

## **Abstract**

### **Introduction:**

Migration is a geographical phenomenon that seems to be human necessity in every age. Since man has the tendency to leave the areas in which is difficult, he migrates to the areas where life may be easy and better. Human history from the very beginning has already enriched by travelling. Migration is a complex phenomena which involve all types of human movements, long as well as short, permanent as well as temporary. The UN defined, "Migration as a form of geographical or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another. It involves a change in residence from the place of origin or departure to the place of destination". Migration is one of the selective processes. It is not only the affect the individual but also the families. The reason for migration is differ from one migrant to another and also migration has become one of the leading concerns in the present day world. In the globalized era migration flows are not only increasing enormously but also highly diversified. Kalin and Berry (1980) has stated that migration is pragmatic and universal and that it has two major forms viz. National and International.

Migration is an indicator of basic change. The migration process has tended to have profound effects on both the areas from which the migrants come and the areas in which they finally settle. He or she brings with him\her a norm, value and attitudes and, over a course of time, learn those of the people of destination. If he or she carries back many ideas from the new places. The migrants become an instrument of social and cultural diffusion. Migration is a process of normal population adjustment and equilibrium and migration in modern times, is a major symptoms of social change.

The distribution of migrations by stream (i.e. rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban areas) is generally associated with the degree of economics and social development. Population pressure on land, increased opportunities for work, and better facilities for education coupled with other reason. As far as migration streams are concerned, "rural to rural migration is of exceptional importance, not surprising in a country where more than 82% of the total population lives in villages.

In India, where more than 70% of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities, the predominance of rural to rural migration can be seen clearly. The community set up and economic considerations such as transportation costs, income and job opportunities make rural migrants go to rapidly growing areas. Once migration takes place, it may be characterized into stages wherein the “rural migrants move into smaller urban areas, spent time in adaption and the move on the metropolitan areas.

Ports, (1995) have considered migration as a question of long-term economic adaption. Migrants are viewed not only as an individual’s carrying their personal skills, but also as members of groups and participants in broader structures that affects in multiple ways in their economic mobility. Migrant’s networks are set of interpersonal ties that connect areas through ties of kinship, friendship, and shares community origin. Migration affects a number of socio-economic, cultural demographic and political factors both at the place of origin and destination. Population plays an important role in bringing out a change in the economic conditions of rural people. The migration provides a network of expansion of ideas, cultural diffusion and social integration apart from environmental and economic change.

Internal migration is a global phenomenon; it is growing in its size, scope and complexity and impacts especially in rural to rural migration. The study of migration is a unique branch of science of demographic (Greenwood, et at...1991). The process, patterns, volume, trends and determinants of migration have contributed significantly to the other process of industrialization, urbanization, economic development, cultural diffusion and social (Singh J.P: 1980).

The study of migration has also acquired special significance in the context of commercialization and modernization of agriculture (Oberai and Singh: 1981). Moreover, migration has notable feedback affects on the place of origin as the migrants maintain different kind and degree of contact ( Rao: 1981). Thus, migration as a component of population change has significance well beyond its impact on the changing population size and composition of human settlement. In fact excessive migration has been one of the main causes of the major economic and social problem

in India as regional imbalance, rapid urbanization, demand for industrial dispersal, growing urban employment, growth of slums, decline in cropped area and uprising of the “Son of the soil” movements. In view of the immense importance of migration, it has drawn considerable attention from different branches of social scientists and policy makers “Muttagi : 1987”. Migration has a prominent role to play in the development of a modern society.

### **Statement of the Problem.**

The present study area which is in Meghalaya RiBhoi District, is focused on the villages located in the border areas of Meghalaya and Assam. The villages name are Pillangkata A, Pillangkat B, Umtyrnga, Maikhuli and Iongkhuli. This is a large area with complex population structure. This area which falls under RiBhoi District in Meghalaya is thickly populated with high density of rural population and has lower agricultural, infrastructural development like health services, education and economic development. Though a vast majority of the villagers are dependent on agricultural for their livelihood.

Evidence of rural to rural and urban to rural migration in this area as a whole can easily be observed, there has been migration of people from the different nearby villages and districts within the state together with different migrants community coming from outside the states on a large scale. There is empirical evidence to support this trend of migration in this area. For instance, according to the 2011 census the total number of population in RiBhoi District are 258,840 of which males were 132,840 and female were 126,309 respectively. Out of which 30,919 of RiBhoi District population which consist 15,934 of males and females were 14,985 are concentrated in Jirang Block which fall under RiBhoi District. When we look at the decadal growth of population in Jirang Block which is completely a rural block the data of 2011 census shows that the population growth rate from 2001-2011 is 34% which is almost double of the national decadal growth rate of population 17.7%. Hence, it established the impact of migration in the demography of the block. This shows that the populations have tremendously increased within this span of years.

