

Journal of International Academic Research for Multidisciplinary



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MIGRATION FOR SURVIVAL OF NORTH EAST STUDENTS: A STUDY CONDUCTED IN MYSORE

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INTRODUCTION

Migration is a movement of group of people from one place to another for a particular purpose. Migration is a new trend of finding destiny. The patterns and causes of migration are changing and are becoming more common today. People migrate for various reasons like education, occupation, political unrest and natural calamities, social disturbances, threats etc. Studies shows there is also reverse migration for various reasons like assaults, discrimination and returning back to their own family members in times of turmoil and tension etc.

North East India comprises of seven states commonly known as the “Seven Sisters”. They are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. The Northeast India constitutes only about 3.8 per cent of the total population of the country (39 million people; 2001 census). Over 68 per cent of this population (26.64 million) live in the state of Assam. North east is predominantly hilly terrain and consist of tribals with is 19.3 per cent in Assam, and 94.5 per cent in Mizoram. The region covers 160 Scheduled Tribes and over 400 other sub-tribal communities and groups. It is predominantly rural with over 84 per cent of the population living in the countryside. According to 2001 census, the total literacy rate of the population in the region is 68.5 per cent, and female literacy rate is 61.5 per cent, it is higher than the country's average of 64.8 per cent and 53.7 per cent respectively.

The students from various states of north east are studying in Karnataka. Karnataka is well known for its best educational Institution. Mysore University is one of the best Universities in India. In Mysore the educational institutions are affiliated to Mysore University and students from various parts of the country choose Mysore for their higher education.

The educational Institutions in Mysore welcome north east students so far these students never felt any kind threaten in any states usually. These students are assets to these Institutions. They take up courses in all the streams according to their

aptitudes, like arts, science and commerce, law, engineering, medicine and many professional courses in Mysore.

Mysore is a city of palaces and it attracts many tourists. Mysore is peace loving place and people of diverse nature are found in these places. Hence, in Mysore variability of culture due to intermixture of tourists, students and others, for site seeing, education and for occupation.

However, there was no hint that these people would leave the state, when we received the message from the Centre. But suddenly from August 15, there was an exodus. They decided to leave despite police in KR Puram, Koramangala and a few other stations assuring them protection. The exodus did not happen only in Karnataka, but in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu too. Bangalore witnessed exodus of more people in the past three days because of inflow of migrants from neighbouring states, as well.

The government is ready to set up relief camps for the northeast in case of an emergency. Convention centres, marriage halls, public and private buildings in the city can be converted into makeshift relief camps. However, the situation does not warrant setting up of relief camps.

People migrate from North-East to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Karnataka etc for education and occupation. The people of nations develop a sense of WE feeling and are unified (Kar.P.K, 2006). North east students are attracted to Mysore for their studies mostly because of them find here their friends, relatives or neighbours studying in the same colleges. The Students from north east are very adjustable, studious and smart girls. Most of the time they are with their own people and they live separately with their own friends and relatives in the locality. Those who stay in the hostel they prefer their own roommate from their home state and also otherwise they prefer others also.

The belongingness comes naturally among these students when they try to sum up themselves with local students habits. Tibetans are also accommodated in the land of Mysore and they feel secured as their own place. But today the north east people feel threatened and they are forced to migrate to their own state due to fear of attack for their lives and their loved ones.

Suddenly the wave of migration of north east student from south India and three days of panic that shook Bangalore and Mysore starting August 15, as people from the northeast rushed to board trains home. The reason for these exoduses may be

due to the rumours that the students and the others northeast people that the riots in Mumbai, where two people died, created panic. Provocative messages, MMS and video clippings sent to people from the northeast upset the community.

The following literature, highlight the situation of north east students, was reviewed in the light of the problem under consideration

NE students exodus growing, two special trains provided from Bangalore (Sanjib Kr Baruah, Hindustan Times August 15th 2012)

With growing reports of local groups threatening students from the north-eastern states to exit Karnataka, the railway ministry has provided two special trains to students hailing from the region to leave for their home states.

