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9

Migration Situation in Northeast India

R. Lusome and R.B. Bhagat

Introduction

Migration from one area to another, in search of improved livelihood, 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. Migration has become a universal phenomenon in modern times. Due to the expansion of transport and communication, it has become a part of worldwide process of urbanisation and industrialisation. In most countries, it has been observed that industrialisation and economic development has been accompanied by large-scale movements of people from villages to towns, from towns to other towns and from one country to another country.

From the demographic point of view, migration is one of the three basic components of population growth of any area, the other being fertility and mortality. Whereas both fertility and mortality operate within the biological framework, migration does not follow this. It influences size, composition and distribution of population. More importantly, migration influences the social, political and economic life of the people.

The Indian Constitution provides basic freedom to move to any part of the country, right to reside and earn livelihood of their choice. Thus, migrants are not required to register either at the place of origin or at the place of destination. A number of economic, social, cultural and political factors play an important role in the decision to move. The effects of these factors vary over time and place.

Analysis of migration pattern is important to understand the changes taking place in the people's movement within the country. It is the most volatile component of population growth and most sensitive to economic, political and cultural factors (Singh, 1998).

Proper understanding of the patterns of migration would help in the estimation of future population redistribution. The reliability and dependability of these estimates depend much on the consideration of all the temporal factors of birth, death and internal migration on which population grows in its finest precision (Chakravarty, 1997).

Several studies (Bose, 1977; Nair and Narain, 1985; Premi, 1990; Singh, 1998; Zachariah, 1963, 1964) found that volume of inter-state migration in India was low but asserted the fact that about one third of India's population is enumerated outside their place of birth, indicating the importance of migration as a major demographic process in India.

Moreover, when regional fertility and mortality differentials decline, migration becomes the foremost component, influencing the redistribution of population (Beck, 1985).

Definition of Migration

Migration is defined as a move from one migration defining area to another, usually crossing administrative boundaries made during a given migration interval and involving a change of residence (UN, 1993). The change in residence can take place either on permanent or semi-permanent or temporary basis (Premi, 1990). Internal migration involves a change of residence within national borders (Dang, 2005). Until 1951, district was the migration defining area (MDA), implying that a person was considered a migrant in India only if he or she has changed residence from the district of birth to another district of a state. Since 1961, data on migration have been collected by considering each revenue village or urban settlement as a separate unit. A person is considered as a migrant if birthplace is different from place of enumeration.

In 1971 census, an additional question on place of last residence was introduced to collect migration data. Since then, census provides data on migrants based on place of birth (PoB) and place of last residence (PoLR). If the place of birth or place of last residence is different from

the place of enumeration, a person is defined as a migrant. On the other hand, if the place of birth and place of enumeration is the same, the person is a non-migrant (Bhagat, 2005).

Since 1961 census, the duration of residence has been ascertained to provide data on timing of movement. The duration data are published as less than one year, 1-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-19 years and 20 and above years. Migrants of all durations are defined as lifetime migrants because the time of their move is not known. They are those who came to the place of enumeration at any point during their lives and have been living there ever since, whether this happened just a week before the census or a few decades ago (Premi, 1990). Intercensal migrants are those who have migrated within the duration of 0-9 years.

Migration can be measured either as events or transitions. The former is normally associated with population registers, which record individual moves while the latter is generally derived from censuses, comparing place of residence at two points in time. A recent survey shows that census is the largest source of information on internal migration at the cross-country level. A study shows that 138 countries collected information on internal migration in their censuses, compared to 35 through registers and 22 from surveys (Bell, 2003).

The northeast India consists of the seven states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. These states form a gateway from India into South Asia, bordering Bhutan, China, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The history of northeastern parts of India is a history of migration. Before written history, the flow was mainly from the East, so that most of the ethnicities that today claim to be the autochthons can trace their ancestries to the east of India, mostly to South-East Asia. Subsequently, people from the western direction also began coming in and the communities like the caste Hindu Axamiya-speaking population of Assam often trace their origin back to parts of mainland India (Goswami, 2007). There has been a consistent flow of migration in this region because of employment opportunities in tea garden, availability of cultivable land and other related factors (Bandyopadhyay and Chakraborty, 1999). Studies also revealed that these states are experiencing higher influx of migration, both internal migration and international migration. Mukherjee (1982)

has found substantial in-migration in northeastern states. Census 2001 recorded 95.7 lakh migrants in the northeast, which constitute about 25 per cent of the total population in the region. This shows an increase of about 24 lakh migrants from Census 1991.