They comprise both the host community and different communities from different states who came and reside in this particular area.

In this area the population comprises of different communities staying and living together both the host community the Khasi and the Garos and their different sub tribes, and with the newly migrated communities as the War, Jaintias, Nagas, Thangkhul, Tripuri, Hmar, Nepali, Karbi, Rabha, Assamese, Bengali, Bihari which is bringing a new cosmopolitan culture in the area where different tribes of north east together with plain population with their diverse cultures are coexisting.

After going through the literature on the trends rural migration in India, it is often motivated by social network as kin, caste kinship, village, language, culture etc, which favors decision making in migration. Very rarely people move without prior information and linkage of some kind or the other (Rao: 1968), but in the present case all these trends are not applicable as they consists of diverse group of people, community both in terms of religion, caste, linguistic background having different socio cultural traditions, values system and different degrees of cultural adaptation and persistence. Since this new form of migration is taken place in this area is adding a new dimension to the present social milieu of the area. It is not only changing the physical land-scape (buildings, house, road etc.), but also the economic and social environment (relationship, language), of the particular area. Along with this the rural society is also undergoing transformations in so far as its economic and social environment is concerned. Naturally under such a situation the influence of the migrations in this particular area can be expected to be spreading greatly in its surrounding areas, as it has been the case in other rural areas of the country. Thus this study will help us to examine the trends, patterns and determinants of the new type of migration. It would shed lights on the social, economic and geographical background of the migrants who are coming and settling in th e study area.

Although, there have been some studies on them in Meghalaya on the study of migration, the importance of this present particular study on this type of migration lies in the facts that it will be based on the recent data on migration which will be collected

from the field and on population Census 2011 and it will be covering the entire area of the universe. As the development (present patterns of migration) is very new and still undergoing the study will shed light on the different aspects of this new development in the area. The role of push and pull factors, as proposed to be examined, will highlight the facts whether out-migration is due to lack of rural development activities (distress migration) or due to fast growth of rural areas and increasing on human capital base of rural workforce whose employability is high to the places where they migrated as found by Denny Dexter Nengnong (1990). The study intends to not only add to the existing literature on the subject but also to be a valuable input for framing the appropriate rural development policies especially to this newly form of migrant society which prevails in the area.

This is an area with complex population structure. So, regional studies on the characteristics, patterns, determinant and effect of the rural-to-rural migration and intra district and interstate migration have their own importance. But very few studies have focused on the characteristics, patterns, determinants and effects of the intra district/interstate migration. The escalation of different communities and society, which has emerged due to migration of people, created a new form of cosmopolitan society within the particular areas. A study of a new nature of population movement in respect of this area, to examine the new form of migrant society, therefore, is highly desirable. Migration in this area especially in this present scenario is different as extreme diverse kind of population structure are coming together and settling from different social setting. It will be very interesting to know what are the causes, patterns of migration and most importantly the impact of this kind of migration whereby different communities from diverse geographical and social background are residing in this area.

As far as migration in the form of rural-to-rural and interstate migration is concerned, though a number of books have been written in this connection from an ideological angle, it is also important to study this concept from a socio-economic point of view. Not much studies in Meghalaya on migration has been done especially which relates to this type of migration. Thus, it is the need of the hour to make a rational study of a

new concern of this kind of migration. Through this research an attempt will be made to observe, understand and study the patterns, reason, and implications of migration in this particular area in RiBhoi district of Meghalaya.

### **Objectives of the study.**

- To study the socio- Economic background of the native and migrant respondents.
- To study the patterns of migration in the study area
- To understand the causes of migration in the study area
- To appreciate the impact of migration in both the families of the native people and the migrants and the society as a whole.

### **Methodology**

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. It is focused on Pillangkata circle of Jirang block of RiBhoi district in Meghalaya. There are total 107 villages in Jirang Block of RiBhoi District, out of these five villages are selected for the present study which is bordering the states of Assam and we can see the process of migration is taking place more than the other places. These five villages are categories as Pillangkata Circle locally for the local administrative purpose. According to 2011 census the total population of Pillingkata circle was 4714 out of which 2503 are male and 2211 are female. If the total population is 4714, with 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level the ideal sample size is 356. Hence the data is collected from 150 migrants and 150 native people of Pillangkata, Maikhuli, Patharkhushi, and Iongkhuli village using structured interview schedule. More over focus group discussions is also done with the elderly population of the area. For conducting the study a list of the households of the selected villages are prepared and from that on the basis of the communities of both the migrants and the natives, the respondents are selected by stratified random sampling. The study comprise of both primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected with the help of interviews and observation from the migrants, native people, the elderly people and political leaders of the area. Secondary data are collected from the Government offices, States and District Gazetter, District

Statistical Reports, National Informatics Centres, Statistical Tables, Indian Census Data, Published Historical materials books, journals, and the findings of individual researcher's, pamphlets etc. The tools of data collection are structured interview schedule, voice recorder, field notes and camera.

