

# T Growing Migration in Nongpoh Town: With Special Reference to Pahamsyiem Semi- Urban Village in Ri- Bhoi District of Meghalaya.

Miss Phiralin Amy Marsing

Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology in Meghalaya.  
Baridua 9<sup>th</sup> Mile, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya, India.  
Email: phiralyamy@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Migration which is a worldwide issues from time immemorial, commonly understood as the mobility of individual, group or community from one place to another place. A number of development issues have emerged in the literature on migration, most notably relationship between migration or another hand, and urbanization, industrial, agriculture, family structure, gender roles and ideology on the others. One of the characteristic of migration is it relationship with development (Robbin, 1996A). Migration has been perceived as an important component of social and economic change. We witnessed the sudden changing scenario and increasing of population reveals diverse patterns of growth in Nongpoh town, which we can say migration has a direct impact on population size. Nongpoh town being one of the areas which are considered as the main economy place, it is the reason why the concentration of migrant's population is growing. The predominant reason for migration seems to be economic in this place. Needless to say that migration and urbanization were closely inter-related. Obviously, urban demographic growth was caused by population movements. Migration, as a social and economic process, was an expression of those basic changes which were transforming nature and shape of the actual community under the influence of cities and metropolises. Migration as a physical mobility of persons from one place to other was precondition of the process of urbanization. Which we can witnessed particularly from the Pahamsyiem semi-urban village what had make the village to one of the most populated area in Nongpoh town when we study the impact and consequences of the migrants who went and settle permanently into this area the reason can be identifies clearly.

**Key Words:** Migration; Development; Urbanization; Population; Natives; Identity.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Migration from one area to another in search of improved livelihoods is a key feature of human history. While some regions and sectors fall behind in their capacity to support populations, others move ahead and people migrate to access these emerging opportunities. Industrialization widens the gap between rural and urban areas, inducing a shift of the workforce towards industrializing areas. There is extensive debate on the factors that cause populations to shift, from those that emphasize individual rationality and household behavior to those that cite the structural logic of capitalist development (cf. de Haan and Rogaly, 2002). Moreover, numerous studies show that the process of migration is influenced by social, cultural and economic factors and outcomes can be vastly different for men and women, for different groups and different locations (ibid.). Based on field work, this article examines various aspects of migrants to nongpoh town, a phenomenon which have increased rapidly in the last 5 years or so. This offers insights into different important interlinked processes. First, such migrants indicate significant changes taking place in the Nongpoh itself. To find work, to pursue education and to fulfill changing the aspirations. In nongpoh one domain that is particular relevant to voluntary settlement is goal pursuit (Oettingen et al., 2008) people who feel attracted to place that represent opportunity show a strong orientation towards pursuing personal and independent goals (Kitayama et al., 2014). In addition, because people who feel attracted to settle in such places should also be more self-reliant and autonomous.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The term urbanisation also implies the movement of people to the urban areas. Taylor (1953)<sup>17</sup> had used the term in the same way and had stated that "Urbanisation is a shift of people from villages to city". Davis and Golden (1954) had also explained urbanisation in an elaborate way. According to them, "urbanisation represents a revolutionary change in the Mumford, I. (1938): The Culture of Cities, Harcourt Brace & Co., London, pp. 284-292. 17 Taylor, G. (1953): Geography in the Twentieth Century, Matheun & Co. Ltd. London, pp. 524-527. whole pattern of social life and itself is a product of basic economic and technological developments". Definition of Urban Community Urban communities can be defined in any number of ways including by population size, population density, administrative or political boundaries, or economic function. Some countries define their urban population as those people living within certain administrative boundaries— such as in administrative centres or municipals (as in El Salvador), municipality councils (as in Iraq), or in places having a municipality or a municipal corporation, a town

committee, or a cantonment board (as in Bangladesh or Pakistan). Other countries prefer to classify their urban population using either population size or population density as the primary consideration. The 'United Nations' report world urbanization prospects, upon which much of this section is built, merely presents urban data that reflect national definitions, which are far from consistent. Hauser (1965)<sup>21</sup> had characterised urbanisation as a change in the pattern of population distribution, involving an increase in the relative size of the urban population and also a growth in the number of such places. Riesman (1964) had interpreted urbanisation as the whole process of changing a society. The consequences of this has been also explained by him.