Methodology

To simplify the analysis, the states and union territories of India have been divided into six regions. The regions are:

- a) *North India*: consisting of states and union territories namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Chandigarh.
- b) *West India*: consisting of states and union territories namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.
- c) *Central India*: consisting of states namely, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- d) *South India*: consisting of states and union territories namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.
- e) *East India*: consisting of states and union territories namely, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- f) *Northeast India*: consisting of states namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

Migration in Northeast India

Table 9.1 gives the magnitude of migration in the northeastern states, based on the definition of place of last residence. The net-migration for the states during Census 1991 is also given at the last column to facilitate easy comparison. It is seen that the largest state, Assam has an excess of 168 thousand out-migrants in 2001 as compared to an excess of 252 thousand in-migrants in 1991. The northeast as a whole continues to have larger in-migrants than the out-migration counterparts. An excess of 173 thousand in-migrants in the region in 2001 as compared to about 700 thousand in 1991 indicates that

migration from the region has increased between the two censuses. However, it is observed that the huge offset in the migration balance has been mainly contributed by the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. In these states, the percentage of migrants to total population is comparatively high at around 14 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. Manipur, which has the lowest share of migrants among total population, has 51 thousand out-migrants as compared to 16 thousand in-migrants. The region of seven states consists of three net losers of migrants as compared to four states that gained net-migrants.

Table 9.1

Net-Migration among the Northeast States 1991 and 2001

States	Total Population (in '000s)	Total in Migrants (inter-state + international) in '000s	% in Migrants to Total Population	Net in-migrants 2001 (in '000s)	Net in-migrants 1991 (in '000s)
Arunachal Pradesh	1098	154	14.0	131	58
Assam	26655	538	2.0	-168	252
Manipur*	2166	16	0.7	-35	-10
Meghalaya	2319	93	4.0	42	22
Mizoram	888	51	5.7	13	-1
Nagaland	1990	88	4.4	-71	16
Tripura	3199	325	10.2	260	362
Northeast	38317	1265	3.3	173	699

Note: * Excluding three sub-divisions.

The detailed analysis of migration pattern in the states and northeast as a whole has been given in the following table. The pattern and characteristics of in-migrants to northeastern states is dealt with initially, followed by analysis of the out-migrants from these states.

Table 9.2 shows how the in-migrants are distributed in the different states by streams of migration. It is seen that migration within the same district dominates all the states. Arunachal Pradesh is the only state where the contribution of intra-district migrants to total migrants is less than 50 per cent. In the states of Manipur and Assam, major proportion of the migrants has moved within the district of enumeration. The three states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland indicate a large in-flow of migrants from other states. Inter state migrants contribute as much as 33 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh

as compared to a meagre 4 per cent in Manipur. It is observed that international migration to northeast India constitute about 5 per cent of total migrants in the region. However, in a vast contrast to other states, the share of international migrants in the state of Tripura is as high as 27 per cent of total migrants. It is interesting to note that in the state of Tripura, the share of international migrants is higher than the share of inter-district and inter-state combined.

Table 9.2

Distribution of Migrants in Northeast States by Streams of Migration (in %)

States	Intra-district	Inter-district	Inter-state	International
Arunachal Pradesh	47.0	15.7	33.1	4.3
Assam	74.9	17.1	6.0	1.9
Manipur	79.9	15.8	3.9	0.4
Meghalaya	64.6	11.0	21.9	2.5
Mizoram	50.5	30.7	13.1	5.8
Nagaland	58.0	18.8	21.4	1.8
Tripura	55.8	10.3	6.6	27.2
Northeast	70.2	16.5	8.6	4.6

Table 9.3

Sex Ratio of Migrants in Northeast States by Streams of Migration

States	Intra-district	Inter-district	Inter-state	International	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	87	115	145	134	110
Assam	58	70	123	116	64
Manipur	68	68	127	126	70
Meghalaya	113	120	124	156	117
Mizoram	102	104	185	104	111
Nagaland	116	113	168	166	125
Tripura	59	86	92	107	72
Northeast	63	75	129	112	71

Note: Sex ratio = male per 100 females.

Table 9.3 gives the sex-wise distribution of migrants in the northeastern states by the streams of migration. The sex ratio is calculated as male migrants per 100 female migrants. Female migrants dominate the moves within the same district, while inter-state and

international migration mainly consists of males. Among the states, Assam, Manipur and Tripura have a higher proportion of female migrants as compared to the male migrants. The northeast region has 71 male migrants per 100 female migrants.

