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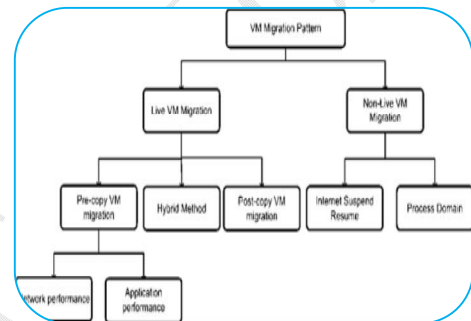
PATTERN AND PROCESSES OF MIGRATION FROM NORTH EASTERN REGION IN DELHI

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ABSTRACT:

The North Eastern Region is experiencing a large scale out-migration towards the mainland India. The National Capital Territory of Delhi is considered to be the most popular and sought after destination by the migrants experiencing a rapid increase volume of the migrants in recent years. The central focus of this paper is to understand the trends, pattern of and process of out-migration in the context of NCT Delhi using data from Census of India for 1991 and 2001. The North Eastern migrants constitute a small proportion of migrant's population in the city. But their ethnicity and unique socio-cultural characteristic not only make them an exclusive group but their experiences are also divorced from other internal migrants in India. The migrants from Assam and Nagaland together constituted nearly 70 percent of the total in-migrants in 2001. Both males and females are equally and actively participating in the migratory process. The age profile of the migrants is mostly young also they stay for prolonged duration.



KEYWORDS: National Capital Territory , mainland India , ethnicity and unique socio-cultural characteristic.

1.1. INTRODUCTION

North Eastern Region (NER) is located in the extreme eastern part of India comprising of the eight states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. It is a landlocked frontier region, bordered by Eastern-Himalayas and drained by Brahmaputra River. The region is traditionally known to be a migrant receiving region from the neighbouring countries of Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. However, in the

recent past, the North Eastern Region has witnessed a large scale out-migration (Haksar, 2016; Marchang, 2017).

According to an assessment by NGO, North East Support Centre and Helpline, in 2011, about 414,850 people from the eight North Eastern states out-migrated outside the region (NESC&H, 2011). Studies also suggest that that the exodus from the region is more city bound, towards the mega and metro cities of the mainland like Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai, Pune (Marchang, 2017). At the same

time, the National Capital Territory of Delhi is considered to be the most popular and sought after destination by the migrants. The studies also suggested that almost 50 percent of total North Eastern migrants are concentrated in Delhi. Moreover, the city has been experiencing a swift surge in volume of the migrants in recent years (NESC&H, 2011; McDuie-Ra, 2012; Haksar, 2016).

In this backdrop, the central focus of this paper is to understand the trends, pattern of and process of out-migration in the context of NCT Delhi using data from Census of India for 1991 and 2001 (2011 Census on Migration is not available).

1.2. IN-MIGRATION FROM NORTH EASTERN REGION TO DELHI

The National Capital Territory of Delhi, situated in the heart of India is a city of both national and international significance. As the national capital the city is not only an administrative centre of national politics and policy formulation but at the same time it is a thriving industrial, commercial and cultural centre (Dunpont, 2004). The city offers numerous opportunities professionally as well as personally. It is also one of the major educational hubs of the country with numerous and diversified educational institutions.

The central location of the city, connectivity, and opportunities that the city offers, attract people from all over the country. Migrant population constitutes almost 40 percent of the total population of the city (ORGI Census, 2001). The North Eastern migrants are one of the many groups of people that travel to Delhi constituting only a small proportion of migrant's population in the city; and even though their movement is internally within the national boundaries, but majority of the North East Migrants belong to the Mongoloid racial group, and therefore appear visually different from the other citizens of the country. Their ethnicity and unique socio-cultural characteristic not only make them an exclusive group but their experiences are also divorced from other internal migrants (NESC&H, 2011; Nongbri&Shimreiwung, 2017). The whole process of migration also becomes equally unique in their context, requiring in-depth analysis.

TRENDS AND PATTERN

The North Eastern migrants with less than 2 percent of the total migrants constitute a very small proportion of in-migrants in Delhi. According to the 1991 Census, they constituted only 0.43 percent of the total migrants, which increased to 1.1 percent in the 2001 Census (Table.1). The share of North Eastern migrants has substantially increased over the decade. This falls in line with the increasing rate of migration towards urban centres (Bhagat, 2010).

However, on a closer examination, it appears that the percentage share of migrants from all the states except for Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya has fallen. Only these three states have registered an increase in the share of migrants. The increase observed from the three states is the main factor behind the overall increase. Also, the case of Nagaland also is noteworthy. In 1991 census, the migrants from Nagaland constituted just 5 percent of the total North Eastern migrants of Delhi. However, it increased to about 26 percent in 2001. The corresponding increase in the share of male and female migrants is also very consistent with 27 percent and 26 percent respectively.

