

A Sociological Study on Youth Migrant from North East India in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

Migration is developing into a very significant issue to concern in North East India. Large migration began from early 2000s before that, migrations were very less in number and happened because of specific reasons. The number has increased now to 12 times as compared to the last five years. In the year 2005 saw 34,000 migrants and the number has increased at 414,850 in 2010. If the current trend continues than 50, 00,000 are lightly expected to migrate in next five years. Most people migrate because of a combination of push and pull factors. Lack of higher education, employment in North East region, fragmentation of land holding and declining public investment in agriculture create a crisis for North East Indians. So the present studies analysis narrates the reason of their migration, the challenges they face and their mentality about their safety and security in Tamil Nadu.

Key Words: Conflict, Migration, Discrimination.

Introduction

Migration is a natural phenomenon where a person moves from one place to another due to social, economic, political and psychological factors. Liberalization, privatization, and globalization have paved the way for large number of migration In India. The exodus from NORTH EAST is gaining significance day by day due to pull by opportunity or pushed by economic disadvantage in their homeland. Youth, who constitutes a major portion of the country's population today, are pushed towards the choice to migrate with a purpose to seek better opportunity such better systems of education, employment, better infrastructure, transportation, amenities including health facilities; and better working environment; and to be part of the fast moving lifestyle. Migration can create opportunity or risk and lead to decent work and education or the very opposite of it, especially young women may face with certain challenges and vulnerability. Youth migrants who are either employed/work are likely to be informal or temporary and with less social protection or other opportunity such as training and career progression.

North East region, though geographically isolated from the main land and economically underdeveloped, has a unique cultural, looks, socio-economic and political identity. It represents an incredible diversity comprising over 200 indigenous communities. As the states in North East India have several borders with others countries – China, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh – since vivisection of the Indian subcontinent 1947, the North East region has faced waves of population influx from across the borders at many times. Forced migration and displacement due to repeated ethnic violence has leads to hundreds of villages' burn down and thousands of people killed in the conflict. The figure of internally displaced persons in the North East region has surpassed the half a million mark according to a recent estimate. Besides ethnic conflicts, Arm force special power act (AFSPA),different

insurgent groups, Natural calamities such as floods, erosion, as well as construction activities or eviction in the reserve forest areas have added to the misery of the displaced persons in North East India, many of whom are taking shelter in the temporary camps for decades. However, the issue that happen often does not get due coverage in the media, and many journalists feel that the sources to cover this issue at their disposal are inadequate for them. So the problem of the people remains hidden and the helpless public keeps on facing the same problem which becomes a daily drama for the people.

Materials and Methods

The present case studies were conducted in Chennai district of Tamil Nadu. Researcher has selected both student and working people from North East to gather information. I have selected this area because many people from the North East region gather in this city for their higher studies and for working. Since there is less privilege and opportunities to fulfill their needs and desire the people start moving to fulfill their needs and desire and it is estimated to be more than 10,000 people from the North East has come to Chennai since last eight years according to organization working with migrant. Since they have large in number they have their own organization (North East India Welfare Association Chennai) for their self safety and security consisting of president, secretary, treasure, finance and executive members etc. more over the researcher have selected different people from different state of North East, consisting Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur to get a better information from all the state. This study tried to understand the reasons of their migration, the challenges/problem they face in Tamil Nadu and the mentality of their self safety and security in Tamil Nadu. So in order to mention anonymity the name of the respondents are not obviously mention.