Fear grips: Tibetan traders suspend business in city (Mysore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

The Mysore city have a good number of North eastern states students, police commissioner K.L. Sudheer convened an emergency meetings and discussed about the pros and cons and decided to collect the data of those people and if needed, provide security to the educational institutions. The police have collected the list of the such students from every college, hostels etc, the police have also collected the residential addresses of north eastern students and ensured them safety.

Top Cop holds peace meetings (Mysore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

The peace meet was held with north eastern people and Muslim brethren in the city and assured that the Muslim community was always for peace and has been the torch bearer of communal harmony in the city.

Police role comes under a cloud (Bangalore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

The eroding confidence of the North Easterners in the city and worse on Thursday as students alleged that the Bangalore police were involved in manufacturing rumours which started the mass of exodus of the community.

Fear stalks N-E students in Mysore (Mysore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

Rumours of possible attacks on people from the North Eastern states triggered anxiety among college students in the city. Despite the assurance of their safety, as many as 42 students from Teresian College for women returned to their native places on Thursday. Students residing outside the campus had been accommodated in the college hostels but they insisted they may be sent home with parents and guardians.

State will regret if migrants are not protected (Bangalore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

The news paper writes that the almost everyone in the Karnataka government is concerned about the exodus of north east students. Chief Justice Vikramajit Sen also expressed his concern over the exodus of the north east people. Advocate General Vijay Shankar said that ‘everybody in the state from other parts of the country is living in fear and he assured that there was no violence and it was rumours driving the people away.

An appeal and assurance to the people from North Eastern States residing in Karnataka (Bangalore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

In the wake of rumours of violence there has been an exodus of terror stricken people from the North Eastern states from Bangalore. However no violent incident of any sort has been reported. The government of Karnataka urge not to heed to rumours and assured that stringent security measures have been deployed to prevent any untoward incidents.

No clues yet to cause of hysteria (Bangalore, Deccan Herald Friday 17th 2012)

The authorities continue to be in the dark about the cause for the mass hysteria that seems to have gripped members of the North –Eastern community in the city forcing their reverse migration to the states of their origin. The police and the government remained clueless about the origin of the rumoured threats and physical attacks that have driven the North -Easterners to such panic.

CM reassures people of North Eastern states but exodus continues unabated (Star of Mysore, August 17th 2012)

Within a day after about 6800 people from North –Eastern States left the Capital city fearing assault , Chief Minister Jagadish Shetter reassured that there was no need for panic as the entire state Machinery was with them.

Rationale of the study

North east students pursue their higher education in various institutions in Mysore. They are more found in Teresian College, St.Philomena’s College, and JSS College for Arts, Science and Commerce on Ooty Road, JSS Medical and Pharmacy College, SBRR Mahajana’s First Grade College and All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH). They are concentrated in this college and most of them are with their own friends or relatives and they feel a kind of comfort, security and protection while they are together as they share some culture and land from where they belong to

same place. The research study is to investigate the factors responsible for sudden exodus of these migrant students and the fear and insecurity that they faced on 15th up to 20th August 2012. It is an attempt to understand the extent of fear and insecurity and the exodus of north east student in Mysore city.

Objectives for the study

- To examine the cause for and sudden migration of the survival for north-east students in Mysore
- To analyse the mass hysteria that forced them for reverse migration to the states of their origin.
- To analyse the attitude of the government towards these problems.
- To find out the interaction between the other students and the North East students
- To evaluate their return back to their study centre after few days

Hypotheses

- Factors that are responsible for the exodus of north east are:
- Fear of hate psychosis spreading fast.
- Affective action of or emotional action spread.
- Anxiety of protecting their children and the desire to be under the protection of their parents.

