tasks:** According to the statistics, 30% of participants believe that their share of household tasks has increased since their relocation, suggesting that more people—possibly women—are taking on more domestic responsibilities in urban areas. Nonetheless, a greater percentage (45%) state that their tasks have not changed, indicating that many migrants continue to fulfill their pre-migration roles in this area. Furthermore, 25% believe they have less responsibility for domestic responsibilities now. Changes in home dynamics or urban support systems, such as increased shared responsibilities or availability to domestic help, may be the cause of this decline.

**Childcare:** Forty percent of interviewees said they had more responsibility in this area, indicating a clear trend toward greater participation in childrearing tasks. This might be an indication of

adjusting to new urban environments, where support networks and family structures might be different from those in rural areas. Forty percent more indicate no change, indicating that childcare obligations continue to be consistent with pre-migration experiences for a sizable portion of migrants. Some of the conventional burdens connected with child-rearing can be relieved by external support systems like urban childcare facilities, which could be helpful for the 20% of parents who see a drop in their childcare responsibilities.

**Financial Decision-Making:** Of the participants, 50% feel that their role has increased in this area, which is the most noticeable shift. This suggests a significant shift towards a higher level of involvement in financial decisions, which is probably due to the increasing independence and economic opportunities found in metropolitan environments. This shift is especially significant since it suggests that traditional gender roles may be realigned, potentially giving individuals greater control over home money. On the other hand, 20% of participants feel that their engagement has decreased, and 30% of participants claim that there has been no change. This could mean that some migrants are still in traditional financial roles or are dealing with different dynamics in urban financial management.

**Community Participation:** Forty-five percent of individuals reported feeling more involved in the community, indicating a considerable shift in this area. This may be a reflection of the improved social networks and possibilities found in cities, which promote higher levels of participation in local events. Nevertheless, 35% say their level of community involvement has not changed, indicating that their social roles have remained stable despite the shift. Cultural differences or restricted access to community resources could be obstacles to community inclusion for the 20% who witness a decline.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Using a mixed-methods approach to obtain a complex knowledge of this dynamic process, the study offers a thorough examination of how gender norms are reconfigured during rural-to-urban migration in Karnataka. Gender roles have shifted significantly as a result of migration, as evidenced by the integration of qualitative and quantitative data. The results show that although

many migrants continue to perform traditional tasks like housework, there have been significant changes in areas like childcare, financial decision-making, and community involvement. Reflecting the benefits and challenges that come with living in an urban environment, the growing involvement in community activities and financial decision-making points to a good trend towards greater gender equality. The intricacy of this shift is highlighted by differences in experiences according to age, gender, and work status. The individuals' varied employment and educational histories serve as additional evidence of how migration affects gender roles in various socioeconomic contexts. The study underscores the impact of urban migration on gender norms and underscores the necessity of sustained investigation and policy measures to promote gender parity in urban settings that are undergoing fast change.

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