Case 1: Mr. A is from Maram Bazar Senapati district Manipur. Currently he is pursuing his M.A from Chennai. He is from middle class family whose father is a government employee they have six children two boys and four girls. He was born and brought up from Christian family. He came to Chennai in April 2012 currently running three years in Chennai. He stays in rented house along with his friends and cousins. He usually takes local train for attending class. He came to Chennai for pursuing his higher studies as he did not get a seat in Manipur University for his post graduate. He said he has been wasted one year just because of waiting Manipur University entrance exam result. He said he was hopefully waiting for the result declaration and get admission into Manipur University but at last he was not selected. since after the entrance exam he did not apply any other university and was hopefully getting admission into Manipur university that year was a wastage for him so he call up his cousins in Chennai a got admission in Chennai. He said majority of the peoples in Chennai are good but he faces many incidents due to different looks that happens to take away all his belonging one day by the teen groups of people from train station and threaten to beat him up. He also says that he found so much difference between the local people and outsiders specially the people coming North East particularly the way the people treat them like taking more charge from the North East and take them as very cheap people. He said sometime the people discriminate even on the food culture of the North East like dog, snake eaters. so he said that till now not serious things has happen in Chennai by the God grace but he feel insecure till then since till now no steps have been taken by the Tamil Nadu government for the safety and security of the North East people.

Case 2: Mr. B, 23, is from Tamenglong district of Manipur. He came to the Chennai district of Tamil Nadu in March 2013 for his higher studies he belongs to the Christian family and he is from schedule tribe. He lives along with his friends in rented house. He comes to the university with foot

which is about one and half kilometer away from his rented house. He is from a middle class family whose father is a businessman. He has come to Tamil Nadu for his higher studies because there is no university in Manipur which provide the subject which he wants to pursue for higher studies and he has decided to come to Chennai district of Tamil Nadu because he came to know from his friend that there is a higher change of getting his concern subject and get admission into the university. Mr. B said that that the people out there are good and friendly compare to other cities but sometime he get distracted because sometime the people fail to recognize him that he is from India and keep on asking him that “Are you from China” and stare at him with big eyes as if he is so different from the rest? Which really hurt him, and sometime he find the people who are in group mock/ tease at him when he pass by the group(which he take it as illiterate people).he feel insecure when he meet such young illiterates people in group.

Case 3: Mr. C ,25, he is from Ukhrul district of Manipur who did his M.sc from Chennai district of Tamil Nadu and pursuing his M.phil and he has been in Chennai for 3 years. He stays in rented house along with his friends from the same tribe (Tangkul) of North East India. He is born and brought up from protestant Christian family. Their family consists of five members with two sisters and mom and dad whose father is a religious leader (pastor) and mom a school teacher from Ukhrul. Both of his sisters are in Pune (Maharashtra) pursuing post graduate. He has come to Chennai district of Tamil Nadu for his higher studies because in Manipur there is only one University (Manipur University) for the entire state apart from agriculture and Sports University. So instead of giving entrance Exam in Manipur University he just left assume it to be waste of time because many students fail to get admission into other institution in other state just because of late declaration of the result of entrance exam of Manipur University and rumors of politics involvement in admission procedure, and another reason he decided not to study in Manipur is that no proper functioning of educational institution due to continuous public strike, curfew, frequent blast, ban and specially the Arm special force power that made him want to go to other state. Mr. C said that the peoples are good, they treat him well and he keeps saying that “Tamil people are basically hospitable as being”. However, as there has been some contrast in physical appearance or culture or mentality, he said he could feel some racial discrimination sometimes even thought it does not amount to much in the streets, bazaars and on travelling he could sometimes face racial discrimination example like saying chingki (small eyes). However it is not as bad as compared to other states of India. Most of the racial discrimination comes out from uneducated people. Also he said that he can feel sometime a kind of favoritism in allotting marks in exams by the examiners which sometime determines rank holders position. However he said that he feel safe at home but not that much outside.