Urbanisation results into a transformation of a society from a homogenous one to a heterogeneous mass. Gosal (1922)<sup>22</sup> had provided a detailed description about the town. "According to him an urban place acts as a central place for its umland. It is the focus of distinct human settlement, characterized by the complexity of human life and economic activities. He had further described that a town has an internally differentiated land use pattern, and is essentially the centre of innovation and diffusion of new ideas.

Prakasa Rao (1983)<sup>23</sup> had expressed, a similar thought about urbanisation and had stated that urbanisation involves the transformation of rural attributes to urban ones, the concentration of people at a point and also the multiplication of points of concentration, i.e. urban settlements. Singh and Singh (1988) had chosen certain socio-economic parameters to define urbanisation and were of the view that urbanisation meant the proportion of total population concentrated in urban settlements. It is also the expression of the contemporary political, social, economic and cultural processes prevailing in a region.

Mandal (1998)<sup>25</sup> had provided an extensive definition of urbanisation. He had used certain demographic, social and economic parameters and had categorised them into four factors in explaining urbanisation. These factors are: (a) concentration of people at one place, (b) population shift (migration) from rural to urban area, (c) occupational shift from agriculture to non-agriculture and (d) land use shift from agriculture to non-agriculture. William (1976) had been of the view that defining the term 'quality' even for an individual is a difficult task and that for the society, it is perhaps impossible. He had also observed the quality of life in terms of basic human needs and these needs are essentially related to the totality of goods, services and situations.

Concern over the over-urbanization of the Third World tends to portray urban growth was due mainly to rural-urban migration. This is seen as an indicator of regional and sectoral distortions in patterns of development as well as the origin of practical administrative difficulties in planning urban public services, and a possible source of social unrest in the cities. Such alarmism is often unjustified since natural increase is usually the primary reason for urban growth, which has also been faster where economic growth is the highest (Preston, 1988; UNCHS, 1996). Despite the fear of uncontrolled urbanization has resulted in widespread policies designed to limit urban growth and control rural-urban migration on the grounds of migrants' pressure on already insufficient housing and infrastructure. These policies usually have little impact aside from lowering welfare, especially for the poor and the middle-classes. In Dares Salaam and Jakarta, the only real effects of migration controls were to make life for the poor much harder while often increasing corruption as "illegal" migrants have to bribe officials in order to secure their stay in the city (Jellinek, 1988<sup>154</sup>; Gilbert, 1992). Authoritarian regimes in China and Kampuchea, and apartheid South Africa are able to implement drastic migration controls at a very high human cost and within political systems which contravened many human rights. After 1978, China began to relax its migration control largely, because these proved incompatible with the rapidly changing demand for labourer, especially in and around major foreign trade centres in the coastal regions (Chen and Parish, 1996).<sup>156</sup> In many cases, policy makers are deeply unaware of the impact of macro-economic policies on migration and urban development (Becker and Morrison, 1996<sup>157</sup>). Free market strategies, trade

154 Jellinek, L. (1988): "The changing fortunes of a Jakarta street-trader" in Gugler, J. (editor), *The Urbanization of the Third World*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 204-223. 155 Gilbert, A. (1992): "Urban and regional systems: a liberalization and decreasing government intervention in the national economy have a significant impact on population movement and on the physical form of urban settlements. In Thailand, the government's efforts to influence the pattern and process of industrialization, to control the growth of Bangkok's extended metropolitan region, have not been effective despite incentives offered to firms to relocate outside the area. Indeed, it is transnational firms allied with local industry rather than the State which control the shape, form and character of urbanization in the region (Parnwell and Wongsuphasawat, 1997<sup>158</sup>).

