

BRIEF STUDY OF EFFECT OF COVID ON MIGRATION IN Gangtok(EASTERN HIMALAYAS)

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ABSTRACT

The most important factor of migration in area is urbanisation people settled in urban areas for more facilities. The people from Eastern part and Central regions part moving to western and north-western regions. On the other hand, Eastern Himalayas has been known for inside migration and the conflicts arising from influx of migrants, but studies are having loop holes on the out-migration from the region. This study makes an short attempt to study migration flow from the region and covers both internal and international migration. In this study, As we know eastern states of the region shares an international boundary . The paper uses the primary and secondary data has tried to study the magnitude of reverse as well as flow of migration and effect of covid at the state level and also the reasons for migration. The eastern state sikkim is unique in the whole eastern as outflow is three times higher than the inflow in the state. The paper throws light on the combined impact of internal and international reverse flow of migration due to pandemic covid 19 in the eastern Himalayas region

KEYWORDS ; biological, birth rate,covid 19 pandemic, migration,

INTRODUCTION

The sudden imposition of the nationwide lockdown in view of the corona virus pandemic in the month of March resulted in hundreds and thousands of migrant workers, most of them daily-wagers, lost their jobs. After losing job or without employment, many of them returned to their native villages. This COVID-19-make initiative to reverse migration was the second-largest mass migration in the recorded history of India, after the Partition, where more than 14 million people were migrated and lost their homes The otherwise unknown lives and working conditions of migrants were brought to national attention when the unplanned lockdown forced them to walk long distances to reach their homes.

in order to understand covid -19-induced migration it is important to understand the specifics of rural -urban migration . Circular migration forms a majority of rural-urban migration and involves the independent male members of rural households migrating to urban areas Circular migration forms a majority of rural-urban migration and involves the independent male members of rural households migrating to urban areas . while maintaining close links with their villages and towns of origin. They send remittances home and often spend a few months, especially during the harvest season, at their native places.

BACKGROUND

when the WHO Director-General declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic in March, there was national-level alert across all countries including India. While measures given by the Centre on particular public health strategies and movement of people within designated zones were flexible, Sikkim made these stringent to ensure the prevention of COVID-19 within the state. Their strategy worked in ensuring zero COVID-19 cases till 22nd May, 2020 ; the next day, a student who had

returned from New Delhi to Sikkim was reported as the first case. As of 22nd July total confirmed cases numbered 438, out of which 112 have recovered, with not a single death reported yet. As per the notification issued by Government of Sikkim on 20th July, a complete lockdown in the state was declared from 6 am on 21st July to 6 am on 3rd August in view of the relatively sudden surge in COVID-19 cases compared to earlier numbers in the state. Educational, training and coaching institutions will remain closed till 31st August.

HISTORY

In December 2019, a new virus known as the Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a viral respiratory disease of zootomic origin caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus (SARS-CoV or SARS-CoV-1), the first identified strain of the SARS corona virus species severe acute respiratory syndrome-related corona virus (SARSr-CoV). The syndrome caused the 2002–2004 SARS outbreak. that originated in the Wuhan city of China (Corona virus disease 2019, [2020](#)). Though initially India had relatively less number of COVID-19 infected cases compared with UK and USA, but seen cases and death rate started rising dramatically since the end week of March 2020 especially in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. As on 26th August 2020 there were 32,34,474 coronavirus infected cases in India and 94,592 cases in Assam whilst the number of reported deaths was 59,449 and 260 respectively in India and Assam (GoI, [2020](#)). To minimise the spread of transmission of the virus Indian government declared a nationwide full lockdown for 40 days in two phases during 25th March–3rd May, 2020 and partial lockdown for 28 days in two phases during 4th May–31st May, 2020. The prolonged period of lockdown paralysed the economy by fully or partially affecting the three sectors of economy viz. agriculture, industry and services. Consequently there was a fall in aggregate demand, affecting production process and labour market, trade and industry, supply chain, public health system and society at large. There was a massive disruption in offline and manual work and employment with the announcement of nationwide lockdown. Consequently tens of millions of migrant workers, forced to return home after losing their employment and income in their home countries (ILO, [2020a](#)). The tragedy of migrant labourers marked by homelessness, hunger and unforeseen human miseries with continuation of nationwide lockdown (SWAN, [2020](#)). During the initial phase of full lockdown, there was no access to ration from government outlets and non-payment of salary for more than 90% of migrant labourers in India (The Hindu, [2020](#)). Millions of migrants and informal sector workers in India left jobless at the announcement of the lockdown, with enough savings possibly to feed themselves for a week or two at the most. Many of them did not have ration cards to access food aid (The Hindu, [2020](#)) all of these prompted a mass exodus of people fleeing cities to go back to the villages on foot travelling hundreds of kilometres (The Times of India, [2020](#)) and many more remain trapped in cities.

RESULTS

The study is based on primary data and secondary data collected through telephonic-based survey and news papers during May–June 2020. Restrictions on stepping out of residence and social distancing compulsion, transportation hindrances were the reason for using communication technology for data collection from the respondents. I reached out to the labourers through telephone calls and entered data using Google forms. Data were collected from a sample of 400 respondents by randomly selecting labourers who migrated to various Indian states from Gangtok in order for gainful engagement in different sectors. The selection of Gangtok as the source state was purposive and constrained by resource, time and prevailing situation. The

number of inter-state migrant labourers is largest in Gangtok amongst north-eastern states with number of migrants was 539 thousand (Census Report,). With the aim of the study is to examine the effect of COVID-19 lockdown on income and remittances of migrant labourers. The data collected for 321 labourers was filtered for labourers who lost their income completely and those who failed to send remittances following the loss of employment and income in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic...The pandemic-induced reverse migration presented the government with an opportunity to concentrate on building rural infrastructure with better agrarian policy – a study affirms the narrative that the agricultural sector has kept the rural economy afloat during the pandemic. Improved livelihood opportunities and effective rural governance are also essential parts of the rural infrastructure.

In recent times, migration from one place to another has emerged as an important component of population composition and change. Migration has influenced every aspect of life in the origin as well as the destination. The impact of migration has been felt particularly in the Northeast region of the country. In recent times, there has been apprehension of small ethnic communities of the region being overwhelmed by huge inflows of migrants and subsequent demand for restriction and management of migration.

CONCLUSION

The present study analyzed migration intensity in Northeast India using data from. The share of immigrants in the state of Gangtok is higher than the share of interstate migrants. Female migration dominates migration in the country as well as most of the states in Northeast..An assessment of the reverse flow in the wake of pandemic and nationwide lockdown imposed in the month of March shows that about half a million of interstate out-migrants returned constituting about 50% of interstate out-migrants from Northeast India. This opens up enormous challenges as well as a window of opportunity for the states of Northeast to capitalize on the skills and the experiences of the return migrants

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