Methodology of the study

The study was initiated by the researchers because the tension and the apprehension that the student faced during those days, and the trauma whether to remain or to flee to their own home for safety and security was the main agenda that happened for the very short period but affected their lives a lot. The data for the study has been collected from a questionnaire that was administered to the students and through interview also lot of information was gathered.

Area of the study

The data was collected from the students studying in Mysore city colleges.

Sample size

The sample was collected randomly from 68 students studying in various colleges in city. Teresian College (29) Mahajana's College (07) St.Philomena's College (07) Vidya Vikas, College (05) Mysore University (04) Maharaja's College (03) JSCE

(03) St. Mary's College (02) JSS (02) Vidya vikas Engineering College (02) NIE (02) Jyothi Niwas College, Bangalore (02)

Table 1: Class/combination of the respondents

SL. No.	No of students	%
Arts	18	26.47
Science	20	29.41
Commerce	19	28
Nursing/ MSC/LLB/Engineering	07	10.29
Others	04	06
Total	68	100.00

The above table shows the data collected and a majority of 29.47% of the students belongs to science stream and 28% (commerce) 26.41% (Arts) and others 10.29% and 6% of the students belonged to others group and they mentioned that they did courses in Computer Science courses Cartooning and other skilled courses .The North East students take up various streams based on their aptitude.

Table 2: Education

Gender	Arts	Science	commerce	Nursing/LLB	others	Total	%
Male	03	04	08	02	01	18	26
Female	15	16	11	05	03	50	74

The table above shows that, majority of the respondents were female and studied undergraduate courses such as Arts, Science and Commerce. Among boys too majority of them were taken up Arts, Science and Commerce.

Table 3: Native Place

SL.No	No	%
Megalaya	37	54.41
Manipur	10	15.00
Arunachal Pradesh	11	16.17
Nagaland	02	03.00
Mizoram	04	06.00
Assam	03	04.41
Tripura	01	01.47
Total	68	100

Table revealed that in Mysore students from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland etc are the migrant who are studying presently 54.41% of the students are from Meghalaya they stated it was easier to contact their seniors from the same place and they come and they stayed together in the same place. Others were Manipur 15%, Arunachal Pradesh 16.17%, Nagaland 3%, Mizoram 6%, Assam 4.41% and Tripura 1.47%.

Table 4: Colleges studying

SL. No	No	%
Teresian College	29	43.00
Mahajana's College	07	10.29
St.Philomena's College	07	10.29
Vidya Vikas, College	05	07.35
Maharaja's College	03	04.00
Mysore University	04	06.00
St. Mary's College	02	03.00
JSS	02	03.00
JSCE	03	04.41
Vidya vikas Engineering College	02	03.00
NIE	02	03.00
Jyothi Niwas College, Banagalore	02	03.00
Total	68	100

The above table shows that the most of the students were from Teresian College (43%) and other colleges were Mahajana's College (10.29%) St.Philomena's College (10.29%) Vidya Vikas, College (7.35%) Maharaja's College (4%) Mysore University (6%), JSCE (4.41%), St. Mary's College and JSS, (3%), Vidya Vikas engineering College, NIE, and Jyothi Nivas College Bangalore (03%) respectively. The majority number was found in Teresian College because they had their known people from their own place and they had accommodated themselves together.

Table 5: Stay here in Mysore

SL. No	No	%
Since 1 year	11	16.00
2 - 3years	22	32.00
3-4 year	19	28.00
4-5 year	12	18.00
5 years and above	04	06.00
Total	68	100

The table reveals that majority of 28% were staying in Mysore since 3-4 years and 16% of them were new to Mysore cities and they felt more insecure than others who stayed more years in Mysore

Table 6: Accommodation

Accommodation	No	%
Hostel	28	41
PG	28	41
Rented house/leased	12	18
Total	68	100

The above table shows that 41% of the students stayed at PG and Hostel and only 18% of them stayed at rented room.

