

## ASPECTS OF MIGRATION IN NORTHEAST INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

Migrations have occurred throughout human history, beginning with the movements of the first human groups from their origins in East Africa to their current location in the world. It is estimated that about three million people around the world migrate every week (UN-Habitat, 2009). Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. With regard to a particular location, migration can be categorized into two types: in migration and out migration. Literature on migration with respect to the North Eastern Region (NER) of India largely confine to issues of in-migration. But there is hardly any study which focuses on aspects of in and out migration with respect to North Eastern Region. This paper is a modest attempt in this regard based on the various rounds of survey reports of NSSO on migration. Also, the paper aims at capturing the overall dynamics of migration of in North Eastern Region to arrive at useful empirical insights for effective policy formulation to augment all round development of North Eastern Region.

**KEYWORDS:** In Migration, Out Migration, NSSO, Human, North Eastern Region

### INTRODUCTION

Migration is a form of spatial mobility or change of usual residence of person from one well defined geopolitical area to another. Migration cannot be considered a mere shift of people from one place of residence to another, as it is most fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space content and space relationship of an area (Gosal,1961). Population migration is a common phenomenon throughout the world. As a matter of fact, it is an instrument of cultural diffusion and social integration resulting significant change of land-use pattern and demographic profile in the area of origin and destination.

Migrations have occurred throughout human history, beginning with the movements of the first human groups from their origins in East Africa to their current location in the world. It is estimated that about three million people around the world migrate every week (UN-Habitat, 2009). Migration is the movement of people from one place to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. People move for a variety of reasons. They can either choose to move or be forced to move. They consider the advantages and disadvantages of staying versus moving, as well as factors such as distance, travel costs, travel time, modes of transportation, terrain, and cultural barriers. With regard to a particular location, migration can be categorized into two types: in migration and out migration.

Literature on migration with respect to the North Eastern Region (NER) of India largely confine to issues of in-migration - as the region has been historically a migrant receiving zone. It is only very recently that out-migration from the North Eastern states has steadily been increasing in the recent past (Singh, 2007). But there is hardly any study which focuses on both in and out migration with respect to NER. This paper is a modest attempt in this regard based on the

various rounds of survey reports of NSSO on migration.

## OBJECTIVES

Broadly, the paper aims at capturing the overall dynamics of migration of in North Eastern Region to arrive at useful empirical insights for effective policy formulation to augment all round development of NER. The specific objectives of the study are:

- To understand the unique aspects of in and out migration in North Eastern Region.
- To throw light on the characteristics of migrants and their working and living patterns.

## DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The study is primarily based on secondary data collected from NSSO and other government publications, covering the period 1999-2007, including some relevant books, journals, reports, periodicals, newspaper etc. have been consulted. The data so collected have been processed and analyzed with the help of meaningful statistical techniques like simple ratios and percentages. The summarized data have been skillfully presented for clear exposition of the problem.

## ANALYSIS

The analysis is elaborated under the following headings.

### Migration and Its Various Aspects

Let us first look into the distribution of migrants between 1999-00 to 2007-08 in Table1.

**Table 1: Distribution of Migrants (Number per Thousand):1999-00 to 2007-08**

States	1999-00		2007-08	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Arunachal Pradesh	33	8	25	35
Assam	270	120	255	72
Manipur	18	6	196	93
Meghalaya	44	33	13	26
Mizoram	206	110	106	26
Nagaland	325	76	71	62
Sikkim	627	300	47	34
Tripura	156	110	174	65

Source: NSSO, 49<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Round

The distribution of migrants is illustrated in Table- 1. Migration to rural areas has decreased over the studied period in all northeastern states except Manipur and Tripura. In case of urban areas, Migration has decreased in states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, while it has shown an increasing trend in states like Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

**Table 2: Distribution (Per 1000) of Migrants by Nature of Movement: 2007-08**

States	Rural			Urban		
	Temporary		Permanent	Temporary		Permanent
	Less than 12 months	More than 12 months		Less than 12 months	More than 12 months	
Arunachal Pradesh	27	878	14	29	667	203
Assam	4	307	689	3	27	970

Manipur	98	902	0	167	738	83
Meghalaya	0	780	195	0	282	711
Mizoram	2	257	732	0	62	938
Nagaland	1	806	185	18	580	378
Sikkim	3	692	305	1	336	663
Tripura	29	283	689	1	100	896

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

Distribution of migrants by nature of movement is illustrated in Table 2. In rural areas majority of migrants are temporary migrants residing from more than 12 months in all states except Assam, Mizoram and Tripura where people tend to move permanently. However, there are no permanent migrants in rural areas of Manipur. In urban areas, Temporary migration is more in states like Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Where as permanent migration is more visible in states like Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim.