### **3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

With the increase in population, migration has become an important topic for study in the Nongpoh town. Nongpoh Town also has its development is a multifaceted phenomenon with multiplier linkage and ramification. However, we seen the fluctuating trends over this recent years how the population increasing promising to provide better living environment to the inhabitants. Migration is a two way process. It is a cause of development as well as has cause for development (Simmon, 1984), which is the most fundamental factors which effected development apart from infrastructure and better services which has lead to migration trends of different people coming and residing at Nongpoh town. Nongpoh town act as the major economic base and provide diverse employment opportunities to the people. The employment potential has promoted the development of the town. This has resulted in the concentration

of social, economic and commercial activities in the town. Consequently it's attracting vast population from rural areas, with the availability of jobs, transport, educational, and several other amenities and facilities. Both intra district, inter districts and interstate migration is taking place in the town. Mounting number of construction of new buildings, expansion of commercial and residential land, more roads connecting villages, good educational and health infrastructure are one of major rationales that has acted as a motivating factors for migration in the area. Hence the main reason for migration is rooted in the social, economic and political opportunities. Since the phenomenon of migration occurs due to variety of reasons.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY:**

The paper will try to find out how the process of migration flowing to Nongpoh Town which have leads to a variety of changes in social, culture and life of the native people. In this paper the respondents will be taken the village native people opinion and the migrants who come and stay in Nongpoh Town by tracing the historical background and present settlement of the migrants group through interview schedule, observation and discussion with the BDO, Block coordinators, Headman and village elderly people. Thus, for this study Pahamsyiem Village which is the semi-urban village locating near by the NH 37 Guwahati Shillong Road which is only 1km from the District Headquarters Nongpoh. This village has been taken as one of the sample which will be representing how migration flows to Nongpoh town by interacting with the respondents from this particular Semi-Urban Village. From this Pahamsyiem Semi-urban Village 80 respondents will be taken out which consist 40 respondents will be the native people and 40 will be the migrants people those who are coming and residing into this new place.

#### **4.1. INTRODUCTION TO PAHAMSYIEM VILLAGE.**

Pahamsyiem Village is the village near by Nongpoh Town Which is 1km from the Headquarter ie Nongpoh. It has 1 Headman with 7 locality under this the local leader will take the responsibility of each locality. It is one of the most populated number of people within an around Nongpoh Town according to the census 2011 reported from the BDO Statistical department Ri Bhoi District. Presently with the total population of 3145 with a total number of 976 household, it has 2 Higher secondary school with 2 Upper Primary School and 1 Primary School. Also the village has around 6 Churches, with one private Bethany Hospital, 1 Nursing Institute, 4 computer coaching centre, 5 Tuition centers with 5 private banks, and with more than 80 number of shops within around the village locality and two football field ground. The people who are staying presently in the village are of mixed community they are Christian, Hindu, Muslims, Sickh. The native people are the Bhoi tribe they are the sub tribe from Khasi tribe, but this native Bhoi tribe they originally belong from Ri Bhoi land. Majority of the native people residing in this village they are the bhoi tribe the "Bhoi khatar-Lyngdoh" and they speaks their own dialect i.e "Bhoi kharat-Lyndoh" language. One unique features of this village was that it is rich in forest resources whereby any plant can be planted in the soil. Presently the leading cultivation of product is Banana, followed by Orange, Papaya, Ginger, Pumkin, broom stick and seasonal product. Also the village is attached with the forest Government Land through here the local people they can earn their living by entering the forest land and collect local ethnic vegetables and also for collecting firewood. This forest was protected by the Forest Department of Meghalaya this forest it leads to Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary it has become one of the famous tourist spot in the District and also in the State and outsides Meghalaya because of its rich flora and fauna. This is the only wildlife sanctuary which produced the unique insects known as the "NIANGTASER" in local dialect or the another name as "WORLD CUP INSECTS" for this insects can be found only ones in four years i.e. during World Cup season. It is famous for its meat and very captivating when we study Cleary about how the process of going and catch this kind of insects. Thus, this village it has also become famous because of this wildlife sanctuary and also the place where these insects is exist whereby people used to go and observed the dense forest of flora and fauna.