### **Theoretical framework**

The research field of migration is multifaceted and offers multiple levels of analysis. Four different questions have been investigated in the field: the origins of migration; the directionality and continuity of migrant flows; the utilization of immigrant labor; and the socio-cultural adaptation of migrants (Portes 1999). Each of these areas can be analyzed at different levels and with different tools and requires individual attention. 'Mid-range' theories targeted on one or two of these areas have been more prevalent than an all-encompassing statement. However, devising a theory which can explain all these four aspects of migration remains the ultimate goal of migration theorizing (Arango 2000, Massey 1999). Most disciplinary assessments evaluate migration research as lacking theoretical advancement: while the empirical work is abundant, it is often either disconnected from the theories or used to confirm rather than to test, question or refine the existing theoretical propositions. In the area of migration determinants research, there are currently a variety of theoretical models or perspectives which employ varying concepts, assumptions, frames and levels of analysis (Arango 2000). Because the majority of these theoretical models were developed from specific empirical observations, they often grew in isolation and are separated by disciplinary boundaries (Arango 2000; Castles 2008a). Modern migration literature (Massey et al. 1993; Todaro and Smith 2006; Faist 2000; Portes 1999) contends that although these theoretical approaches offer different hypotheses, they need not be taken as mutually exclusive, but rather as complementary. At present, the dominant theory in explaining causes of migration is the neoclassical theory with its underlying assumption that migration is stimulated primarily by rational economic considerations of relative benefits and costs, mostly financial but also psychological (Todaro and Smith 2006, 342). The theory has been subjected to criticism on

conceptual (Arango 2000) as well as on empirical grounds (Massey et al. 1998). However, owing to its analytical rigor and its ability to propose a set of testable hypotheses and useful tools for analyzing not only the causes but also the effects of migration, it occupies a prominent position in current academic and policy-related research. The newer theories of migration which reacted to the neoclassical theory arose as a response to the changing nature of the world. Since the 1960s a new form of post- industrial migration has emerged as a global phenomenon. Theories of migration, therefore, have to account for very complex migration regimes which encompass migration flows from not only developing societies (rural) to mature economies (urban centers), from well connected to remotely located place of destination, for addressing the needs of economic needs to infrastructural to peaceful habitation, where the migrants are coming from diverse social, economic, religious, occupational, educational background and are also co existing and having social interaction among them self which is bringing change in the social milue of the host society as well as among the migrants society in different levels.

### **Significance of the study**

The Present study will be concentrated on the most perplexing dilemma of development experience which is the massive movement of people from their place of origin or previous place of residence to a place with better life opportunities. Migration is becoming a noticeable phenomenon in Pillangkata area. There has been migration of people from the different nearby villages and districts within the state together with different migrants community coming from outsides the states on a large scale. Migration is becoming one the important issues and thus it becomes important to study its impact on the levels of living of the host community and the different migrant communities in this area. The present study will envisages the study of various aspects of migration in the area such as causes of migration, migration time particulars, present socio-economic characteristics of the migrants, the process of adjustment and acculturation and opinions of the locals regarding the immigrants. Though studies on migration have not been able to provide a comprehensive analysis



of the patterns of rural-to-rural migration, but still many studies have attempted to reach to some conclusions as studies Singh (1980), after reviewing a large number of Indian studies concludes dealing with correlates of migration, many more are still required to understand the complexity of factor which are either causes or consequences of migration”. Similarly Banerjee (1986), also highlights the need for more studies in this regards. As he writes “ ----- despite the large number of studies our current understanding of the specific determinants and the impact of migration is not adequate for any national policy analyzed”. In this regard the present study would contribute to the understanding of the patterns, causes and socio-economic characteristics of this newly type of migration in this particular area. The study will help us in understanding the clear radiant pattern of migration which’s influence has also been found to vary in relation to the socio-cultural characters of the particular region in which the area is located. They consists of diverse group of people community both in terms of religion, caste having different socio cultural traditions, values system and different degrees of cultural adaptation and persistence since this new form of migration is taken place in this area is adding a new dimension to the present social milieu of the area. The influence of migration is spreading in this area in a variety of ways. It is not only changing the physical land-scape (buildings, house, road etc.), but also the economic and socio environment (relationship, language), of the particular area. Along with this the rural society is also undergoing transformations in so far as its economic and social environment is concerned. Naturally under such a situation the influence of the migrations in this particular area can be expected to be spreading greatly in its surrounding areas, as it has been the case in other rural areas of the country. Thus in this study it will help to examine the interregional variations in the trends, patterns and determinants of the newly type of migration streams. It would shed lights on whether incident of out-migration from other places or rural areas which is high in backward or from any developed region that comes and resides in this particular area.

