

# A SPOTLIGHT ON IN-MIGRATION TO MEGHALAYA KHANAPARA BORDER AREA

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**Abstract:** *Migration is one of the leading concerns in the present day world. In this globalized era migration flows are not only increasing enormously and highly diversified. Population movement or migration is a significant demographic attribute, which has impact on other demographic social and economic characteristics of population. Migration is also very fundamental to the analysis of changing space relations and space content of an area (Gosal, 1961), and considered as a basic instrument of cultural diffusion and social interaction of population in any region (Bouge, 1959). It is through these changes, that almost all demographic attributes as distribution, density and growth; socio-cultural attributes as age and sex composition, dependency ratio, literacy pattern; and the economic attributes as work participation rates and occupational structure of any population are considerably transformed. The volume of migration and their consequences on specific population group in Meghalaya especially we witnessed a drastic change of occupation mobility within this areas of khanapara which is located in the border of two states i.e. Meghalaya and Assam. Over the years, impact of individual decision on migration drew attention of various economists (Todaro, 1969; Wolpert, 1965; Mabogunje, 1970; Crawford, 1973; Ritchey, 1976; Sandell, 1977). These studies were mainly concerned about the factors related to individual migration decision, especially in terms of why migrants chose certain destinations. In this connection Wolpert (1965) termed individual migration decision as “place utility” of particular-migrants, and argued that migrants chose particular destinations because they offered the “highest place utility” (or satisfaction).*

**Key Words:** *Migration; in-migration; mobility; occupation; livelihood; natives.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Movement is an essential part for development of any region or country and one of the most distinguished characteristics of human being. Migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the others being fertility and mortality. It influences size, composition and distribution of population. In middle of the 20th century volume of inter-state migration in India was low due to predominance of agriculture, rigidity of the cast system, the role of joint families, the diversity of language and culture, food habits and lack of education (Chatterjee and Bose, 1997; Nair and Narain, 1985; Zachariah, 1964). Migration is one of the three components of population change. The other two are fertility and mortality. The nature of migration as a component of population change is, however, different from fertility and mortality. Though, a set of social, economic, political and cultural factors determine the fertility and mortality levels in a population, these components largely operate within the biological framework (Hassan, 2005: 281). Unlike this, migration is a response of individual or individuals to certain stimuli. In other words, human decision is a key factor underlying spatial mobility of population in any region. Migratory movements are basically a product of social, cultural, economic and political and/or physical circumstances in which individuals or groups find themselves (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1982: 304). Socio-economic changes taking place in India in the epoch of globalization have strong spatial implications. Studies on internal migration have indicated a decline in population mobility up to 1990's (Kundu, 1996, Singh, 1998, Srivastava, 1998, Bhagat, 2009).

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The study of migration is a unique branch of science of demography. Because of its multi-disciplinary nature it has attracted the attention of scholars from different disciplines. The research in this area has been characterized by useful sharing and barrowing of ideas from the many disciplines such as: anthropology, economics, geography, psychology, sociology, and statistics etc., (Greenwood, et al., 1991). The study of migration has received a wide attention of scholars/researchers belong to various academic disciplines. Economists, sociologists, political scientists, demographers and geographers all find the residential movement of human population to be important to their relative subjects. Economists are interested in the study of migration because it is related to business cycles, supply of skilled and unskilled workers, growth of industries and the occupational and employment status of the migrants (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1982: 305). Sociologists have been concerned with the effects of migration on the areas, communities or societies of both place of origin and place of destination. Political scientists deal with international migration with

regard to shift in power and the relations of influence between host and donor societies. Of late internal migration has also engaged the attention of researchers in political science. Demographers are interested in the process as to how migration influences sizes and other attributes of population at the place of origin and place of destination. Geographers have traditionally been concerned with the principles and processes that govern the spatial distribution of a wide range of things, from flora and fauna to factories and phenomena and including people. Hence spatial distribution of population is of primary interest for geographers. Migration is an important topic of discussion for population geographers with reference to not only distribution of population but also various socio-economic and demographic attributes. Each migrant has certain attributes in terms of age, sex, family status, occupation, educational attainment, social and cultural attributes, and language and religious affiliation etc. Thus the process of migration leads to the redistribution of such attributes and results in the restructuring of the spatial patterns of a multiplicity of demographic variables (White and Woods, 1979:2).

