

## A Study of Inward and Outward Migration of North-East India

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### Abstract

The process of migration which is a key feature of human history; can be considered as one of the most dynamic human activities. This work mainly focuses on the analysis of the causes of inward and outward migration in North-East India. Considering inter-state migration; North-East India which remained a net negative receiver in 2001, has become net positive during the 2011 Census. Most of the migrants coming to this region from other states/UTs of India are male and their prime cause of migration is recorded as employment and business. On the contrary, out-migration from North-East India to rest of the country is female dominated. Moved with household and marriage are the two major causes behind female-migration in this region as per Census of India, 2011.

**Keywords**—Inward migration, Outward migration, North-East India, Spatio-temporal Analysis

### I. INTRODUCTION

Migration is a universal phenomenon. In simple words, migration which may be permanent, temporary or seasonal; is the process of movement of people from one place to another due to different causes. It is the most significant component of population growth and most sensitive to economic, political and cultural factors (Singh, 1998). As per the UN Migration Agency (IOM), any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status, causes of movement and the length of duration is known as Migrant. Indian Constitution provides basic freedom to move to any part of the country, right to reside and earn livelihood of their choices. That is why migrants are not needed to take permission or register at the place of origin as well as at the place of destination ( Bhagat, 2018). The process of migration in India in general and North-East India in particular, is facilitated by the development of transport and communication. Industrialization and economic development have played a major role for large scale movement of people from rural to urban areas.

India; the second most populous country in the world; has a long history of internal migration. Around 3.6% of the total population in India was inter-state migrants in 1931 (Davis, 1951).

In 2001; inter-state migration stood at 4.1% in India (Census of India, 2001). In India, around 4.6% of the total population is inter-state migrants as per Census of India, 2011. North-East India shares its borders with four foreign countries viz. China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Thus states of North-East India are experiencing a higher influx of international migration. Apart from the international migrants; North-East India has been the receiver of migrants coming from other states and Union Territories of the country. Of the total migrants of North-East India, only 3.5% of migrants have come to this region from other states of India (Lusome&Bhagat, 2020). Analysis of the reasons for movement of people from one place to another is one of the most important aspects of a migration study. In India, Marriage is the main cause of female migration. It remains identical between 2001 to 2011. On the other hand, work/employment is stated as the major cause of male migration within the country. This paper is an attempt to analyse the causes of inward migration to North-East India from other parts of the country as well as the causes of outward migration from this region to other states/ UTs of India.

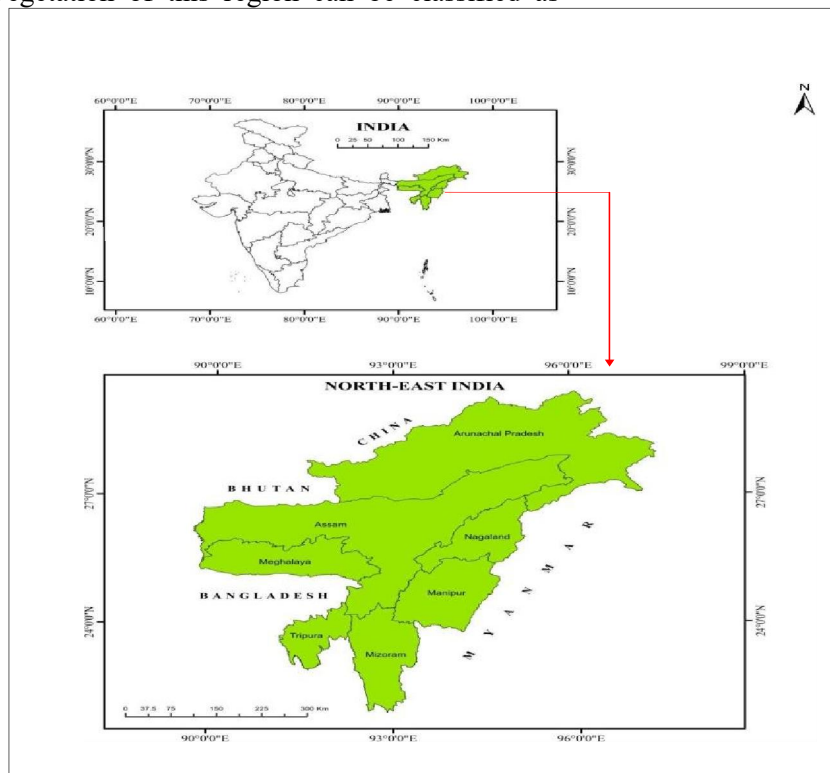
### II. STUDY AREA

North-East India commonly called the land of 'Seven Sisters' is located between 20° N latitude and 29° 30' N latitude and 89° 46' E

longitude and  $97^{\circ} 30' E$  longitude. This easternmost region of India consists of seven states of India, viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura. In the year 2014, Sikkim was also included in this region. In this study the early North-East India comprised of seven states is taken into consideration. It covers a total area of 2,55,036 Sq. Km representing about 7.3% of India's total geographical area. This region shares an international border of 5,182 km with its four neighboring foreign countries. More than 99% of its total geographical boundary of North-East India is international border (Gogoi et al., 2009).