In-migration in Northeast India

This section discusses the magnitude and characteristics of in-migrants in northeast India. The distribution of in-migrants by their duration of residence in the northeastern states is given in Table 9.4. From the table, it is seen that most of the migrants have resided in the northeastern states for more than 10 years. Nearly one-third of the migrants in the Northeast have not stated their duration of stay at the place of enumeration. In states like Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, more than half of all migrants have not stated their duration of stay. This calls for further studies on the reasons for not stating their duration of stay. Recent flow of migration has been high in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, with more than one-fourth of total migrants having moved in the last four years. It is also noted that these two states have the least proportion of migrants not stating the duration of stay as compared to other states of the region.

Table 9.4

Distribution of In-migrants by Duration

States	Less than 1 Year	1-4 Years	5-9 Years	10 Years and Above	Duration not Stated	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	4.5	25.7	17.8	34.5	17.6	100.0
Assam	1.6	11.7	11.3	45.3	30.1	100.0
Manipur	1.1	8.7	8.4	28.4	53.4	100.0
Meghalaya	1.9	10.4	7.3	25.1	55.3	100.0
Mizoram	3.7	23.0	15.9	45.9	11.6	100.0
Nagaland	1.3	11.5	10.0	26.7	50.6	100.0
Tripura	2.6	13.9	8.9	52.8	21.8	100.0
Northeast	1.8	12.7	11.2	43.4	30.9	100.0

The age distribution of a population helps to identify persons in the working age, children under the working age and persons above the working age. From Table 9.5, it is seen that age of the migrants is

uniformly distributed among the different age groups. Among the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya, more than one-fourth of the migrants are children belonging to the age of 0-14 years.

Table 9.5*Age Distribution of In-migrants in Northeast States (in %)*

Age Group/States	0-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-59	60+
Arunachal Pradesh	23.0	9.3	9.2	11.6	10.2	10.6	21.0	5.0
Nagaland	24.9	11.0	10.5	10.5	8.9	9.2	19.8	5.0
Manipur	18.8	7.7	9.2	10.2	9.5	9.7	24.6	10.0
Mizoram	15.4	9.3	11.4	11.4	9.9	10.2	23.8	8.5
Tripura	11.6	6.1	7.9	10.0	9.6	10.8	28.1	15.8
Meghalaya	26.2	9.2	9.1	9.9	8.7	9.6	20.3	6.8
Assam	13.9	6.2	9.3	11.9	11.2	11.6	25.4	10.4
Northeast	15.2	6.8	9.2	11.5	10.7	11.2	25.0	10.3

The initial analysis of the magnitude and characteristics of migrants in the northeastern states has been followed by the analysis of the reasons for migrating to these states. One of the important aspects of studying migration is to find out the reasons for which any person leaves his residence and finds a new residence. The question on reason for migration was canvassed from the migrants at the place of enumeration.

Table 9.6*Reasons for In-migration to Northeast States (in %)*

States	Work*	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with HH	Others
Arunachal Pradesh	27.3	3.2	12.7	1.3	27.8	27.7
Assam	8.4	0.7	36.5	1.0	15.1	38.3
Manipur	4.7	1.0	25.3	0.4	11.1	57.5
Meghalaya	11.5	2.9	10.7	1.8	11.3	61.8
Mizoram	20.4	4.0	8.2	1.8	39.9	25.8
Nagaland	18.7	2.4	5.6	0.9	15.1	57.3
Tripura	6.3	0.9	28.7	0.6	24.0	39.5
Northeast	9.7	1.1	31.2	1.0	16.9	40.1

Note: *Work includes business migrants.

Table 9.6 gives the reasons for migrating to the northeastern states. A glance at the table indicates that a large percentage (40 per cent) of migrants in northeastern states have stated "others" as the reasons for migration. In states like Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland, more than half of total migrants have stated "others" as their reason for migration. Marriage remained an important reason for migrants in northeast region, with about 31 per cent of migrants stating this reason. A state-wise comparison, however, reveals that apart from the states of Assam, Manipur and Tripura, the share of marriage migrants is very small. In states like Nagaland and Mizoram, the share of migrants moving for marriage is just 6 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. Moved with household emerge an important reason for migration to the northeast, with around 17 per cent of total migrants in the region having moved with household. Mizoram has around 40 per cent of the migrants having moved with household. Economic literature on migration has tried to explain moves between places by search for better employment opportunities. However, in the case of migrants in northeast region, only about 10 per cent of total migrants have moved for employment and business purposes. The state of Arunachal Pradesh has 27 per cent of its migrants having moved for employment and business reasons. Mizoram and Nagaland follow with around one-fifth of the migrants in these states stating work as the reason for their move. In the state of Manipur, only 5 per cent of migrants have reported employment and business as the reason for migration. The analysis of the reasons for migration in northeastern states remains inconclusive for the fact that a huge percentage of migrants in these states has stated "others" as the reason for migration. Further research is needed to identify the "others" reason.