Although, there have been some studies on them in Meghalaya on the study of migration, the importance of this present particular study on this type of migration lies

in the facts that it will be based on the recent data on migration which will be collected from the field and on population Census 2011 and it will be cover the entire area of the universe. As the development (present patterns of migration) is very new and still undergoing the study will shed light on the different aspects of this new development in the area. The role of push and pull factors, as proposed to be examined, will highlight the facts whether out-migration is due to lack of rural development activities (distress migration) or due to fast growth of rural areas and increasing on human capital base of rural workforce whose employability is high to the places where they migrated as found by Denny Dexter Nengnong (1990). The study intends to not only add to the existing literature on the subject but also to be a valuable input for framing the appropriate rural development policies especially to this newly form of migrant society which prevails in the area.

### **Socio Economic Background of the Respondents**

#### **Socio Economic Background of the Natives.**

As the households are selected by using simple random sampling but the respondents are voluntarily participating in the interview, we can see the uneven share of the respondents in the different age groups; therefore, most of the respondents are young i.e. up to 40 years (67.7%). Moreover a significant number of the respondents are also in the age group above 50 years (13.4%). When it comes to gender wise representation of the respondents, the researcher found that male members (61.3%) feels more comfortable and the families also relies on male members more to interact with outsiders as they mostly feel that they have more exposure to give information to outsiders. Similarly, married men (86.0%) who are generally the head of the family are also taken seriously by the family members, hence mostly opted to be the respondents and give required information to the researcher. When we try to see the relation between age of the respondents and the number of children, the data clearly shows that with the rise in age there is a rise in the choice of having more children, hence aged people have more children than the young ones. As the study is conducted in a tribal state i.e. Meghalaya, majority of the respondents (natives) are from ST category. Since

most of the tribal native people are converted to Christian religion, we can find most of the respondents following Christianity (82.7%) and only a few families still follow the traditional indigenous religion among the Khasi community (*NiamKhasi*) which is also reflected in the number of respondents (4%). Majority of the respondents (78.7%) are living in nuclear family as neo local families are mostly preferred among the newly married natives, native's men marrying migrants women and also among the migrants man marrying natives women. The data confirms that majority of the households (76.7%) has two earning members as most of the natives families in the study area are from lower and lower middle class background where both husband and wife are contributing in their family income. But due to lack of high qualification and training their household income remains humble. There is a direct link between age and educational qualification of the respondents as the younger respondents are having better educational qualification than their elder counterparts. Hence, as already established by earlier data, we can see the relationship between migration and the improving status of education among the young native members. Similarly, we can see that all the respondents who are having professional qualification are from 19-30 age groups, which suggest that only the youths who are also having better education qualification are learning the importance of professional qualification. Consequently, most of the respondents are engaged as self employed in agriculture sector (61.3%) and also falls in the category of unskilled workers (74.7%). Though in majority of the households at least two members are earning but still majority of them are from the lower middle class and lower class background in the village. When we look at the correlation between the monthly income and sources of their major part of expenditure, we can see that the focus of higher learning groups is to expand their possessions and wealth, whereas the middle earning groups priority is the education and training for their children which can bring inter generational upward mobility and the lower income groups still struggling to fulfill the basic needs of the family. In terms of possessing plot of land the study shows that migration is one of the reason of the native people selling out their traditional lands to the rich migrants and are reduced to just small plot of land ie 1-2 acres (35.3%) to 3-4 acres (36.7%) of land, which is

only somehow enough for constructing small household, the luxury of having agricultural field is only enjoyed by very few of the respondents 9-10 acres (14.7%) to above 10 acres (4.7%) of land.

### **Socio Economic Background of the Migrant Respondents.**

The data is collected from 150 migrant respondents who are well dispersed in almost all the age groups, as the data is collected following convenient sampling. Similarly, though almost equal number of male (48%), and female (52%) respondents volunteered to participate in the interview, and as the respondents are selected by convenient sampling the number is not exactly identical. Majority of the migrant respondents are married because in most of the household the head of the family is the husband who when available preferred to give the interview, as he is believed to have more exposure to answered the questioned of the interview. Almost half of the respondents are young i.e. below 30 years, hence they do not have many children (1-3) children, the respondents who are in their late 40s and above, are having more children (above 4). Moreover the migrants who are from lower class working as wage labors and labors in construction, stone quarries, vegetables venders etc have comparatively lesser children hence smaller families than the migrants who are mostly tribal and economically from well off families. The respondents are not from homogeneous caste categories but from different categories as schedule tribe (50%) and schedule caste (26.7%), OBC (16%) and general category (7.3%). the schedule tribe migrants they migrated from mostly the tribal states of North East like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and within the states of Meghalaya, and the schedule caste migrants have migrated from the states of Assam, Tripura, Kolkata, Jharkhand and Bihar. Whereas the OBC categories are found mostly in Maikhuli, Pillangkata A, Pillangkata B and few in Umtyrnnga village and they are migrants who migrated mostly from the states of Assam. The General category migrants they are found in Pillangkata A, Pillangkata B and Maikhuli Village and they are migrants who belong from the states of Manipur, Agartala, Assam and few from within the states of Meghalaya. The diversity of the migrants can also be observed from the religion that they are practicing. Most of the migrant who are practicing Christianity (47.3%) are mostly