**Table 3: Distribution of Migrants by Migration Streams: 2007-08**

States	Migration Streams			
	Rural to Rural	Urban to Rural	Rural to Urban	Urban to Urban
Arunachal Pradesh	305	203	281	211
Assam	774	39	138	50
Manipur	394	80	303	223
Meghalaya	593	208	128	71
Mizoram	307	47	335	311
Nagaland	241	198	320	240
Sikkim	700	83	125	92
Tripura	735	34	173	58

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

The distribution of migrants by migration streams is presented in Table-3. An analysis of migration streams reveals that in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram there is more frequency of rural to rural migration followed by rural to urban migration. In Nagaland Rural to urban migration has more frequency. In Sikkim and Tripura there is high frequency of rural to rural migration.

**Table 4: Distribution of Migrants by Reasons Behind Migration: 2007-08**

States	Rural						Urban					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Arunachal Pradesh	541	138	7	123	0	46	524	48	1	113	99	51
Assam	23	4	66	781	61	34	319	47	39	285	199	95
Manipur	324	117	0	76	354	0	131	354	0	0	466	40
Meghalaya	160	28	12	454	274	47	414	158	0	109	181	57
Mizoram	296	24	16	95	437	57	301	61	20	74	458	56
Nagaland	264	80	4	290	299	52	397	65	8	161	298	63
Sikkim	217	59	0	447	205	70	318	93	4	169	335	79
Tripura	44	12	211	552	94	83	219	34	114	285	252	88

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

Note: 1= Employment related reasons; 2=Studies; 3= Forced Migration; 4= Marriage; 5= movement of Earning Member; 6= others

The distribution of migrants by reason behind migration is analyzed in Table-4. The analysis of Distribution of migrants by reasons behind migration reveals that in Arunachal Pradesh migration occurs for seeking employment in both

rural and urban areas. While, in Assam migration occurs mainly due to marriages in rural areas, and for search of employment in urban areas. In Manipur, majority of migration occurs due to movement of earning members in both rural and urban areas.

**Table 5: Distribution of Migrants across Social Groups (Number per Thousand):1999-2000**

State	Rural				Urban			
	SC	ST	OTHERS	ALL	SC	ST	OTHERS	ALL
Arunachal Pradesh	23	-	4	27	-	13	12	25
Assam	2	1	5	8	3	1	22	26
Manipur	1	11	11	23	-	12	37	49
Meghalaya	-	6	0	6	-	32	15	47
Mizoram	-	5	0	5	-	21	0	21
Nagaland	-	1	-	1	-	16	33	49
Sikkim	1	2	12	14	-	29	59	87
Tripura	1	0	2	3	-	1	12	12

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

Distribution of Migrants across social groups is presented in Table-5. In urban areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram majority of migrants belong to ST category; while in case of rural areas majority of migrants belongs to SC category in Arunachal Pradesh and ST category dominate in Meghalaya and Mizoram. In Assam, Sikkim and Tripura others category emerged as dominant migrants in both rural as well as urban areas. In Nagaland, majority of migrants belong to ST category in rural areas while in urban areas majority belongs to others category. In Manipur, ST and Others have equal share in migrants of rural areas while others dominant share among migrants in urban areas.

### Aspects of Out-Migration

Various aspects of outmigration are analyzed below.

**Table 6: Number of Out-Migrants per 1000 Persons: 2007-08**

State	Rural	Urban	All
Arunachal Pradesh	37	26	34
Assam	46	41	45
Manipur	37	30	35
Meghalaya	28	18	26
Mizoram	41	50	45
Nagaland	73	52	68
Sikkim	81	135	87
Tripura	34	38	35

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

Table 6 presents the Number of out-migrants per 1000 persons. In Arunachal Pradesh out-migration occurs more from rural areas. This is the case with Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. But, out-migration is more from urban areas in the states like Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.

**Table 7: Number of Return Migrants by different Category of Out-Migrants:2007-08**

State	Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Arunachal Pradesh	531	483	518	284	192	249
Assam	245	169	178	175	93	130
Manipur	469	214	363	980	443	598
Meghalaya	107	26	73	171	169	170

Mizoram	128	136	132	224	150	184
Nagaland	527	428	469	290	267	278
Sikkim	27	18	21	0	1	1
Tripura	126	157	149	189	127	150

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

An analysis of the number of Return migrants by different category of out-migrants is exemplified in Table 7. The analysis of return migrants show that males tend to return back more frequently in states except Nagaland and Tripura in rural areas while it is evident in all states in case of urban areas barring Sikkim.