North-East India lies in the regime of tropical monsoon climate. Soil of North-East India can be categorized into four major groups; viz. alluvial soil, red soil, laterite soil and mountain soil. North-East India is the home of various types of natural vegetation. The natural vegetation of this region can be classified as

Tropical Evergreen forest, Tropical Deciduous forest, Tropical Grassland and Alpine Grassland. The total population of North-East India is 449,80,294 as per Census of India, 2011 which represents 3.7% of the total population of India (Taher& Ahmed, 1998). During the last decade (2001-2011) population of North-East India has increased by 6.8 million. Such a high rate of growth is due to a large influx of migrants from both within and outside the country, improvement in health and hygiene and failure of family planning measures. The population density of North-East India is 170 persons per Sq. km as per Census of India, 2011. Among the states of North-East India Assam is the most densely populated state with an average population density of 398 persons per Sq. km. With an average population density of 17 persons per Sq. km, Arunachal Pradesh is the most sparsely populated state in this region.



### CATION MAP OF NORTH-EAST INDIA

**Fig. 1: Location Map of the Study Area**

Source: Authors' own work

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the present study are:

- To analyze the causes of inward migration to North-East India from other parts of the country.
- To find out the causes of outward migration from North-East India to other states/UTs of India.

### IV. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

In the contemporary period, the COVID-19 pandemic has created havoc across the globe. In this situation collection of field data is not possible. Thus this study is completely based on secondary sources of data. Data on migration of the study area are collected from the Census of India which is considered as one of the most reliable sources of population data. The collected data have been processed, analysed through quantitative techniques. Processed data are represented thorough simple cartograms. Conclusions of the study are merely based on the results derived from data analysis.

### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Causes of Inward Migration to North-East India from Other Parts of India:

Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. The place from where they move is called the place of origin and the place to which they move is called the place of destination. People tend to move from a place of low opportunity and low safety to a place of higher opportunity and better safety. Migration may either be voluntary or involuntary. Sometimes people are forced to move to a new place due to natural hazards, war etc. Causes of migration can broadly be categorised as pull factors and push factors. Less employment opportunities, low wages, lack of basic amenities, landlessness etc. act as

push factors in rural areas. On the other hand, better employment opportunities, higher income, better wages act as pull factors towards the rural to urban migration (Sangappa, 2015).

As per place of birth; 5,91,212 people migrates to North-East India from the rest of the country in 2001. The number of in-migrants to this region from other states and Union Territories of India has slightly decreased to 5,90,939 which represents 1.31% of the total population of North-East India in the year 2011. On the other hand; the number of out-migrants from North-East India to other states and Union Territories of India was 6,91,234. But the number of out-migrants slightly falls to 5,10,353 in the year 2011. It is very important to analyze the reasons for the movement of people between the North-Eastern states and other parts of the country as it will be helpful in portraying the socio-economic conditions of the states of North-East India.

In this work, reasons for migration are categorized as employment and business, education, marriage, moved after birth, moved with households and others. For the sake of comparison; India has been divided into five regions viz. **1.North-India** comprising Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh, **2.West-India** comprising Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, **3.Central-India** comprising Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,**4. South-India** comprising Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, **5.East-India** comprising Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

**Table 1: Causes of Inward Migration to North-East India from Other Parts of India (as per Place of Last Residence), 2001.**

Place of Origin	Causes (%)					
	Employment and Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with Household	Others
North-India	30.22	1.22	12.39	2.04	29.39	24.74
East-India	37.72	0.62	19.42	1.42	20.70	20.12
Central-India	32.17	0.97	15.02	1.45	27.34	23.05
West-India	18.36	1.69	6.74	2.03	34.60	36.58
South-India	33.11	1.27	10.54	1.92	27.66	25.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.45</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>17.27</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>23.29</b>	<b>21.67</b>