Economic participation of migrants at the place of enumeration could be a good indicator for the attractiveness of a state as a destination for migrants. Moreover, analysis of economic participation would reveal the exact situation of migrants in the destination. Table 9.7 presents the percentage of migrants classified by their economic activity. About 35 per cent of migrants in the region are classified as main workers, 11 per cent as marginal workers and 54 per cent as non-workers. The unemployment rate in the region is very high, at about 14 per cent. Among the states, Mizoram has the highest percentage of main workers among migrants (54

per cent), while the state of Assam has the least percentage (33 per cent) of migrants in the main workers category. In the states of Nagaland, Tripura and Assam, more than half of the migrants belong to non-workers category. The percentage of migrants seeking work is highest in the state of Tripura with 23 per cent of non-workers seeking work in the state. Unemployment rate among migrants is lowest in Mizoram with 7 per cent of non-workers seeking work in the state.

Table 9.7

Economic Activity of In-migrants

	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Seeking Work among MW	Non-Workers	Seeking Work among NW
Arunachal Pradesh	48.7	6.1	24.0	45.1	10.1
Nagaland	40.2	7.0	25.7	52.8	13.4
Manipur	37.8	17.4	26.7	44.8	15.8
Mizoram	53.9	12.5	18.2	33.6	7.0
Tripura	33.8	8.1	38.6	58.0	23.2
Meghalaya	43.1	8.4	24.8	48.5	8.7
Assam	32.6	11.4	23.9	56.0	13.3
Northeast	35.0	10.8	25.1	54.3	14.1

The understanding of the origin of migration to the northeastern states would help in policy formulation as well as in understanding the pattern of migration. It would be interesting to know what state or region contribute to total migrants in the region and what are the reasons for migration from different states and regions.

Table 9.8

Percentage Distribution of In-migrants to Northeast States by Regions

Northeast States	North	West	Central	South	East	Northeast*	International
Arunachal Pradesh	3.7	0.6	5.0	2.1	19.8	57.3	11.4
Assam	7.4	0.8	7.8	2.1	42.4	15.2	24.3
Manipur	10.6	2.0	5.9	5.2	19.1	48.5	8.8
Meghalaya	6.6	0.8	3.7	2.2	19.5	56.9	10.4
Mizoram	1.7	0.4	1.2	1.3	8.2	56.6	30.5
Nagaland	7.2	1.1	6.1	3.7	22.6	51.6	7.7
Tripura	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.2	3.4	14.7	80.4
Northeast	6.9	0.8	6.8	2.5	34.5	0	48.6

Note: * Not including intra-state migrants.

Table 9.8 provides the percentage distribution of migrants in northeastern states by their place of last residence. The table has considered only inter-state and international migrants as in-migrants. As far as northeast is considered, it is found that nearly half of the migrants are international migrants. More than one-third of total in migrants have come from eastern India that comprises of states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Sikkim. Western India constitutes the least percentage of in-migrants to the northeast region. The share of migrants from within the region constitute around half of total in migrants in all the states, except the states of Assam and Tripura. Eastern India remains the main source of migrants in the state of Assam. About 42 per cent of total in-migrants in the state of Assam have migrated from eastern India. About one-fifth of total in-migrants in the states of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya have also migrated from eastern states. The contribution of migrants from north India is highest in the state of Manipur (11 per cent). With all the states in northeastern India having an international border, it is not surprising to find that international migrants constitute about half of total in-migrants in the region. International migrants constitute more than 80 per cent of total in-migrants for the state of Tripura. In contrast, the share of migration from other region makes up a mere 5 per cent. This fact reveals the importance of international migrants in the state of Tripura.

