

Challenges and Prospect in Residing New Home: A Study of the Migration of Nepali Community in Mawsmal Village Ri Bhoi District Of Meghalaya

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ABSTRACT: *Though Migration from Nepal to India has been a common phenomenon since time immemorial, but it has authentically recorded history since East India Company's rise to power. In Meghalaya it started from the days when the place was under the North East Frontier Agency in 1961.*

The present study focus on the migration of the Nepali to Mawsmal village which is located in the border of two states Meghalaya and Assam opposite of GS road in Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya. The study focus on the patterns of migration and impact of this migration on the community with particular reference to their socioeconomic background, interaction with other communities and the social challenges faced by them in the place.

The study confirms the existence of chain migration in the area and it also establishes the changing nature of socioeconomic background of the people and though the marriage is generally within the community but presently many cases of inter community neo local marriages can be traced.

KEY WORDS: *Migration; Mobility; Marriage; Ethnic Conflict.*

Date of Submission: 15-01-2018

Date of acceptance: 17-02-2018

I. Introduction.

Migration refers to the movement of individuals or a collectivity from one geographical point to another (Agpuzino, 2000). Human migration has been taken place from the beginning of human history, when people move from one place to another in search of food and livelihood and better living conditions. However, there is no universally accepted definition of migration. The definition of migration depends on the purpose for which it is defined. For example the United Nation is concerned about International migrants, who move from one country to the another. Therefore, it is defined migration as "an individual who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regularly or irregularly, to migrate" (IOM, 2011).

There are various issues involved while defining migration. Firstly, migration involves a movement of people from one geographical location, to another location, to another. For some definitions a mere change of residence would suffice. Other definitions exist that the place of destination should cross some boundary. This boundary may range from village boundaries to national boundaries. The second issues involved is about what should be place of birth is one starting point that is often considered, the other being the place of residence. The third issue that is considered while defining migration is the duration of residence, while some definition accommodate the desire of permanent or semi permanent residence in the place of destination, other definition gives a specific period of residence as a minimum requirement to be considered a migrant.

II. Review Of Literature.

In a pioneering effort, in 1980's (E.G. Ravenstein 1885, 1889), postulated a number of laws on migration based on data collected from more than 20 countries, included British Census of 1881, 1889 from the starting point for both theoretical and empirical research on migration. His laws are as follows

1. Net migration is a small proportion of gross migration between two areas.
2. For each migration stream there run the natives of town are less migratory than those of rural areas.
3. The displacement of population by migration occurs by stages. The main currents counters, stream which is almost equal in size.
4. Most migration is of short distance from centre of absorption increases. The number of migrants reduces.

5. The displacement of population by migration occurs by stage. The main currents of migrants are from farm to town, town to small cities and from small city to large city.
6. There is predominance of females in short distance migration.
7. An increase in locomotion and development of manufacture and commerce leads to an increase of migration.
8. There is dominance of economic motive in migration.

Patterson (IIPS, 1996) presented several typology of migration based on the relationship between (a) man and nature, (b) state and man, (c) man and his norms and (d) collective behavior. The relation (a) may lead to migratory force called ecological push. Class of migration will be primitive resulting in wandering type of migration. Migratory force under (b) will be migratory policy and class of migration either forced or impelled leading to migration types of displacement or flights. There may result in slave trade or coolie trade, similarly man and his norms cause higher aspirations as migratory force. Type of migration may be particularly migration force infer collective behavior leading to mass migration. Types of migration may be terms as settlement and urbanization.

Wolpert 1965, 1966 based his decision making aspect of migration on Kert Lewis (1951) field theory. He explained his migration theory on three aspects (a) place utility, (b) field theory approach to search behavior, and (c) life cycle approaches to threshold formation.

(a) Place utility: Existence of individuality at a particular place has some utility to him. His satisfaction or dissatisfaction at a place may be expressed as positive or negative utility. His negative or lower utility derived from his present existing place may induce him to migrate to a potential destination where his utility will be positive and much higher compared to the present place.

(b) Fields theory approaches to search behavior. An individual is considered at stationary position within a cluster of alternative place each of which may be representing by a point. Whether an individual will move or stay will depends on the potential utility obtainable from cluster of point around cluster of pint around hm.

(c) Life Cycle approach to threshold formation: Action space refers individual are of movement which depends on individual's personal attributes and his position in divergent life cycles and communications network linking his position to other places.

III. Introduction Of The Nepali People.

Migration from Nepal to India has been a common phenomenon since time immemorial. But it has authentically recorded history since East India Company's rise to power. The Anglo-Nepalese Peace Treaty, 1816 which was modified latter, empowered the British Government to raise three regiments of Nepali in the Northern hills of India. It resulted in recruitment of soldiers from Nepal. The soldiers settled down in this region and after retirement few went back to Nepal before 1958 due to prevalence of malaria and increase in population in hill areas of Nepal, Nepalis had immigrated to the northern regions of India, where ecological condition was similar (Subha, 1985). Kansakar writes: "Until the installation of democracy in 1951, the main destination of the Nepali migrants was India. In the absence of employment opportunities outside agriculture, Nepali hill people migrated to India and India became the safety valve for the country's growing population" (Kansakar, 1980). We can trace Nepali migration in Meghalaya right from the period when the area was under the North East Frontier Agency in 1961 where their share was 1.65% of the total population i.e. 498836. In 1971 it was in Meghalaya it was 2.54% of the total migrant population i.e. 526526.