Table.1: State-wise Distribution of NE In-Migrants in Delhi, 1991-2001

States	1991			2001		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Arunachal Pradesh	5.97	6.63	5.24	3.22	3.18	3.28
Assam	56.97	56.08	58.22	43.64	43.07	44.37
Manipur	8.04	8.83	7.42	8.58	8.76	8.34
Meghalaya	9.02	8.28	9.68	9.51	8.76	10.47
Mizoram	2.82	2.76	2.87	2.67	2.74	2.58
Nagaland	5.08	5.01	5.11	26.71	27.92	25.17
Sikkim	5.87	6.06	5.50	2.46	2.42	2.52
Tripura	6.23	6.34	5.96	3.21	3.16	3.27
NER	0.43	0.42	0.44	1.11	1.13	1.10

**Figures in Percentages.*
Source: Census of India, 1991-2001 (D2 Migration table)

In 1991 the migrants from Assam were the dominant group with 57 percent of the total north east in-migrants in Delhi followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. However, there is a shift in the distribution pattern. Though Assamese migrant continues to dominate Delhi with 43percent, but its percentage share has fallen by almost 10 percent. This is mostly because migrants from other North Eastern states have become more numerous over the decade, especially from Nagaland. The migrants from Assam and Nagaland together constituted nearly 70 percent of the total in-migrants in 2001.

Over the decade, the share of male and female migrants has increased significantly from 0.42 and 0.44 to 1.13 and 1.10, respectively. The percentage share of female migrants in five out of eight states, including Assam, has registered a decline. On the contrary, female migrants, especially from Nagaland, have registered a massive growth. Even female migrant from Manipur and Meghalaya have recorded a decent increase. Similarly the share of male migrants has declined in all the states except for Nagaland. Thus it will not be wrong to assume that in the massive growth of migrants from Nagaland is the principle reason behind the migrant's growth in the last decade.

However, it should also be kept in mind that in 2001 Census, the state of Nagaland also experienced a rapid increase in the population rate due to exaggeration in data reporting. Hence, the enormous increase in the out-migrants can also be subject to some exaggeration.

GROWTH OF MIGRANTS:

Based on the above analysis, it can be established that there has been a rapid increase in the share of North Eastern migrant over the decade of 1991-2001. The share of migrants has grown exponentially at a rate of 14.4 percent annually. The volume of North East migrants is growing at an alarming rate when compared to the overall migrant growth rate of the country and even Delhi. The migrants from Nagaland observed the fastest growth, followed by Manipur. The least growth is observed in Sikkim and Tripura. These two states also have significantly show share of migrants in Delhi.

States	Total	Males	Females
Arunachal Pradesh	8.27	7.53	8.46
Assam	11.76	12.24	10.42
Manipur	15.07	14.80	14.30
Meghalaya	14.96	15.44	13.91
Mizoram	13.87	14.81	12.08
Nagaland	31.03	32.06	29.07
Sikkim	5.73	5.69	5.30
Tripura	7.79	7.91	7.14
NER	14.43	14.88	13.13
Delhi	4.80	5.11	3.95
India	3.0	3.7	2.8

** Exponential Growth Rate in percent*
Source: Census of India , 1991-2001 (D2 Migration table)

The rate of increase in male migrants is slightly higher than the females. This closely follows the national trend where a surge is observed in case male migration while the female migration remained more or less stable (Bhagat, 2010). The surge in the male migration rate is significantly contributing towards the overall increase in the share of north east migrants in Delhi.

PROFILE OF MIGRANTS

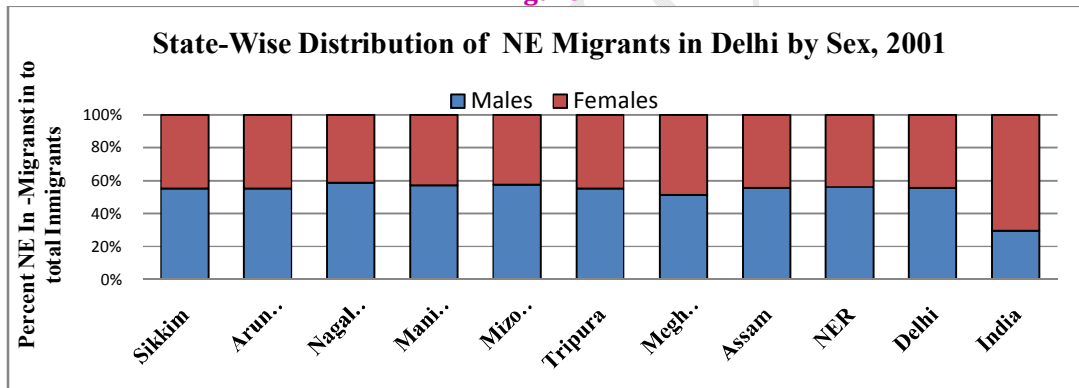
The North-Eastern Migrants are considered to constitute a unique group of migrants, much different from the traditional internal migrants of the country. They are socially as well as culturally distinct from the other migrants.