Table 9.9

Reason for In-migration by Regions (in %)

	Work	Education	Marriage	Moved after Birth	Moved with HH	Others
Northern India	30.2	1.2	12.4	2.0	29.4	24.7
Northeast India	27.0	2.2	17.7	1.1	25.9	26.2
Eastern India	37.7	0.6	19.4	1.4	20.7	20.1
Central India	32.2	1.0	15.0	1.5	27.3	23.0
Western India	18.4	1.7	6.7	2.0	34.6	36.6
Southern India	33.1	1.3	10.5	1.9	27.7	25.5
International	7.9	0.5	11.2	0.4	41.8	38.3

Note: *Work includes business migrants.

Table 9.9 gives the percentage distribution of the reasons for migrating to the northeast region. Work, moved with household and others have emerged as important reasons for migrating to northeast region. A very small percentage of migrants have migrated to the region for educational reasons as well as for the reason "moved after birth". Less than one-fifth of migrants from western India have stated work as the reason for migrating to northeast region as compared to about 38 per cent of migrants from eastern India. Around 42 per cent of international migrants to the region have moved with their household. Only 8 per cent of international migrants have moved to the northeast for the reason of work.

Out-migration from Northeast States

The following section discusses the magnitude and characteristics of out-migration from northeast India. Census 2001 recorded 744 thousand out-migrants from the seven states of northeast India. The distribution of out-migrants from northeastern states is given in Table 9.10.

Table 9.10
*Percentage Distribution of Out-migrants from
Northeast States to Various Regions*

From/To	North	West	Central	South	East	Northeast*	Total (N)
Arunachal Pradesh	17.6	4.1	4.7	12.1	20.0	41.5	100 (22803)
Assam	9.8	3.6	15.3	2.0	41.4	27.9	100 (708374)
Manipur	18.8	5.3	9.5	5.3	7.6	53.6	100 (51903)
Meghalaya	19.6	3.3	2.9	3.7	13.3	57.3	100 (50852)
Mizoram	7.3	1.7	0.9	1.7	2.6	85.8	100 (37993)
Nagaland	15.9	0.7	5.2	1.0	66.5	10.8	100 (159281)
Tripura	6.4	3.1	3.4	1.6	26.4	59.2	100 (65655)
Northeast	16.8	4.6	17.0	3.3	58.2	0	100 (744220)

Out-migration has been classified by various regions of the country so as to facilitate better understanding of the flow from northeast India. The table intends to show the direction of flow of people from the northeastern states. A state-wise comparison shows that a large percentage of out-migrants moved to other states within the northeast

region. The directional flow of migrants from the states of Assam and Nagaland show a variation from the other northeastern states. A higher percentage of people from these states have moved to eastern India while the other five states show a higher percentage moving to other northeastern states. About 67 per cent of out-migrants from Nagaland have moved to eastern India as compared to around 3 per cent and 8 per cent of out-migrants from the states of Mizoram and Manipur, respectively. Majority of out-migrants from Mizoram have moved within the northeast region, with 86 per cent moving to other states in the northeast. Around 42 per cent of migrants from Arunachal Pradesh have moved to states in the northeast, followed by 20 per cent to eastern India and about 18 per cent to north India. From the table, it is clear that the preferred destination of migrants from northeast region is eastern India (58 per cent), followed by northern India and central India (17 per cent each). Migration to western and southern India constitute the remaining 8 per cent of out-migrants.

Table 9.11

Sex Ratio of Out-migrants from Northeast States

From/To	West	East	Central	South	North	Northeast*	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	133	44	93	168	114	98	93
Assam	145	40	34	134	100	120	64
Manipur	188	99	38	120	144	117	111
Meghalaya	114	85	88	108	98	81	87
Mizoram	149	98	76	139	113	105	107
Nagaland	154	12	26	148	115	114	31
Tripura	144	114	67	187	109	96	102
Northeast	146	35	35	136	107	0	64

Note: Sex ratio = male per 100 females.

Table 9.11 presents the sex-wise distribution of the flow of migrants from northeastern states. Sex ratio has been described as male per 100 females. From the table, it is seen that males dominate the migration flow to western and southern India for all the states of northeast India. Female migration greatly outnumbers male migration in the flow to eastern and central India. About 75 per cent of total out migrants from the northeast region moved to eastern and central India. The table shows a higher migration of females from northeast, with a

ratio of 64 males per 100 females. The state of Nagaland records a sex ratio of 31, which means that for every 100 female migrants, there are just 34 male migrants. The state, which has 67 per cent of out-migrants moving to eastern India, has a highly skewed sex ratio of 12. The states of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura have sex ratio favouring male out migrants. The lone state of Meghalaya has a small excess of female migrants among migrants to northern India. All the other states have larger male migrants moving to northern India.