Recent studies including Hyatt and Spletzer (2013), Davis and Haltiwanger (2014), and Molloy et al. (2016) have speculated that there may be a relationship between recent trends in interstate migration and employment reallocation. We have shown that this relationship is not a simple one, for the reason that most interstate migrations do not occur for job-related reasons, and interstate migration accounts for a small share of economic migration. In contrast, post-2000 trends in employment reallocation show fairly consistent declines. The overall trend in interstate migration is puzzling, and it remains an open question whether there is a long-run decline in interstate migration, or whether the rate of interstate migration is any different now than it was in the year 2000.

### **3. STUDY AREA: KHANAPARA IN RI BHOI DISTRICT OF MEGHALAYA:**

Khanapara is located in Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya which is nearby the neighboring Border States with Assam. According to the 2011 Census the Khanapara has a total number of 2966 population with 623 household residents which have been verified by the Headman as a permanent residential of this area. The native people of this area are the Bhoi people who are the sub-tribe of Khasi community, they speak the local Bhoi dialect. Most of the native residents are business owner and few of them are Government servant. Those native who have huge plot of land they construct their house for rented this has become one of the majority of the kind of income which can be seen to the native people of this place. Presently the another group of community who are the majority migrants residents who have come and settle into this areas are the Nepali community after the native population. The main source of income of this Nepali community is dairy farm business and opening up of petty shops in an around the GS Road. The migrants have been settle for more than 40 years into this place they are migrated from Nepal (International migration), Assam (Inter-state migration), Shillong (Inter-District Migration) and Ri-Bhoi (Intra-District Migration) this particular group of migrants who migrated into this new area belong from one community i.e. Nepali. The house which they are presently staying was through rented pattern in which the land owner was the khasi native people. In this areas one unique observation have been observed that the owner of the plot of land mostly belongs to the outsiders from other district of Meghalaya they are from East Khasi-Hills and Jaintia-Hills they were not only given to the Nepali migrants community to stay for rented into their plot of land but also to others big company for settle industry, build petrol pump, Hotels, Restaurants, Go Downs, Schools, vehicle show room, car parking, furniture showrooms etc. Even the native land owner they constructed the buildings and complex near by the GS Road which was given to the outsiders people for rented to set up Restaurants, Banks, Private company Office, Medicine store, Mobile Corner, Cyber cafe, Beauty Parlor, Hard ware store, Soft Ware, Wine store and varieties of new shops have been set up. Even in the local market majority of the sellers were the migrated groups. This people who come and set up business into this area most of them shifted to Meghalaya sides and staying in the rented room owned by the native people.

### **4. FLOW OF IN-MIGRATION TO KHANAPARA AREA:**

Since we have witness that the areas is adjacent to the border states of Assam, and it's one of the famous spot for the bus stop, passengers travelling, and also the amenities centers with lots of pretty vendor of tea stall shop run by the inter-state migrants coming from different part of Assam sides. Also the nature of giving rented of buildings and shops was mostly run by the outsider's people they are the migrants coming from different states of India. At present the different communities who are residing into these areas are the Bengoli, Bihari, Muslims, Assameses, and Nepali. The natures of work were most of the migrants people are engaging were set up of shops and private job into this area. Economic prosperity and individual mobility especially to the down trodden migrated family and group after shifting to the new place and the present work which they have perform have given them more satisfaction as compare to the previous work where they were staying in their native place in which most of them are joblessness but after shifting into this area have shown more improvement into their family and living condition have improve. Population movement or migration is a significant demographic attribute, which has impact on other demographic social and economic characteristics of population. Coming up of new kind of settlement, social communication among the migrants, job opportunities for the individual and groups migrated, living into a peaceful environment with the native people. Thus, these factors have shown possible and easy flow of migration into this area.