Source: Migration Table D-3, Census of India, 2001

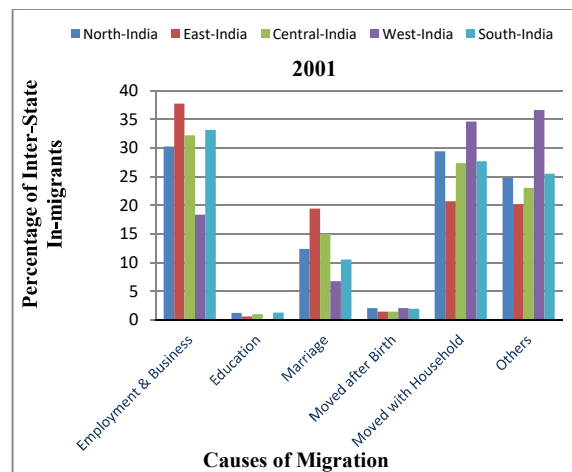
In 2001, employment and business has emerged as the major causes of inter-state migration to North-East India. Around 35% of the total inter-state migrants have come to North-East India for the purpose of employment and business. Around 23% of the total inter-state migrants to North-East India have reported their reason for migration as moved with household. Around 22% of the inter-state migrants have stated 'others' as their reason for migration. It is followed by marriage. Around 17% of the total inter-state migration has come to this region due to marriage. Only a smaller portion of inter-

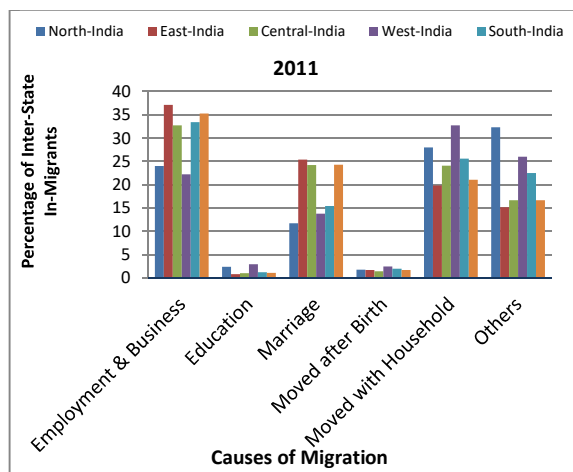
state migrants (0.79%) have come to North-East India for educational purposes in 2001. Migrants from all parts of India except West-India; have come to North-East India mainly due to employment and business. East-India is the major source of migration to North-East India. Around 38% of the total migrants have come to this region for the purpose of employment and business. On the other hand; less than one-fifth of the migrants from West-India have reported their cause of migration as employment and business.

**Table 2: Causes of Inward Migration to North-East India from Other Parts of India (as per Place of Last Residence), 2011**

Place of Origin	Causes (%)					
	Employment and Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with Household	Others
North-India	27.82	1.59	18.25	2.77	25.62	23.92
East-India	37.15	0.81	25.40	1.68	19.82	15.14
Central-India	32.7	0.97	24.23	1.42	24.05	16.63
West-India	22.32	2.92	13.77	2.40	32.69	25.9
South-India	33.42	3.9	15.39	1.94	25.59	19.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.29</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>24.30</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>21.04</b>	<b>16.62</b>

Source: Migration Table D-3, Census of India, 2011





**Fig. 2: Causes of Inward Migration to North-East India from Other Parts of India (as per Place of Last Residence), 2011 and 2011**

Around 35% of the total inter-state migrants have come to North-East India for the purpose of employment and business in 2011. The second most important cause of inter-state migration to this region is marriage. Around 24% of the total inter-state migration has come to this reason due to marriage. Around 21% of the total inter-state migrants to this region have reported their reason for migration as moved with household. Around 17% of the inter-state migrants have stated ‘others’ as the reason for migration. Only a smaller portion of inter-state migrants (1.06%) have come to North-East

India for educational purpose in the year 2011. It indicates the poor educational infrastructure and limited choice of education in North-East India. The major cause of migration from North-India, East-India, Central-India and South-India to this region is recorded as employment and business. More than one-fourth of the migrants from East-India have come to North-East India due to marriage. On the other hand; most of the migrants coming to North-East India from West-India have stated their cause of migration as moved with household.

**4.2 Causes of Outward Migration from North-East India to Other Parts of India:**

**Table 3: Causes of Outward Migration From North-East India to Other Parts of India (as per Place of Last Residence), 2001.**

Place of Destination	Causes (%)					
	Employment and Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with Household	Others
North-India	26.79	4.95	15.48	1.84	37.55	13.39
East-India	7.12	1.09	55.92	0.93	18.32	16.62
Central-India	9.45	1.91	52.74	0.64	16.94	18.32
West-India	30.67	11.65	7.46	2.67	37.12	10.43
South-India	22.02	16.36	8.09	3.08	28.67	21.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.35</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>44.84</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>22.49</b>	<b>16.29</b>