Table 9.12

Distribution of Out-migrants by Duration (in %)

	<i>Less than 1 Year</i>	<i>1-4 Years</i>	<i>5-9 Years</i>	<i>10 Years and Above</i>	<i>Duration not Stated</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	5.4	32.7	16.7	32.5	12.6
Assam	3.3	21.1	15.3	50.8	9.4
Manipur	4.6	37.1	17.8	29.8	10.8
Meghalaya	3.5	22.1	14.6	49.7	10.1
Mizoram	1.8	77.5	4.2	10.1	6.4
Nagaland	2.0	15.5	15.0	58.5	8.7
Tripura	2.7	18.7	14.4	56.2	8.0
Northeast	3.2	23.1	15.0	49.5	9.3

Table 9.12 presents the distribution of northeast out-migrants by duration of stay at the place of destination. It is seen that about half of migrants from northeast region have moved since 10 years and above before the Census, 23 per cent moved before 1-4 years, 15 per cent moved 5-9 years back and about 3 per cent moved within a year prior to Census. Around 9 per cent of out-migrants from northeast region have not stated their duration of stay at the place of origin. The highest percentage of out-migration, with duration of less than a year, is observed among the out-migrants from Arunachal Pradesh (5.4 per cent), followed by Manipur (4.6 per cent), Meghalaya (3.5 per cent) and Assam (3.3 per cent). A significantly high percentage (77.5 per cent) of out migrants from Mizoram has moved within 1-4 years prior the Census. More than half of out-migrants from the states of Assam, Nagaland and Tripura have moved 10 years and above prior to the Census. However, only 10 per cent of out-migrants from Mizoram have moved in that period.

Table 9.13

Reason for Out-migration from Northeast States (in %)

	<i>Work*</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Marriage</i>	<i>Moved after Birth</i>	<i>Moved with HH</i>	<i>Others</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	15.1	9.0	21.0	1.9	27.7	25.3
Assam	18.7	1.5	36.5	1.2	24.0	18.0
Manipur	21.1	14.9	13.7	1.1	28.4	20.8
Meghalaya	19.6	3.6	23.4	1.8	32.9	18.7
Mizoram	6.0	4.0	3.8	0.4	24.0	61.9
Nagaland	8.7	1.9	60.4	0.8	13.5	14.7
Tripura	22.2	3.5	22.7	1.2	30.8	19.7
Northeast	12.4	2.9	44.7	1.2	22.5	16.3

Note: *Work includes business migrants.

To understand out-migration from the northeast, it is necessary to study the different reasons for out-migration from the region. Table 9.13 provides the distribution of the reasons by the states of northeast India. Marriage emerges as the most important reason for out-migrating from the northeastern region. About 45 per cent of out-migrants from the region have moved for marriage reason. Around 23 per cent have moved with their household, 12 per cent for work-related reasons and about 3 per cent moved out for education. Sixteen per cent have moved out of the region for 'others' purposes. A state-wise comparison reveals that 22 per cent of out-migrants from Tripura have moved for work-related reasons as compared to about 21 per cent among out-migrants from Manipur, 20 and 19 per cent among out-migrants from Meghalaya and Assam respectively. Less than 10 per cent of out-migrants from Mizoram and Nagaland have moved for work-related reasons. Out-migration for the reason of marriage is highest among out-migrants from Nagaland (60.4 per cent), followed by Assam (36.5 per cent). Around 4 per cent of out-migrants from Mizoram have moved for marriage reasons, which is much lower than the regional average.

International Migration in Northeast India

Studies on international migration have gained more importance lately with the improvement in trade and infrastructure. It assumes greater importance in northeast India as all states in the region share border

with another country. Many neighbouring countries are much closer in distance than many of the other regions in India. It is not possible to study the magnitude or characteristics of people moving from the region to other countries using Census. However, the characteristics of people migrating to northeast states can be analysed.

Table 9.14

Magnitude of International Migrants in Northeast India by Place of Last Residence

States	International Migrants	% of IM to Total Population	% of IM to Total Migrants	% of IM to In-migrants*
Arunachal Pradesh	17,574/25468	1.6	4.3	11.4
Assam	130,966/190558	0.5	1.9	24.3
Manipur	1,418/2124	0.1	0.4	8.8
Meghalaya	9,622/12360	0.4	2.5	10.4
Mizoram	15,487/17160	1.7	5.8	30.5
Nagaland	6,793/7984	0.3	1.8	7.7
Tripura	261,631/299813	8.2	27.2	80.4
Northeast	443,491/555467	1.2	4.6	35.1

Note: *interstate + international migrants.