Case 4: Mrs. D ,23, is hailing from Aizawl district Mizoram who is the youngest in the family with two elder brothers and one sister from a middle class family. Her father is a government employee as revenue officer and her mother too is a government employed. She came to Chennai since her elders brothers are in Chennai preparing for the central job examination. She goes to class with foot which is about one km from her room. She said that whenever she accompanied with some of her friends (boys) some people use to stare at them with big eyes and till they can see them so according to her sometime she feels insecure whenever she walk alone for going outside and coming back and more over she feel more insecure since there is TASMALC Liquor shop on her way to university. She also said that sometime she can feel the discrimination in so many ways starting from home till university like the auto rickshaw driver refuses to go with meter which is pass by the Tamil Nadu government recently even if they go with meter they ask twenty – thirty rupee extra and she also share some mark favoritism even in the university.

Case 5: Mr. E hailing from Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh who has been brought up from middle class family whose father is governments employee retire who has been in Chennai from the last 5 years and pursuing his degree from Chennai. He said he come to Chennai along with his relative who has been staying in Chennai for the last nine years without knowing anything about the place and culture. He said that they find it so difficulty in searching house rent just because of their food culture and being a bachelor specially being North East for having so many friends and he also said that some people take them very cheaply just by calling them Chingky, jackychan, china since we North East looks are different and this words utter not only by kids but even the adults. He also said that sometime even the police caught them forcedly from the way without any reason and compels them to get into their car and take them to the police station and ask driving license and question them. So he said that apart from the public cooperation even the police does not respect the North East since they are in different looks and color with all this reason he feel insecure as like the people are as if waiting for their mistake.

Case 6: Mrs. F from kohima district of Nagaland come to Chennai in may 2012 for her higher studies. She is from a middle class family and only daughter whose father in a government school headmaster. She came to Chennai along with her friend and admitted in hostel since they did not find a rented house nearby their college. Since they are in hostel Their parents often send non vegetable from home because they find it so difficult to adjust with the southern food which is almost all the dish are so sour and on top of that they are new to the place and culture so they use to take non vegetable during their lunch and dinner soon after some few months later her colleague started complaining about the food they use to take and complain the hostel warden. The warden without any warning she sends them out, so for a while they shelter in their classmate friend house and later on they took a rented house. They face another problem out there too since the distance between their room and college is so far and on top of that the people keep on staring at them wherever they walk out as if they are so different from others so sometime they do not feel so secure since they use to come so late evening after class.

Case 7: Mr. G hailing from Silcher district of Assam came to Chennai since 2002 and walking as a security guard from the day he reach Chennai till now. He said he have come to Chennai because he get more wages here as compare to their state and more over he is the only person who is supporting his family till now. He said he had faced so many difficulties during his stay for the last 14 years and he doesn't even want to mention one by one. He said he don't mind whatever the boss scold him or even slap him up since there is no option for him to earn anywhere apart from this job since he is illiterate, but he said he still remember the day boss shouted at him that you foolish man if you want to work, work it properly if not I can get more cheap people from your place. He said this word really hurt him as he blames not only him but the whole (North East people) as if we are so cheap. He said sometime he feel insecure since he is away from his home town and sometime as a human being he makes a mistake too.

CONCLUSION

Migration is the unavoidable phenomenon that creates changes in population size and development in both areas like host area where from they migrate and native area of migrant. India is known for its diversity in terms of food, dress, culture, and religion. When a different culture come and settles in another different culture it creates a big issue for native, migrant and also for our nation too. Internal youth migrations become serious challenges for our nation nowadays since the people continuously move from one place to another to fulfill their needs, desire and dreams. The case study

analysis indicated that the respondents has come to Chennai in different ways some through friends and other through their relative for their higher studies and for a better job facilities since there is less university and low wages in the North Eastern region, it has also indicated that all the respondents face a racial discrimination in different ways by commenting a words or by an action directly or indirectly, and it has also find that all the respondent does not feel as home in Chennai too they find themselves insecure in their mind. So it is the right time for the Tamil Nadu government to take up certain steps for the safety and security of the North East people before it's too late, so that every person can enjoy equality and a sense of security in their mind. As so the proverb says that "prevention is better than cure". So before a serious thing has happen it is better to prevent it now.

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