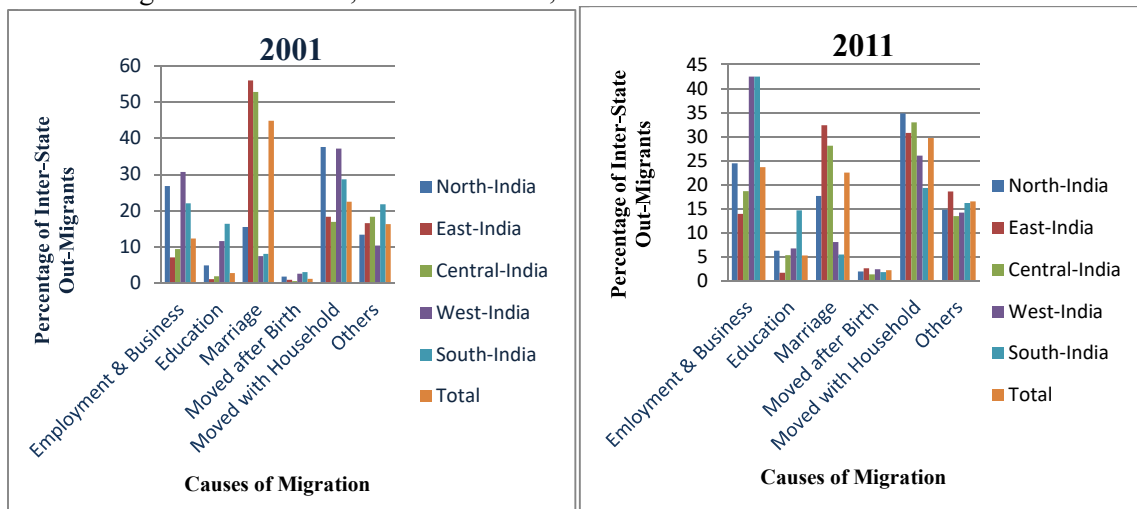
Source: Migration Table D-3, Census of India, 2001

The major cause of inter-state migration from North-East India to other parts of the country is marriage. Around 45% of the total inter-state migrants move to other parts of India from this region due to marriage. It is followed by moved with household. Reasons for migration of around 16% of the total out-migrants can be included in the category of others. Around 12% of the inter-state migrants from this region have moved to other parts of India for employment and business purposes. Less than 3% of the inter-state migrants have moved to other parts of India for educational purposes. Reasons for migration of around 1% of the total out-migrants can be included in the category of moved after birth in the year 2001.

**Table 4: Causes of Outward Migration From North-East India to Other Parts of India (as per Place of Last Residence), 2011.**

Place of Destination	Causes (%)					
	Employment and Business	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with Household	Others
North-India	24.46	6.30	17.65	1.95	34.82	14.82
East-India	13.94	1.69	32.41	2.61	30.77	18.58
Central-India	18.68	5.38	28.11	1.34	33.00	13.49
West-India	42.49	6.76	8.06	2.41	26.08	14.2
South-India	42.50	14.67	5.50	1.84	19.31	16.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.64</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>22.56</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>29.75</b>	<b>16.52</b>

Source: Migration Table D-3, Census of India, 2011



**Fig. 3: Causes of Outward Migration From North-East India to Other Parts of India (as per Place of Last Residence), 2001 and 2011**

The dominant cause of inter-state migration from North-East India to other parts of the country has shifted to 'moved with household' from marriage in the year 2011 as shown in table. The second most important cause of inter-state out-migration from his region is recorded as employment and business. Around 24% of the total inter-state out-migration from this region has moved to other parts of the country due to employment and business purpose. Marriage is the third important cause of inter-state out-migration from North-East India. Causes of migration of around 17% of the total inter-state out-migrants have been included in the category of others. The movement of people from this region to other parts of India for the purpose of education is very less (5.30%) in the year 2011 (Table 4).

## VI. CONCLUSION

This work aims to analyse the causes of migration between the states of North-East India and other parts of the country. The major cause of inter-state migration to North-East India is recorded as employment (work) and business. Around 35% of the total inter-state

migrants have come to North-East India for the purpose of employment and business in 2011 and majority of them are from the states of East India. Marriage is another significant reason for inter-state migration to North-East India. The major cause of inter-state outward migration from North-East India to other parts of the country is recorded as marriage in 2001. Around 45% of the total inter-state migrants move to other parts of India from this region due to marriage. The dominant cause of inter-state migration from North-East India to other parts of the country has shifted to 'moved with household' from marriage in the year 2011. The region receives only 1.06% of the inter-state in-migrants coming duo to educational purposes. It indicates the poor level of development in the educational sector of North-East India. On the other hand, around 12% of total inter-state out-migrants of the region moved to the rest of India for work-related purposes in 2001. It has increased to around 24% in the year 2011 indicating the alarming picture of unemployment in North-East India.

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