Table 7: Sources of information of threat

SL. No	No	%
SMS	08	11.7
Friends	40	58.8
News paper/ media	10	14.7
social net working	10	14.7
Total	68	100

The above table shows that most of the north east students received the information through i.e. (59%) and others got the information through SMS, news papers and social net work. This shows that they always kept in touch with their own friends from their own place.

Table 8: First reaction toward threat information

SL. No	No	%
Insecurity, Scared	17	25.00
Fear of life at local stay	25	37.00
Want to rush home for the family security	11	16.17
Rushed to the head of the Institution	05	7.35
Decided to stay and face the situation	03	4.41
Insecurity feeling but did not take serious	04	6.00
Rushed to complain to police	03	4.41
Total	68	100.00

The above table shows that they had mixed reaction and some made fun out of it majority felt fear (37%) and others felt insecurity , fear scared, and want to go home to be with their own parents under their protection.

Table 9: source of safety /security provided by the Institution

SL. No	No	%
Yes	57	84.00
No	11	16.00
Total	68	100.00

The above table shows that 84% of the north east students felt that the college gave them safety and security and 16% felt that they did not receive any security from their college authority .some of the student felt that though the security was given they felt that it was insufficient to take care of the entire north east students. The college hostel also provided accommodation for the PG students in the hostel till the problem settled. Some felt that the police they did not have any gun. The hostel warden assured that they will be safe in the hostel and they were not allowed to go out .One College gave holiday and those who stayed at the rented room felt more insecure. For the safety and protection conducted peace meetings. Reports say that North-eastern students, who have stayed back, were confused by their college authorities' double-

speak. "We can't assure your safety." "Go home until Eid," one educational institution in Anand Nagar, Bangalore, and police picked up students from the Northeast for 'protection'. "What's with the North-Eastern problem in Bangalore? Some cops went to the college and took NE students for protection," said a student.

A student hides in a hotel room because his landlord fears for his own life and asks him to leave. When some others go to the police in the Shanthi Nagar area, they are told 'better go home'. The police were under chaos because they did not receive any complaints.

Table 10: Decisions to Flee to their home

Sl. NO	No	%
Yes	36	53.00
No	32	47.00
Total	68	100.00

The above table shows 53% of them went home for their safety and 47% of them stayed back in their own PG, Hostel and rented home. Those who were in rented home felt more insecure than the rest.

Table 11: Response of parent's at children's arrival

Response of Parents	No	%
Happy by seeing back their children safe	15	22.05
Safe/ Tension free by their children's return	15	22.05
Sad that their children are unsafe	02	3.00
Parents consoling children to remain calm and remain normal	03	4.41
Parents suggests and sent their children to friends /relatives houses	30	44.11
Fear to respond	02	3.00
Normal as always	1	1.47
Total	68	100.00

The table shows that most of the parents felt relieved and were happy after their children reached home safely. Some parents were not happy that they will miss their class.

Table 12: Experiences in the Hostel/PG

Hostel/PG	No	%
Safe/comfortable	12	18
Unsafe /insecurity feeling	30	44
No peace of mind /sleeplessness	03	04
wanted to go home /tensed	09	13
Seeking help from police/kept calling parents	04	06
Stayed in groups	10	15
Total	68	100

The above table shows that those who stayed back in the hostel were not at ease 44% of them felt unsafe, insecure and scared and they wanted to go home but with the security and assurance given by warden they felt safe. Some felt that they will come inside the hostel and attack the north east students. Those who went home because they felt that they did not have the courage to face the problem. Some wanted to go home and they cried and always made calls to their parents. Those who were in rented houses felt more unsafe than others. Some PG students also felt the same. Those were the horrifying days that they ever faced in their lives and they felt that they are humans and Indians and they should not be discriminated. Some felt that they will die without their parents

