

Past Destinations and Future Intention to Migrate: A Study of Migrants from North-East India to Mumbai City

The study of migration in demography has gained more importance with the continuing decline of fertility and mortality rates. Though the process of migration has been there for time immemorial, the volume of migration has greatly increased along with infrastructural improvement that has made the world a lot smaller. In India, short distance and marriage migration has dominated the migration flows.

Mumbai, the financial capital of India has been the main destination for migrants from various parts of the country. Census 2001 of India recorded 7million migrants in Mumbai of which 4 million have moved from other states of India. The Northeast states of India namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura contributed a mere 9759. However, study of migrants from Northeast India earned the importance from the fact that they are distinctly different from other migrants in their physical appearance as well as in other characteristics.

The present paper consists of the following sections,

- a) Source of data.
- b) Analysis of destination choices among multiple movers.
- c) Characteristics of migrants by the order of moves.
- d) Future intention to migrate.

Source of data

The paper uses data obtained from a survey conducted in Mumbai from September to December 2007. Information was collected from 310 migrants from Northeast India. The migrants include male and female, working and non-working and have stayed in Mumbai for six or more months. Semi structured schedule was used to collect information on various aspects of migration including migration history and future intention to migrate. Since the universe was not known, a rigid sampling could not be used. However, to ensure some kind of representation, a quota sampling design was used to select the respondents. A quota of respondents for the seven states of Northeast was established in proportion to the percentage of migrants to total population of

the origin state. The proportion of migrants to Mumbai to the total population of origin state was obtained from Census of India 2001. A state with a higher percentage of out migration to Mumbai gets a higher quota of respondents. The final number of respondents by states has been given in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of respondents by state.

State	Sex of the respondents		Total
	Male	Female	
Arunachal Pradesh	23	22	45
Assam	44	12	56
Manipur	33	44	77
Meghalaya	18	29	47
Mizoram	11	9	20
Nagaland	9	17	26
Tripura	22	17	39
Northeast	160	150	310

Destination Choices

For the study, we defined ‘move’ as a place where a migrant has lived for six or more months. About 900 moves were made by the migrants in the sample. An average of about 3 moves has been made by the 310 migrants. While 43 percent of the sample has made multiple moves before moving to Mumbai, the rest have moved for the first time. Information such as reason for moving to a particular place, age, education activity etc was also collected at different order of moves. Further analysis would be done to group the various destinations to determine the relative attractiveness of destinations for the migrants with different order of moves.

Future Intention to Migrate

Information on the intention to migrate was collected along with the timing and place of migration. Around 70 percent of the migrants intended to move out from Mumbai in the near future. Reasons for choosing a particular place were also collected. We expect further analysis to bring out a relation between the number of moves and the intention to migrate.