#### **4.2. LIVING AND WORKING PATTERNS OF MIGRANTS:**

Migrants in this village are scattered all around the 7 localities, with in this four years a drastic change in increasing of migrants people coming and residing in this village the main reason is job and occupation when it's come to school students staying in rented house it's for education. In all the 7 localities it has been found that most of the migrants who fall under government servant, business and other job they are residing in four localities i.e. Pahamsyiem A, Pahamsyiem B, Lumdiengthang, and Mawkapiah. Presently it has been observed that in this four locality the development among the residents area it has taken place in a fast steps also the population of migrants households keep on increasing year by year. Since the migrants people keep on migrated into this place they bought the plot of land in a high price from the local people and construct new buildings and houses since these migrants are working permanently in Nongpoh and want to establish their own house. Another group of migrants they are inter-state migrants mostly they are coming from Wets Khasi Hills district and West Jaintia Hills they are residing in two localities i.e. Chinchona and Mawpyndu locality they are migrants in the case of unemployed is quite lofty among them since most of the family members depend in agricultural sectors and working in plantation of bettle nut leaf,

vegetables and sweet potatoes. In recent year their migrants numbers coming from the same native started to increase in this two locality most of them are staying in rented plot of land from the local people. Apart from this they are also Inter-state migration nearby Assam who are coming and residing in all the localities depends upon the labour work they are getting, presently this kind of labour migrants are being found in two localities i.e. Lumdiengthang, Mawkapiah and Pahamsyiem A since construction of new buildings is going on. Others types of migrants are coming in search for job they are mostly migrants coming from within the intra-district and inter-state from Assam.

#### **4.3. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION:**

Migration not only leads to economic transformation but also overwhelmingly brings socio-cultural change. Migrants coming from different cultural regions having diverse way of life learn much from the place of migration and bring home new ideas, new knowledge, skills, social norms and different ways of doing things (Allen 2003:5; Zachariah 2001:10). They bring remarkable changes in their family size, marriage age, medical care, children's education, social integration, social adjustment, etc. The socio-cultural change among migrants who had settled down in Nongpoh for the past many years even for decades was more pronounced than ever before. This transformation to the native people as well as to the migrant's people was not just confined to the language but overall way of life. Secular and rich social set up of the native people led to the cultural transformation among them. Gone were the days when they preferred simple dress up wearing different types of dress, preferably modern dresses and now they started preferring in residing in mixed community, exchanging of culture with others migrant's community, interaction with diverse language, marriage lifestyle, kind of job occupation.

#### **4.4. CAUSES OF MIGRATION.**

Given the diversity in the nature of Migration in nongpoh, the causes are also bound to vary. Migration is influenced both by the pattern of development (NCRL, 1991), and the social structure (Mosses et al., 2002). Nongpoh though, has a long history of migration and other groups of migrants can be seen in all parts of the Ri Bhoi, the district is well known for its prosperity. Prosperity in any region acted as pull factor for a significant number of people from poorer regions not only from near but also from the far. Nongpoh town continued to enjoy a lead among various town in terms of flowing of migration, education institutions, health institution, banks both Government and private, infrastructural development.

#### **4.5. MIGRATION IN NONGPOH: Key Issues of its Impact**

The influx, no doubt, of migrants stabilized of the economy production and boosted other commercial activities in the town. But the increasing flow of migrant towards Nongpoh Town from years to years which have leads to an increasing of population and urbanization process. Migration proved as a boon for the both local employers with the coming up of different institutions, Government Department, Private Banks, Car showroom, different business set ups, Shopping Malls and complex have help in eradicating employment to youngsters especially drop out schools students. This have leads to the development of the Town and society. And migrants who are residing in the new places find that the present settlement it has the hope how to improve their social and economic status. On the other side, Nongpoh Town also witnessed considerable changes in its physical, economic, social, political and demographic features directly as well as indirectly because of the participation of the newly migrants people who have taken permanent residential in their new residents locality not only that but also in the political field.

#### **5. CONCLUSION:**

Migrants coming from diverse socio-economic background not only influence the demographic composition of the existing mass of population in the area but also results in emergence of new problems like over population, settlement pattern, clash in cultural identity, and raising of divers groups a of migrants which leads to a mixed combination of acculturation and assimilation in the village. Most of the existing literature on migration both from place of origin and place of destination takes in to account common demographic characteristics of the migrants (Suresh et al., 2007, Naik et al., 2009, Chandra, 2002, Sidhu et al., 2003, Lamani, 2009), factors (Devi et al., 2009, Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008), Consequently, the emphasis should be given to overall socio economic development of the village , in the present scenario it have been observed that most of the migrants residents of village they are stranger to each other even though they belongs from the same village because they were not brought up or resides for years in the new settlement. The menace is that will they remain unfamiliar person for years to come even during their children epoch if it's still continue then the village will soon have a social problem especially in maintaining the unity and welfare of the society. Because it have been seen that most of the migrants they take point in time in having a social rapport with one another. The reason which have been identify was that most of the migrants are employed in other Government, non-government, business and others works which have lead them not adequate of etc time for maintaining social relationship but to focus only into their family affairs and their working timing. Thus, keeping and having a friendly and social relationship among the native and migrants people should be manufacture up in order it