Table 13: Opinion about law and order in Karnataka

Opinion	No	%
Strict	18	26.47
Excellent	03	04.41
Good and co-operative	25	37.00
Late reaction	05	7.35
Insecure	12	18.00
Better than other states	5	7.35
Total	68	100

The above table shows 37% the law and the orders were good and co-operative. They felt that they had given security, tried to encourage us through TV but it was no use because more than 60000 left Karnataka. Some felt they bad, insecure

18% and some felt that they were late in taking action (7%) some 26% did not give any comment because they were not sure of the law and order in Karnataka and they also felt it was better than other state (7%)

Table 13: Opinion about the government

Opinion of government	No	%
Excellent/good	27	39.70
Take late decisions after the event.	11	16.17
Govt, responds of the media	16	23.53
Media makes the govt to respond	14	20.58
Total	68	100

The above table shows that it was good (40%) they felt the chief Minister was good enough to be in railway station and the Govt was doing everything in their power to stop the misunderstanding among the people. They did everything to protect us and settled down the situation. But some felt that 21% it was not good, corrupt and they are involved in it. They felt that even the common people helped us. Some felt that No affective measures were taken. Action was late. Full assistance was given to them. The government was generous enough to send free train for people and they too had encouraged people not to leave. They helped people with their best.

Table 15 Reaction/Co-operation from other peer groups

Reaction/Co-operation from other peer groups	No	%
Very good relationship/protective and helpful	43	63
Normal as nothing happened	16	24
No response	09	13
Total	68	100

The above table shows that their peer groups were very protective and helpful and showed concern towards them by helping them in whatever way they can for example they were not able to go out of the hostel so they bought things for them. Some others behaved normal as nothing happened and others did not give any response.

Findings and suggestions

- North east students take courses based on their aptitude and thus we find the students in arts, science and commerce streams and also in professional courses.
- Both male and female students come to Mysore to pursue their studies. The study shows more female students because most of them are from the women's college and they feel that they should be given protection within and outside the country.
- Students from all the north eastern states come to Mysore to pursue their higher education. For the study, students from Meghalaya were more it is mainly because of they were staying together and communication was easy for their friends to contact.
- North east students mostly prefer to stay in Hostel or PG for their accommodation and some are staying in a rented room.
- Most of the North east students received about the rumours thorough their friends and also through SMS and news papers.
- North eastern students feel that they are discriminated in their own country and thus there was fear and insecurity among them. There was fear and insecurity among them. They more scared that their life was in danger and they wanted to flee to their own home.
- 84% of the students felt that they were given protection and they felt that it was insufficient. Some felt that they were not given any protection.
- The fear of insecurity and hysteria made 53% of them to flee to their state of their own origin and others remained in the hostel and PG with fear till the problem subsided.
- The students who stayed were scared, frightened felt unsafe.
- In general the opinion about the government, law and order was good but they felt that efficient and immediate measures were not taken by the government .
- The government was ready to set up relief camps for the northeast in case of an emergency. Convention centres, marriage halls, public and private buildings in the city can be converted into makeshift relief camps.

- Paramilitary forces and KSRP battalions were given their services in areas where northeast people population was high. They also conducted flag marches to instil confidence among north-easterners.
- People from various communities, especially the Muslim community, also appealed to people not to leave Bangalore in fear and held up placards at the Bangalore railway station asking 'Assamese friends' to stay back.
- The Railways, arranged specials for extra trains to be pressed into service.

CONCLUSION

The north east students felt sudden fear and threat due to rumours that made them to return back to their own state for protection and security. Sudden fear made them to return without waiting for any kind of explanations from the government. The north east students came back to their colleges and hostels as if nothing happened and they were not interested to listen to any kind of queries. Because they felt that their return back again to their study centres was safe and the information was false. The huge masses they travelled of fear was time to go back without any goal but again what provoked them to come back are they comfortable now or before the incident . Is still any hesitation waiting in them? Further goals of life and achievement and settlements.

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