tribal migrants who migrated mostly from the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. The Hindu migrants (38.7%) are mostly coming from the states of Agartala, Bihar, Kolkata, and Jharkhand, Nepal and within the district of Meghalaya. The Muslim migrants (11.3%) are coming from the states of mostly Assam and last the indigenous religion (2.7%) they are migrants who migrated from within the states of Meghalaya who belong to purely tribal society. The study also reveals that the respondents are either highly qualified with graduation and post graduation degree or partially literate or completely illiterate. Hence, we can see the existence two different classes of who are economically, occupationally and also educationally very different from each other. Majority of the migrant respondents are multilingual but, during day to day conversation they mostly interact in Assamese language (29.3%), followed by Khasi (17.3%), English (14.7%), Hindi (14%), Bengali (11.3%), Nepali (7.3%), Garo (6%). When we look at the patterns of migration almost majority of the cases migration starts with individuals who slowly brings their dependents (wife and children) to the place of destination. When the migration ends with the individual and the immediate dependents it is a nuclear family which is mostly common in the study area, when migration continues until the extended members of the family also joints the family in the place of destination, it is an extended family. Though majority of the migrants (54.7%) are practicing nuclear family but are also having bigger size of family (6 and above). Majority of the households (59.3%), in the study area there are two earning members, followed by more than three (16%) and three (15.3%), few of the households (9.3%) also have only one earning member. Therefore, the place of destination are giving the opportunities to every group of migrants but to the migrants who are more advanced economically and educationally are getting more profitable opportunities to earn and get rich. The relation between monthly household income and number of earning members of the family shows that with the rise in income of the household, the number of earning members in the family also increases. Hence, the lower earning families mostly have one earning members and the highest earning families are having two to three family members who are contributing to the economy of the family. Therefore, higher family

income does not mean higher individual income for a particular member of the family but, rather it signifies more engagements of family members to contribute to the economy of the family. The place is also giving earning opportunities to the poor families too but it is only enough to fulfill their basic needs. The relation between the monthly household and patterns of spending of the respondents shows that the upper middle class are mostly spending on buying properties, the middle class preferred to save their money in bank/post office and spend more on their children's education, and finally the lower middle class is spending more on repayment of loan and their children's education and the lower class is found to spend more on household family consumption only. Moreover, the data also highlighted that there is a clear relationship between the monthly income of the respondent's household and possession of the size of land, as the higher income groups are having the bigger plots than that lower income groups

Most of the respondents are engaged in permanent jobs (58%), followed by temporary (21.3%) and self employed (20.7%). Thought most of the respondents have engaged in permanent jobs but, most of them are male members of the family but when we look at the laborer migrant both the male and female migrants are working because of the demand of their family and the meager amount earn in these jobs. In case of the self employed respondents again both male and female migrant because of the returns that the business can yield if more members of the family co-work for the growth of the business. Moreover, the host society are receiving the group of migrant who are more skillful(70.7%) and even the migrant who are semi skilled (20.7%) and un-skilled (8.7%) are also learning at the same time from other skilled migrant. So it is a platform for both the skilled and unskilled migrants to perform in the destination areas and become more skillful with their job and contribute to the host society. As far as having additional professional skills the data established that migrants are more flexible as far as opting for profession in the destination area, hence they mostly (65.3%) have additional professional skills. Most of them are wise enough to understand the demands of the market and adapt accordingly this may demand them to change their profession from the skills that they possess already. Though at times, they may still

continue to follow their passion for their skills together with the new job that they are engaged. The diverse opportunities available in the study areas for the different categories of migrants is reflected in majority of the respondents (88.7%) who find their job satisfactory. The respondents who have reported to be satisfied with present job are mostly comparing their job and lifestyle in the destination place with their place of origin and hence finding the present job more economically more fruitful, it is helping them in their growth as a professional and also where they are getting more job satisfaction.