will assemble and development more participating actions especially for the welfare of the society which can convey them in harmony.

#### REFERENCE:

1. Arya,S and Anumpa Roy (2006): “Poverty, Gender and Migration”, Sage Publication. • Asian Development Bank (2001): ‘Participatory poverty assessment in Cambodia, Manila’, [http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Participatory poverty/Participatory poverty/pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Participatory%20poverty/Participatory%20poverty/pdf) .
2. Bhagat,R.B (2009) : ‘Internal Migration in India: Are the Underclass More Mobile?’ Paper presented in the 26th IUSSP General Population Conference held in Marrakech, Morocco, 27 September- 2 October 2009.
3. Chowdhury, Subhanil (2011): ‘Employment in India: What does the latest data show’ , Economic and Political Weekly, August,6, Vol.XLVI (32)
4. de Haan A (1997): ‘Rural-urban migration and poverty: the case of India’, IDS Bulletin , Vol. 28, No 2, pp 35-47.
5. Deshingkar, P. and Farrington, J. (2009): ‘ Circular Migration and Multi locational Livelihood Strategies in Rural India’ , Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
6. Deshingkar,Priya(2009): Circular Internal Migration and Development in India, [essays.ssrc.org/across borders/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/ch8.pdf](http://essays.ssrc.org/across-borders/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/ch8.pdf)
7. Gandhi, Cyber(2003) ‘Interstate Migration in India 2003’, [http:// escape from India. wordpress.com/2003/08/05/interstate-migration-in-india-2003](http://escapefromindia.wordpress.com/2003/08/05/interstate-migration-in-india-2003).
8. James,K(2002): ‘Migration dynamics in Andhra Pradesh: Evidence from Decadal Census’, Paper presented in a seminar on Labour Mobility in a Globalising World: Conceptual and empirical issues.
9. Karan, A(2003): ‘Changing Patterns of Migration from Rural Bihar’, in G. Iyer (eds) Migrant Labour and Human Rights in India, New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers, pp 102–39.
10. Kundu,A (2003): ‘Urbanisation and urban governance, search for a perspective beyond neo- liberalism,’ Economic and Political Weekly , XXXVIII(29), pp. 3079-98.
11. Kundu, A. (1997): ‘Trends and Structure of Employment in the 1990s: Implication for Urban Growth’, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 32 , No 4, pp 1399-1405.
12. Kundu,A.(2011) : “ Trends and Processes of Urbanisation in India” ,Urbanization and emerging population issues,
13. Mitra, A. & Mayumi Murayama (2008): ‘Rural to Urban Migration: A District Level Analysis for India’, IDE discussion paper no.137.
14. Oberoi & Singh (1983): ‘Causes and Consequences of Internal. Migration’, New Delhi : Oxford University Press.
15. Shanti,K(1991): ‘Issues relating to economic migration of females’, The Indian Journal of labour Economics , Vol 34,No 4.
16. Singh,S.P & R.K. Aggarwal (1998): ‘ Rural-Urban Migration: The Role of Push and Pull factors revisited’, The Indian Journal of Labour Economics , Vol 41 No. 4, pp.653-667.
17. Sundari,S( 2005): ‘Migration as a Livelihood Strategy: A Gender perspective’, Economic and Political Weekly , May 28-June 4.
18. Yadav, Yojana (2007) ‘Migrant’ in Running has a Point to Prove’, The Tribune, February 10.
19. Zachariah, K. (2001) ‘Gender Dimensions of Migration in Kerala: Macro and Micro Evidence’, Asia-Pacific Population Journal, 16(3)