a. Sex Composition

According to the latest available Census data, 56 percent of the total migrants in Delhi are males and 44 percent females. A similar pattern can be observed in the case of North Eastern migrant also with 56 percent males and 44 percent female migrants. The Females dominate the overall migration flows in India with over 70 percent migrants. However, most of this migration is rural to rural in nature in nature for of marriage and associational migration. The urban migration flows are also generally dominated by males for economic purposes (Premi, 1980; Bhagat, 2014). Thus there exists a major gender differential in the migration in the country.

The migration pattern observed for the North Eastern migrants appears as a deviation from the general migration pattern as the gap between the male and females is significantly low. The share of female migrants from each state is at par with the male migrant. The reason and motivation may vary across sex but it cannot be denied that both males and females are equally participating in the migratory process (Haksar, 2016). Greater presence of women in migration flows can be associated with better and a more equitable position of women the home society. Also, it can be a sign for higher economic involvement

Figure 1

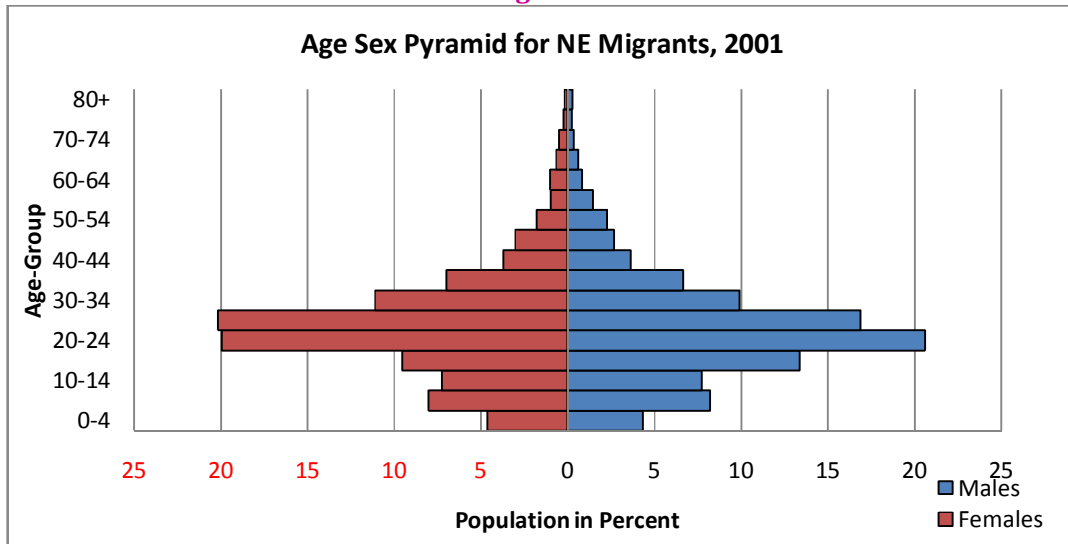


Source: Generated from Census of India, 2001 (D2 Migration table)

b. Age Composition

The most remarkable feature of North Eastern migrants is their age distribution. It is observed that almost 50 percent of the total migrants(both male and female) are in the age group of 15-29. It establishes that the age profile of the migrants is mostly young. The dominance of youth in the migration flows primarily reflects on migration for education and employment purposes.

Figure 2



Source: Generated from Census of India,2001 (D2 Migration table)

Majority of the migrants are between the age group of 20-34. The higher concentration of migrants in these ages justifies the two stage migration (Ramesh, 2012) pattern among the migrants. Majority of the migrants come to Delhi to pursue higher education and upon completion, they look for suitable job and continue living in the city itself. Only a small section of the migrants leave after completion of their course. The share of migrants is also observed to be declining with age mostly after age of 45. This signifies that the bulk of the migrants return to their origin state upon completion of their objective. Thus, there is a lack of tendency to settle down in Delhi among the migrants.

The age-sex pyramid is also very balanced for both the sexes. This signifies lack of gender differential in them. Both males and females are moving out in equal number from their source of origin towards Delhi. The young profile of migrants signifies dominance of single and unmarried migrants.

c. Duration of Residence

Based on the following table, it can be ascertained that the majority of the migrants both male and female in Delhi are residing for more than one year. The share of migrants who are residing for less than a year is significantly small. This establishes that migration from the North Eastern states are not short term or seasonal unlike the traditional pattern of internal migration in India (Ramesh, 2012).