Table 9.14 gives the magnitude of international migration in northeast region, based on the place of last residence. The magnitude of international migrants in northeast India is about 444 thousand, which constitute 1.2 per cent of total population. Tripura has 261 thousand international migrants constituting 8 per cent of its total population. Assam follows Tripura, with total international migrants of 131 thousand. When in-migration to the region is considered, it is seen that more than one-third of in-migrants in the region is international in origin. However, the distribution is varied across the different states. More than 80 per cent of in-migrants in Tripura are international migrants. This means that in-migrants from other states of the country constitute just 20 per cent of in-migrants in the state of Tripura. Similarly, the share of international migrants to total in-migrants is 31 per cent in Mizoram, 24 per cent in Assam and 11 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh. The share is least for the state of Nagaland, where international migrants account for just about 8 per cent of total in migrants.

Table 9.15

Magnitude of International Migrants in Northeast India by Two Definition of Migration

States	Born Abroad	Last Residence Abroad	Difference	Percentage
Arunachal Pradesh	25468	17,574	7894	69.0
Assam	190558	130,966	59592	68.7
Manipur	2124	1,418	706	66.8
Meghalaya	12360	9,622	2738	77.8
Mizoram	17160	15,487	1673	90.3
Nagaland	7984	6,793	1191	85.1
Tripura	299813	261,631	38182	87.3
Northeast	555467	443,491	111976	79.8

Table 9.15 gives the comparison of the magnitude of international migration in northeastern states on the basis of birth of birth and place of last residence definitions. From the table, it is clear that international migration based on last residence definition hugely under-enumerated the magnitude as compared to migration defined by place of birth.

Table 9.16

Distribution of International Migrants by Place of Birth (in %)

States	Bangladesh	Nepal	Myanmar	Pakistan	China	Bhutan	Elsewhere
Arunachal Pradesh	34.1	56.9	1.6	0.1	5.1	1.9	0.3
Assam	86.1	9.4	0.2	3.7	0.0	0.3	0.3
Manipur	40.2	36.4	20.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.4
Meghalaya	51.1	44.9	0.3	0.9	1.3	0.8	0.7
Mizoram	7.7	11.0	80.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Nagaland	6.9	70.4	1.9	0.4	0.7	0.4	19.4
Tripura	99.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northeast	86.5	8.4	2.8	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.4

Table 9.16 gives the distribution of international migration in the northeast by their place of birth. About 87 per cent of international migrants in the northeast were born in Bangladesh, 8 per cent in Nepal, 3 per cent in Myanmar and the rest from other countries. Migration from Bangladesh constitutes the major contributor of international migration in the states of Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur.

International migration in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh is dominated by Nepali migrants, while migration from Myanmar dominates the international flow in Mizoram.

Table 9.17

Distribution of International Migrants by Place of Last Residence (in %)

States	Bangladesh	Nepal	Myanmar	Pakistan	China	Bhutan	Elsewhere
Arunachal Pradesh	37.5	51.7	1.8	0.0	6.2	2.3	0.4
Assam	87.7	8.6	0.2	3.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Manipur	35.2	38.9	21.3	0.4	0.6	1.0	2.7
Meghalaya	47.7	48.1	0.3	0.9	1.5	0.9	0.6
Mizoram	6.0	9.6	84.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Nagaland	5.7	72.2	2.1	0.3	0.6	0.4	18.7
Tripura	99.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northeast	87.6	7.3	3.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.4

Table 9.17 provides the place of last residence of international migrants in northeastern states. A similar composition of migrants is observed as compared to migration by place of birth. It is observed from the two tables that Bangladeshi and Nepali migrants form a large proportion of international migration in the northeastern states. Migration from Myanmar contributed mostly to the states of Mizoram and Manipur.

Table 9.18

Duration of Stay for International Migrants in Northeast India (in %)

Duration/States	0-9 Years	10-19 Years	20+ Years	Duration not Stated
Arunachal Pradesh	16.7	15.9	60.5	6.9
Assam	3.9	4.9	84.8	6.4
Manipur	12.8	13.9	59.7	13.6
Meghalaya	12.0	8.6	55.7	23.7
Mizoram	54.5	30.8	9.9	4.9
Nagaland	25.8	20.5	26.0	27.7
Tripura	4.3	8.5	82.2	5.0
Northeast	6.9	8.7	78.1	6.3

Duration of stay is an important component of migration analysis that allows the study of the year of migration. The duration of stay of

international migrants in the northeastern states is given in Table 9.18. From the table, it is seen that more than three-fourth of international migrants in northeast India have moved 20 or more years prior to the Census. Mizoram and Nagaland have higher percentage of international migrants, moving within 20 years prior to the Census. Duration not stated among international migrants is high in the states of Nagaland (28 per cent) and Meghalaya (24 per cent).