### **Patterns of Migration in the Study Area.**

#### **The Migrant's Perspective.**

The study confirmed that majority of the respondent's sources of information related to the present area as their destination for migration is by themselves (51.3%) who mostly came in search of jobs or other business opportunities, followed by those who got it from their friends (24.7%) who are already residing in the area, relatives (14.0%) who have already settled or working in the area, neighbors (8.0%) and native people (2.0%). The cross tabulation between the duration of staying in the study area and place of origin established a link between distance and communication as one of the reasons for migration which is applied to the migrants coming from the state of Assam which is sharing border with the study area and Nagaland which is also not very far from the study area and having good communication facilities, Manipur is having a good communication with Assam which is motivating more migration. Only exceptions are the migrants who are coming in good number from Mizoram, as it is stationed comparatively far from the place and also not having very good communication facilities. In most of the cases migration first started with one or two individuals, who after examining the worth of the place for living or for business, job purpose call the others, members of the family. In case of labor migrants though they used to come in groups for their jobs but, they are members of different families though they know each other, later when they find the place suitable for their families they used to call them. As far as the members who join the initial migrants later in the study area, we

can be observed that the tribal and the labor migrants mostly used to call their friends after they find the place idea for staying and doing job, relatives and family are the next priority to call when they have confirmed the worth of the place for inhabiting. As far as the routes used by the migrants to reach to the present area, it is important to mention that most of the North Eastern states are not yet connected by railway tracks, hence majority of the respondents are dependent on roads for communication. Airways is comparatively much more costly hence; only economically well off families can afford to travel through this medium, moreover airways is also used by respondents who are suffering from health issues and not advised to travel by road for long distance. In majority of the cases of migration the decision to decide the destination and also whether to migrate or not is mostly taken by the eldest of the families who are exposed to better social network and collected enough information about the suitability of the place for settling down or for just migrating there. From the migrants' views it has been established that social interactions, whether regular or occasional, have influenced the individual's decisions to migrate. When it comes to sharing relationship with the natives, most of the respondents have reported to have good relationship with natives, but it is mostly confined to class and neighborhood. That's why majority of these respondents are sharing good relationship with the natives who are either from their own class or living in the same neighborhood. Moreover, the occasional brief interactions with the natives because of the nature of jobs and the pattern of inheritance lead some of the respondents who are mostly working as laborers, to have only moderate relationship with the natives.

### **The Native's Perspective.**

Majority of the respondent (88.0%) reported that migration is the regular phenomena particularly who are staying in Pillangkata A, Pillangkata B and Maikhuli where these people are coming for jobs, for security, cheap prices of land, cheap rent. It has found that in the study area in all the five village migration is occurring. When asked about the background of the community who are migrating in the village, the data reveals most of them are from Naga (from Nagaland), Mizo, Tripuri, Arunachali and Manipuri communities 38.7% followed by the Muslims, Assamese, Bengali and Punjabi,



Marwari and the Bihari migrants 26.0%. In the third category of migrants are the Hmar, Paite, Anal and Tangkhul (from Manipur), and in the fourth category of migrants are the Khasi, Garo, Nepali, Rabha, Bihari, Missing, Karbi and Bodo migrants with 10.0%.

### **Causes of Migration in the Study Area.**

#### **Migrants' Perspectives.**

The present study confirmed from the responses from the respondents they were attracted to the study area mostly due to the better employment opportunities, which is for almost all the categories of migrants, followed by peaceful environment for inhabitation, better living condition, which is for economically well to do families, better wages is the reason mainly the labour class, better scope for social economic growth is the reason which has attracted them to come to the area for the educated middle and lower middle class migrants. Similarly the reason to leave the place of origin reveals that the most popular reason is social isolation or conflict in the origin place which is mostly coming from the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and other parts of North East where conflict are going on which has forced them to search more peaceful place to settle down, followed by those who find both poverty lack of employment and poverty as the reason, burden of joint of family is also a significant reason for the migrants to come to the study area, followed by lack of educational facilities, medical facilities and lack of political and religious freedom for the respondents who are mostly coming from the rural background etc. In the present study the data has reveal that the nature of help received by the migrants is related with the background of the migrants. Hence, in Umtyrnga village, where the migrants are mostly from Meghalaya, hence the natives offer help of diverse nature to their fellow people irrespective of any class, whereas in Pillangkata A, Pillangkata B, Maikhuli, Iongkhuli village similar nature of help are offered by the natives to the migrant's but it is restricted to their own class category.

## **Impact of Migration in the Study Area.**

### **Native's perspectives**

Majority of the respondents perceive migration as positive for their society as it has brought many developments in the area, more employment opportunities for the natives, and the modern way of life, the practice of co existing with different communities has brought more inclusive society in the area. It has also raised the value of land in the area which helped to get more respectable rent for the natives who also helped in improving the quality of life of the native people. Migration has also helped to develop the atmosphere of positive competition between the natives and the migrants which is helping in availing better employment opportunities, giving more importance education to children, and encouraging unity between different groups. It has helps in improving social life of people as they start learning about new languages, culture, customs which helps to improve brotherhood among the people who are cooperating in the society.