### Working Pattern of Migrants

We now analyze the working pattern of migrants with respect to rural and urban areas.

**Table 8: Distribution of Migrants by their Principal Activity Before and After Migration: 2007-08**

(Number per 1000)

States	Rural						Urban					
	Self Employed		Casual Labour		Regular Salaried		Self Employed		Casual Labour		Regular Salaried	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Arunachal Pradesh	173	184	77	81	254	347	190	181	24	33	265	348
Assam	63	113	24	55	84	44	113	140	134	29	81	222
Manipur	125	121	114	116	194	187	20	20	24	24	112	131
Meghalaya	293	356	158	149	64	141	100	140	168	167	109	241
Mizoram	353	537	48	22	75	89	260	218	27	47	130	229
Nagaland	214	221	3	13	165	203	136	121	4	18	129	269
Sikkim	237	291	31	57	108	24	96	124	0	1	182	377
Tripura	112	146	50	93	20	36	88	118	53	33	139	234

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

An analysis of Distribution of migrants by their principal activity before and after migration is undertaken in Table 8. In rural areas, migrants prefer to adopt self employment after migration in all states except Manipur, casual works in all states except Meghalaya and Mizoram, regular employment in all states except Assam, Manipur and Sikkim. In urban areas self employment has shown an increased preference in all states except Nagaland and Sikkim, casual works has increased in all states except Assam and Tripura, regular employment has increased in all states of north east.

### Living Pattern of Migrants

We illustrate below the living pattern of migrants in relation to MPCE quintile class.

**Table 9: Distribution (Per 1000) of Migrants in different MPCE Quintile Class: 2007-08**

States	MPCE Quintile Class									
	Rural					Urban				
	0-20	20-40	40-60	60-80	80-100	0-20	20-40	40-60	60-80	80-100
Arunachal Pradesh	181	11	170	250	388	176	337	105	144	237
Assam	214	225	210	146	205	175	160	140	197	328
Manipur	297	55	88	138	422	40	8	3	603	347
Meghalaya	52	83	140	224	501	153	82	104	307	355
Mizoram	213	205	203	94	285	132	156	187	171	354
Nagaland	120	103	131	205	441	197	182	138	260	223

Sikkim	130	152	153	192	373	233	142	248	148	230
Tripura	239	148	197	171	245	169	125	243	200	264

Source: NSSO, 64<sup>th</sup> Round

Distribution (per 1000) of migrants in different MPCE quintile class is analyzed in Table 9. In Arunachal Pradesh, More migrants are in MPCE class 80-100 in rural areas while in urban areas majority fall in MPCE class 20-40. In Assam, More migrants are in MPCE class 20-40 in rural areas while in urban areas majority fall in MPCE class 80-100. In Manipur, More migrants are in MPCE class 422 in rural areas while in urban areas majority fall in MPCE class 60-80. In Meghalaya, more migrants are in MPCE class 80-100 in rural areas as well as urban areas. In Mizoram, more migrants are in MPCE class 80-100 in rural areas as well as urban areas. In Nagaland, more migrants are in MPCE class 80-100 in rural areas while in urban areas majority fall in MPCE class 60-80. In Sikkim, more migrants are in MPCE class 80-100 in rural areas while in urban areas majority fall in MPCE class 40-60. In Tripura, more migrants are in MPCE class 80-100 in both rural and urban areas.

## CONCLUSIONS

The foregoing discussion reveals the clear exposition of migration pattern in North-eastern state. Migration to rural areas has decreased over the studied period in all northeastern states except Manipur and Tripura. In case of urban areas, Migration has decreased in states like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, while it has shown an increasing trend in states like Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

As far as out-migration is concerned, it occurs more from rural areas in states like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland while in the states like Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura people out-migrate more from urban areas.

Focusing on their working pattern of migrants, self employment can be seen to have a preference among the migrants in rural areas. In urban areas self employment and regular employment is preferred by the migrants of north east. The living pattern of migrants show wide fluctuations among various MPCE class with respect to all states of north east.

Migrants coming from diverse socio-economic background not only influence the demographic composition of the existing mass of population but also results in emergence of new problems like decline of man-land ratio, shortage of food, settlement pattern, and ethnic clash etc. in the region. Consequently, the emphasis should be given to overall socio economic development of the region.

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