Table 9.19

Duration of Stay of International Migrants in Northeast by Country of Origin

Country of Origin	0-9 Years	10-19 Years	20+ Years	Duration not Stated
Bangladesh	3.8	7.1	83.7	5.4
Nepal	21.4	19.3	45.0	14.2
Myanmar	56.6	28.8	10.2	4.4
Other countries	11.9	8.3	61.4	18.4

Table 9.19 depicts the duration of stay in northeast India by the country of origin. For simplicity, only the top three countries of origin are taken for the analysis. The table shows that migrants from Bangladesh to northeast India have moved 20 or more years before Census 2001. This is in contrast to migrants from Myanmar where more than half of the migrants moved in the last 10 years before the census.

Table 9.20

Reason for Migration: International Migrants in Northeast India

	Work*	Education	Marriage	Moved After Birth	Moved with HH	Others
Arunachal Pradesh	27.5	0.5	5.6	0.3	25.2	41.0
Assam	8.9	0.3	12.2	0.6	42.3	35.7
Manipur	19.8	1.1	9.4	0.4	38.2	31.0
Meghalaya	17.7	1.8	10.4	0.9	21.5	47.7
Mizoram	22.9	0.6	9.7	0.4	40.1	26.4
Nagaland	33.6	1.0	8.1	0.9	16.8	39.7
Tripura	4.2	0.4	11.3	0.2	44.2	39.7
Northeast	7.9	0.5	11.2	0.4	41.8	38.3

Note: *Work includes business migrants.

Table 9.20 explores the reasons for international migration in the northeast states. Moved with household (42 per cent) emerged as the most important reason for migrating to northeast India followed by 'others' reason (38 per cent). About 8 per cent of the international migrants have moved for work reasons while around 11 per cent have moved for the reason of marriage. Though it would be interesting to know the reasons for migration by the country of origin, the limited availability of data in the Census did not allow any such analysis.

Summary and Conclusion

In 2001, northeast India continues to be an in-migrating region with the maximum gain of migrants for the states of Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. Assam, Manipur and Nagaland are the out-migrating states while the rest four states gained in-migrants. While short distance migration continues to dominate the migration streams of northeast, it is found that contribution of inter-state migration is significant in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland. International migration continued to be an important component of migration in Tripura. Majority of the migrants have stayed in northeast for more than 10 years and it is also found that about one-third of the migrants have not stated the duration of stay. More than half of the migrants in Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland have not stated the duration of stay. Recent migration has been found to be high in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Age distribution of the migrants reveals that more than one-fourth of the migrants in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland are children (0-14 years). Analysis of the reasons for migration shows that marriage migration remained an important reason, especially for the states of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. Moving for the reason of work is significant in the region, especially among the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. However, a significant number of migrants in the region have stated 'others' as the reason for migration, mainly in the states of Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland. Contrary to the fact that 10 per cent have stated work as the reason for migration, it is found that 35 per cent of the migrants are main workers at the place of enumeration.

The analysis of origin state or country of migrants in the region reveals that nearly half of the migrants in the region are from another country. Further analysis also shows that east India and neighbouring countries remained the important origins of migrants to the northeastern states. About 38 per cent of migrants from east India moved for the reason of work as compared to 8 per cent of international migrants.

Analysis of out-migration shows that the preferred destination of out-migrants from the northeastern states is east India, comprising the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa and Sikkim. The sex ratio of 64 among out-migrants shows that females dominate the outflow from the northeast. The state of Nagaland, which has 67 per cent of out migrants moving to eastern India, has a highly skewed sex ratio of 12.

International migration continues to be a significant component of migration situation in northeast India. Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar are the major countries of origin. However, it is found that there exists a significant gap in the reporting of international migrants on the basis of place of birth and place of last residence definitions. It is found that nearly 80 per cent of the migrants from Bangladesh have moved 20 or more years before the Census while majority of the migrants from Myanmar have moved within 10 years preceding the Census. It is observed that the mobility of the people of northeast India has greatly increased and we believe this should bring about faster growth of the region.

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Section II

Gender, Development and Health