## **5. INDIVIDUAL MIGRATION:**

Migration into this place is both sex selective. Different types of migration flow into these areas. Among the family the male members was the first person to migrate into this area. Male are migrated more compare to female for searching job opportunity. In this area since labour work is more demand in building constructions sites, factory workers, working in Go down, this are the kind of job which majority of the male migrants have lead to the flow of male migrants from Assam sides to come and migrated into this area in performing such kind of job. Also it has been seen that this areas is one of the destination which favor young male from other states to migrated into this area at present the maximum young male migrated into this area are young male migrated from Assam rushing into these areas the main causes is job opportunities. The main reason for out- migration in rural villages for male is shortage of job facility (Rele, 1969). Nath and Choudhury (1995) said that male migration (age group 15- 25) rate is greater from rural to urban areas due to educational and employment opportunities. The most common type of job known as the Archery Counter whereby the young male who migrated from others states are working into this kind of job and are in the age group between 20-25 they are school dropout and unemployed. Also it had been observed that around hundreds Archery counter being set up in the borders areas of this particular place near the National Highway 37 of Guwahati to Shillong Road which has show the increasing and flow of migration into this new trend of job to earn their living and also to support their family. This are the two the main reason for male to migrated into this place which have led to the flow of migration from other place especially to the jobless male members of the family to come and search for work into this new place.

## **6. GROUP MIGRATION:**

Another flow of migration into this areas they are the inter-state migration the daily wagers and domestic workers who are residing in the rented house of the native people. Most of them are the Assamese Muslims who are coming from Dhubri and Barpeta District. Both male and female they work in the factory, construction site and in domestic work. These groups of migrants they are living in a very difficult life not much changes occur when it comes to improve their living standard as compared with other groups of migrants. The job which they are working they earn at a very low wages the fact is that they were unskilled labour. They are living from hand to mouth because of low income which they find it difficult to support the necessary requirement of the family members needs. Through the participant observation and interview it has been founds that majority of their children they are not enroll in schools but helping their parents to support the financial while the young ones stay at home.

## **7. FEMALE MIGRATION:**

The flow of female migration into this areas have been seen in a great quantity as both of the male migrants. The proportion of women in global migration flow is increasing rapidly and they have become the pioneers of human migration chain. Migration has provided larger opportunities for women to improve their own living situation and their contribution to national development is enormous. When women from a given culture and economic situation migrate, their motivation to move, the migration process and the conditions in destination country are entirely different. "The expansion of women's capabilities not only enhances women's own freedom and well being but also has many other effects on the lives of all. An enhancement of women's active energy can in many circumstances, contribute substantially to the lives of all people- men as well as women, children as well as adults" (United Nations, 2004).

While the female's migrants most of them work as labour workers, domestic workers in the house of others people and some of them in the restaurant in washing and cleaning the dishes and utensils. A study made by Neetha (2004) states migration for domestic service is largely female driven phenomenon where women play a primary role in migration and survival of the family. The increasing labour force participation of female after migration indicates females are no longer passive movers rather they economic responsibility of family or may be the sense of independence motivate them to find for a job. At this stage it is important to understand the specific reasons for migration and its change over the period to understand the changing migration pattern. A number of studies on domestic worker point out that increasing poverty and unemployment in rural area led them to migrate to urban area and join in any kind of activities (Behera, 1991; Banarjee, 1985; kalpagam, 1994, Ghosh, 1996; Bhatt, 2001). Thus, the female's migrants from rural areas move to another place in search of job for survival for their family especially the married women leaving their ancestral home and relative. The same reasons taken place for this type of female migrants who migrated into this area in which supporting their family was the prior concerned for the reason to migrated to different place where job opportunities is there.

Migration is an empowering process for women in terms of high self-esteem and economic independence in the family and society. Migration provides an economic lifeline for millions of women and it is a strategy for them to offer better living conditions to their families. Migrant women have to face dual vulnerability as migrant and woman during the first phase of migration, during transit and while enter into the receiving country (ILO, 2002). Unskilled and poorly paid women migrants have to engage in works which are very disadvantageous for them.