As far as the problems arise out of the process of migration in the area, the respondents highlighted the problem of hygiene, followed by resources problem and economic security (22.7% each), Loss of culture (26%) in the society. Similarly, in case of advantages received by the native's people because of migration, the respondents have highlighted the benefit of creation of a cosmopolitan society (57.3%), followed by developments in the areas (20.7%), development of positive competition among the migrants and the native's people (10.7%) and generation of more employment opportunities in the area (11.3). Moreover the respondents have also highlighted security problems in the area because of the rapid growing up of migration, consequently, they feel insecure that one day they might lose their identity since most of the migrants prefer to come and stay in their place and stay permanently. Hence, many natives' people are selling their plot of lands to the migrants and a bit plot of land was left to them. Moreover, the environment have also become polluted and congested, economic activities have to be shared along with the migrant.

The impact of migration on tribal culture and social life shows that the arrival of migrants from diverse part of North East and outside has introduced new kind of society to the natives who were before that living in comparatively a homogeneous society. This new development brought not only demographic change but also new life styles, religious practices, festivals, charitable works, social and welfare associations etc. All this new developments coming out of co existence has also brought a feeling of acceptance from both migrants and natives sides which is reflected in the growth of marital ties between the two communities in the study area. The growth of these marital ties though mostly among the same class is also responsible for the development of a new mixed culture. As far as specific changes observed in the host culture because of migration, half of the respondents have observed process of acculturation happening among the migrants (48.7%), mainly in the field of language, where they have to learn new languages as Hindi and Assamese to interact with wider customers for the growth of their business or jobs where they engaged in, followed by those who believed that changes in the guise of educational and modern values and norms can be observed among the migrants (47.3%), very few of the respondents also highlighted the changes happening due to the deterioration of traditional culture of the migrants (4%), as they are more in favor of the traditional lifestyle of the natives.

### **Migrant's Perspectives.**

The field of agriculture the respondents have highlighted changes as the introduction on modern methods of agriculture, with new plugging techniques, introduction of fertilizers and new seeds, water harvesting etc. They also observed the introduction of new crops as rubber plants, black pepper, bitter bean etc. Moreover, now they have highlighted that because of the new market that is emerging in the area the production of the traditional crops and vegetable are now done in structured and massive scale, as there is a huge demand for organic vegetables and fruits, tribal herbs and crops. This has resulted in more returns for the native who were engaged in farming and less cases of shifting from the occupation of farming. Similarly in the field of economy the respondents have observed positive impact after the arrival of migrants in the place. The arrival of migrants has introduced new job opportunities for the natives (in the

businesses that is introduced by the migrants), it has also brought a bigger market for the natives who were engaged in their traditional occupation of farming and animal husbandry, hence it has become far more structured which gives much more returns to the natives. Therefore, we can not only see rise in status of employment but also upward mobility among the migrants after they have shifted in the destination area. Though the respondents mostly observed the existence of competition in the study area but, again they are also mostly from the high class background who are also educated and pursuing business in the study area; they find their fellow class people as their competitors in business, education, lifestyle etc. On the contrary, the respondents who do not see any competition in the study area are mostly working as wage laborers, as there is no dearth of employment opportunities for them in the area, and as their income in the present job is considerably better than the earlier job, they are comparatively far happier than the other category.

Likewise, in the field of education also, the arrivals of the migrants who are particularly from educated background have developed a high demand for education in the study area which resulted in introduction of many educational institutes in the place. Hence, now more native students are also joining these institutes. The co education of natives and the migrants has resulted not only in the growth in education among the natives but also development of competition among the students. The introduction of English language in schools together with other extracurricular activities is responsible for the overall development of the students both physically and academically. Moreover the children who are getting modern education also introduced it and its values to their parents which are helping them in their occupation. In case of health, the influx of many professional doctors, nurses and RMP (Registered Medical Practitioner) in the study area as migrants, helped the natives to get medical advice and assistance locally. Moreover, this trained professional started their own private clinics and drug stores in the destination areas itself which made the life of the native easier. To add to it the educated migrants also brought with them culture of health awareness which has helped the natives and also other migrants to make more informed choices related to health in their daily life. This knowledge of healthy life

and the necessary infrastructure to realize this need has motivated the natives to demand for the necessarily infrastructural requirements in hospitals, government schools and other government institutions from their local authorities. In the field of politics the migrants are also playing significant role as many of those who are staying here for long time have also transferred their voting polling station to the present destination area. Therefore, now they are participating with the natives in the meetings to discuss public issues in the area, they are slowly taking lead in these meetings and also started to influence the perspective of the natives about importance of selecting right candidates for the upliftment of the area.