Duration	Total	Males	Females
Less than 1 year	4.06	3.84	4.3
1-4 years	27.05	26.84	27.3
5-9 years	19.31	19.47	19.1
10-19 years	26.32	26.05	26.7
20+ years	19.26	19.72	18.7
Duration not stated	4.00	4.07	3.9

Source: Generated from Census of India , 2001(D2 Migration table)

The largest share of migrants between the duration of 1-4 also substantiates the presence of youth migrants who come solely for educational purposes. However, only a small proportion of these migrants return upon completion of their education. Majority of them find a suitable job and continue to live in Delhi (Ramesh, 2012). The migrants with higher duration of residence are mostly part of the

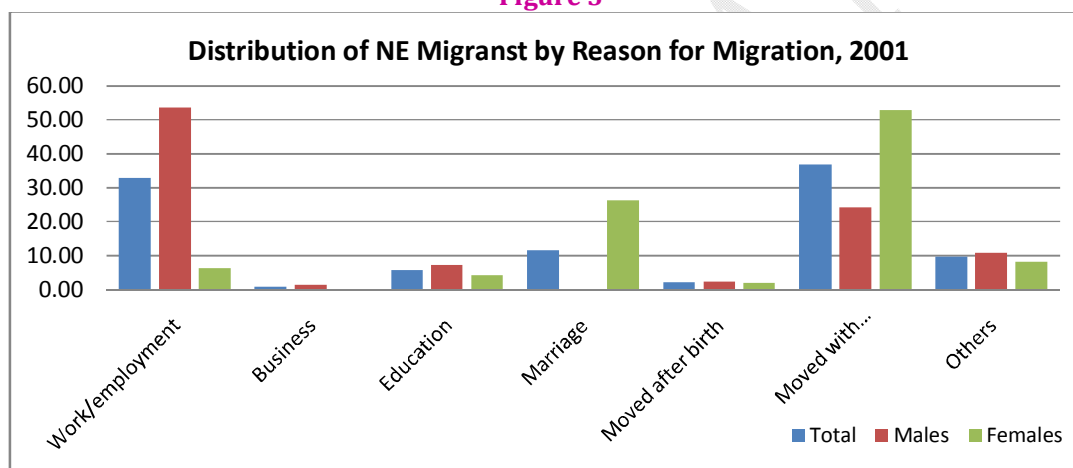
labour market. The youth spend their adulthood in the city and return to their origin state as they grow old and retire.

REASONS OF MIGRATION

The movement of the North Eastern people to Delhi can be linked to numerous factors. From the following table it can be inferred that marriage and moved with household remains the main reason for movement for women and employment for men. Movement with family or with any earning member of the family is high among both male and females. This can be linked to the age profile of the migrants. As most of the migrants are young they move with someone elder from family to pursue education.

One of the main reasons of migration is for employment purpose. Almost 50 percent of the males have moved solely for employment purposes. But, only 6 percent of the females reported employment as their reason for migration. However, the prevalent system of data collection fails to recognise women as workers and also their independent act of movement (Tappan, Singh, Sreekumar, 2016). The faulty practices of data collection also lead to under reporting. Usually the head of the family is male and the data is collected based on the head of the household. Mostly male experiences are accounted in the surveys and women are treated as their counterpart who moves along with them (Deori, 2006).

Figure 3



Source: Generated from D3 Migration table, 2001

Education is another significant factor which encourages people to move. However, only 4 percent of North Eastern migrants have cited education as the reason for their migration.

However, majority of the literature reports that the drivers of female migration are not different from the males. They are also choosing to migrate for education and employment purposes. Also, marriage and associational forms of migration is insignificant (Ramesh, 2012; McDuie-Ra, 2012; (NESC&H, 2011; Nongbri&Shimreiwung, 2017).

1.3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The preceding discussion gives a glimpse of the general pattern and processes of migration in respect to North Eastern Migrants in Delhi. The North Eastern migrants constitute a small fraction of migrants in National Capital Territory of Delhi but are an integral part of the territory. There is no consolidated and robust database for out-migrants in India; this negatively impacts in achieving a clearer picture. Very limited set of information is available through the census database.

The migration from the North Eastern states is not a new phenomenon, but it has undergone a drastic change in terms of volume, patterns as well as characteristics of migrants. Both males and

females are equally participating in the migration flows staying over longer durations and discouraging any form of seasonal or circular form of migration. The profile of the migrants is mostly young.

Most of the prominent literature mentions that more single and unmarried youth both males and females are making their way towards Delhi. The primary motivation behind undertaking such a long journey is essentially in a search of better education and employment opportunities. However, the census fails to capture this image and thus seems inconsistent with the studies undertaken on this subject.

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