Among the initial models of family decision making are of Becker (1974), Sandell (1977), Mincer (1978), Bartel (1979). First ever comprehensive model regarding the role of family in migration decision has been explored by Sandell (1977) and Mincer (1978). Sandell (1977) explains the concept of women migration as a part of family migration. The study started with the hypothesis that if only one partner finds a (better) job at the destination, the family migrates. Alternatively speaking, the family migrates only if gains of one family member internalize the losses of the other family member. Using a logic model over secondary data from National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) the study established that education is positively related with the migration stream. One of the striking findings of the study is that migration rate reduces when it is the question of migration of the family for the sake of female member's job. So according to this study migration is negatively related to the labour force commitment to wife. The study revealed that working women are worst hit when migration takes place in a family and it is the female counterpart that is predominantly the tied mover. Very few cases have been found where family migrates to the place where the female member of the family works (Becker, 1974). Pariset al. (2005) finds that migration has increased women decision making capabilities significantly. In their case study of labour out-migration of rice farming households in three districts of Eastern UP, they observe that the out-migration of workers helped their families to avoid hunger and starvation. Kundu and Sharangi<sup>37</sup> (2007) found that migration has been a definite instrument of improving economic well-being and escaping from poverty. They observe that probability of being poor is much less among the migrants compared to the local population in the urban centers

## **8. CONCLUSION:**

Migration is a common phenomenon in developing country like India as well as the state of Meghalaya. North-East India has experienced two massive immigration waves in historical period of time. At the time of independence of India and formation of Bangladesh, Meghalaya also has experienced a significant proportion of immigration from Bangladesh. Meghalaya and others North-Eastern state has experienced a large scale illegal immigration from Bangladesh which effect on social harmony and social well-being (Singh, 2009). Meghalaya has experienced high rate of illegal immigration from Bangladesh (Sarma, 2013). At the present scenario we also witnessed in the border state of Meghalaya in Khanapara of Ri Bhoi District how the flow of in-migration coming from others states to this area have increased in a drastic change.

Migration is the result of several economic, social and demographic factors. Social stratification system has great impact on migration in both sexes. Some of the migration literature itself includes a seemingly wider decision-making framework for individuals (Harbison, 1981) where they emphasis the fact that individual migrants decision are highly influenced by families through the demographic structure of the latter. Factors like number of dependent in the family, economic status of the family etc can trigger individual migration. Studies found that family structure can influence the migration decisions of women in particular (Morokvasic, 1984). Apart from economic motive there are certain social restrictions that prompt women to migrate with their husbands even if they lose from migration. The same phenomenon took place when it comes to reasons, patterns and decision making for the migrants people to migrate into this place.

Portes (1995) has considers migration as a question of long-term economic adaptation. Migrants are viewed not only as individuals carrying their personal skills, but also as members of groups and participants in broader social structures that affect in multiple ways their economic mobility. Migrant networks are sets of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through ties of kinship, friendship, and share community origin. Kothari<sup>29</sup> (2002) examines how poor people's migration choices are impaired by different forms of social exclusion, which result from inequitable access to different capital resources and institutions. These include economic assets (e.g. land ownership, savings), human capital (e.g. education, skills, age), social capital (e.g. kinship networks), cultural capital (e.g. ethnicity, caste, gender, language), geography (e.g. natural environment, rural remoteness) and political capital (e.g. political participation and citizenship). Furthermore, the various types of exclusion that result from lack of control over these different types of resources interact and reinforce one another, further constraining livelihood choices for the poorest.

Yadava et al. (1996) finds that the migration affects a number of socio-economic, cultural, demographic and political factors both at the place of origin and destination. According to them, population mobility is expected to play an important role in bringing out a change in the economic conditions of rural people. The migration provides a network of expansion of ideas, cultural diffusion and social integration apart from environmental and economic changes.

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