During the year 1987 the migrated Nepali people staying in Shillong started migrating to Mawsmai village which is located in the border of two states Meghalaya and Assam opposite of GS road in Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya. They migrated to the place after the conflict between the tribal people of Shillong the NGO's Khasi Student Union KSU with the Nepali community which have affect the whole Nepali community staying not only in Shillong but also in different part of the state they have moved out and went and settle to the another place. In this village the Nepali community coming from Shillong staying here in the Mawsmai village. After they moved to the present village during that time very few of the family shifted to this place. We can observe chain migration in the area whereby even after years the population of the Nepali community are increasing who are not only those who are born here but mostly coming from outsides the village new residents have add up. The Nepali people at first the husband came for working in search of job than a nearly few months later his wife and children also join him, followed by friends and relatives. This trend of migration is taking place in the area till now.

IV. Patterns Of Migration

The original migrated Nepali group who at first came to migrate from Shillong there far distance relative members start to go and stay in this place coming from different district, states and even from outsides India from Nepal. They start to admire and like the climate, which they find suitable for them if they migrate to

this place, they found that they can find job and can earn their livelihood which motivated them to bring other family members there later. Majority of them are presently working in cow farm, daily wagers and factory workers. Slowly after a month year the guess people starts to find place for residing in the rented house by bringing their family members and friends to this place. Since they find the place peaceful and where employment opportunity is there they started calling their community members to the place. Thus, the new Chain migration have seen to be continuing in this place not only for the Nepali community but even other community people as Assamese people who are staying in the border of Meghalaya and Assam they stay in rented along with the family or friends in this place and working in the house of the Nepali people who are a bit rich. These new migrant groups are working mainly as daily wage earners mostly were the man and women as maid servant etc. Even their population starts increasing because of the kind of living they are earning in this place. But the Nepali Community are the majority migrating group who are staying in this place presently.

V. Socio-Economic Background

The Nepali community are very cooperative and supporting to one another they have their own community hall where every community programs are organised. All of them belong to the Hindu religion. At present there are 245 household in this village their main source of income is rearing a milk farm only few engaged in small business like opening a shops, daily wagers and primary school teacher both man and women. It has been found that people staying here they have less interest in Government job rather they are more hard working in working in their own private work mostly in rearing the cow for milk and increasing their husbandry rearing of cow's milk farm nearby to their house also their monthly expenditure is around Rs 6000 to 7000 since they have to buy all these stuffs from outsides. They are living a challenging and hard working life everyday especially parents for supporting the family. They speak Nepali, Assamese and Hindi at present the total population is 2,457 male are 1,157 and 1,300 are female. It has been found that out of all the villagers 75% of them are staying in the rented land which have been giving by the land owner from Shillong whereas the rest 25% the villagers are staying in the same plot of land under the name of the previous Nepali family who have got the permission to stay in the present plot of land. The population of the villagers keeps on increasing year by year and they have been considered to be the permanent residents of this village even for those who are coming recently and for those who are staying in rented. Most of them they are staying in rented which is the owner are the local people from Shillong.

Education level- At present there are three schools one lower primary schools, one private schools and one government school (Undertaken). It has been found that parents send their children at primary level to the schools which is in the village itself after completing the studies there they send their children in Guwahati for further studies. Children which are good in studies their parents support them and children who are not good in studies they are helping their parents in feeding the cow cleaning there shed like cutting grass in the forest and taking milk from the cow in the evening they have to go and take the milk to the GS Road people from the cities they will come and take the milk. It has been found in this two categories of students one who is studying outsides and the another one helping their family at home. Whoever come and shift or resides in their village the same everyone are following the systems of sending and engaging their children into two categories working at home or sending them for further studies.

Social problem- People of the community prefers arrange marriage for both girl and boys from the same community so that it will somehow help maintaining their ethnic identity and population in the area. The village population and identity of the Nepali Community residing in the Village will become well known and in bringing harmony if both boys and girls are belonging from the same community and maintaining the culture and tradition for the upcoming generation. While among the newly married nuclear families, it has been found that marriage of mixed community is taken place mostly between Nepali and Assamese.

VI. Conclusion

It has been found that the elder native migrated people while interview with them their perspective was that they prefer more of their own group of Nepali family to come and settle in their place not only to those who come and migrated to their place but also even in social issues they prefer their children to get married among their own community so that they can preserve maintain and carry down their culture and identity. Here the native Nepali community in this place wants to upholds preserve their identity by controlling the youth to get married outsides their own community and the other by giving more preference to their own people to migrate into this place. So that the population will increase and they can maintain their own culture and identity only through one community. It has also been found that there is no selective of male and female it does not have a direct impact in sex ration. Both male and female move to this place either by male individually or both with his family. In most of the case the families of the employees accompany by them to this place. Migration has developed population heterogeneity in this place since most of the Nepali people migrated into this place. By seeing the distribution of job present in this place and the job mobility whereby both male and female work in

their own job this has some implication on the socio-economic scenario of the Nepali people residing in this place. While in terms of religion and ethnicity it have normally promote peace for social and cultural as well as introduced a demography balance of identity were only the Nepali community population have keep on increasing among them both from the Nepali native and the newly migrated Nepali people. Another findings here is that among the Nepali community there is no competition among them in all domain like in job, education and individual mobility even for the newly migrated people who went and resides to this place the first reason for them in selecting the place to migrate was that they belong from the poor background so they found it will be bearable and comfortable for them to shift and start their livelihood into this place unlike other type of migration the reason for people to move there were mostly because of better condition in life, social status, job, education and other factors. It has also been found that the Nepali community staying in this place every one of they live a very simple life and understanding each other during in times of help and emergency. Thus, it had helped to maintained and promotes both the socio and cultural identity to a good level of present scenario of the society.

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International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI) is UGC approved Journal with Sl. No. 4593, Journal no. 47449.

Dr Sandeep Gupta "Challenges and Prospect in Residing New Home: A Study of the Migration of Nepali Community in Mawsmal Village Ri Bhoi District Of Meghalaya" International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI) 7.2 (2018): PP 51-54