Another observable phenomenon was the developments in the institution were *SengLongkmie* (traditional women organization) which was almost dormant in the study area before the arrival of migrants. The educated women migrants have taken the initiative to revitalize this institution and act as the pressure group against the Government to raise the issues of women in the study area. Hence, the educated tribal migrant women are slowly taking lead in this traditional institution of the natives and representing the natives. The level of acceptance for a particular community can often be judged by the perceptions towards inters community marriages. In the present study the migrants have clearly expressed their acceptance towards inter migrant and native marriage (90.6%). Though there is overall acceptance towards migrant native marriage but, these marriages are clearly following class endogamy.

### **Impact of Migration on Women**

All the migrants from diverse background shared one common social structures of patriarchy which governed their daily life behaviors. Though, all the migrants are coming from the patriarchal society where male members play significant role in decision in the family and society as a whole, but migration has a significant impact on the life of women in the study area. One of the most important findings of the study is the contribution of women in the economy of the family. Women particularly from middle and upper middle class background are now contributing to the economy of the family by engaging in the business that their husband or family members have started.

The lower class migrants are now contributing more than their origin place as there are more employment opportunities available in the study area. This is raising their status in both the family and society as the whole. The reflection of this can also be seen in the growing amount of freedom that women are enjoying in the study area, though the cosmopolitan nature of the place is motivating and helping women particularly to shed the clutches of traditional restrictions which are restricting their growth and mobility. The study has also found many cases of inter community marriages which is both within the migrants and with the natives, but they are very rigidly following class endogamy. The growth of education in the study mainly because of the inflow of educated migrants has uplifted the status of native women too, which has resulted in the generation of more awareness among women about their rights. Revival of the traditional institution of women (senglongkmie) is an example of this development. Women are also playing a significant role in establishing social network between different communities which is helping in the growth of positive cosmopolitan culture in the study area. Hence, migration has brought mostly positive impact in the status of women from both the native and migrant background that are collectively helping in establishing an ideal example of a cosmopolitan area. s

**Conclusion:**

The present study has established the development of a cosmopolitan society in the study area which comprises of migrants coming from both rural and urban background, which speaks diverse mother tongue, follow different religious practices, are from different educational background, pursue diverse occupations and are from different parts of the country. This co existence of dissimilar category of people is also impacted the society a lot and a new tolerant, liberal and open society has emerged. This society is open to diversities where people from different background are participating in the cultural festivals and political gatherings of people who are culturally, economically, religiously and educationally very different from them. Hence, the reflection of this openness can also be seen in the growing number of inter community marriages between both migrants and natives. Moreover, this is also affecting the landscape of the study area where new patterns of buildings,

neighborhood and market place are emerging where we can observe co existence of diverse communities. But, this development is not caused by a homogeneous factor as migrants came to the present area for economic (poverty and unemployment), political (communal conflicts) and infrastructural reasons, covering both pull and push factors. The credit to the sustenance of this newly developed society can be given to the economic potentiality that this place possess and which demands the combined efforts of both the skills and training of migrants and the resources and the hard work of the natives to be harnessed (Nina Glick Schiller, 2009; 2010 and Aihwa Ong, 1999). But, though superficially all the data establishes the existence of a cosmopolitan society, but it is also strictly following class stratification, where all these interactions and co existence in diverse fields are occurring in strict class lines. Hence, this so called cosmopolitan society is yet to come out of the restraints of the class stratification, only then it can fulfill the true criteria of a cosmopolitan society.

Though migration has brought mostly positive outcomes for both the natives and the migrants, but the study has also gauged a trend of the migrants slowly taking lead in the major social and political institutions of the native society. The better economic and educational background of considerable number of migrants who are presently staying in the area permanently is helping them to raise awareness and acceptance from the natives to lead them so that their voices can be heard by higher authorities, but in the process they are slowly taking the positions which were always for the natives. Hence, there is a threat of migrants not only taking the land of the natives and reducing them to the process of gentrification but also taking lead in their traditional institutions as the women organization (Senglongkmie) and other village council bodies, where they may have to give away both their resources and power to rule to the migrants.

Hence the decision of migration to a destination place may not be always motivated by a single factor but multiple one starting from employment opportunities, to peaceful environment for inhabitation, to good infrastructure for education, health and communication etc. Moreover migration is not always guided by kinship roles or in community lines but the settlement may be governed by other factors as peaceful

environment for inhabitation and infrastructure that is helping in the economic mobility of the family, which encourage the development of a cosmopolitan society. Moreover the study also confirms that these diverse patterns, directions, causes and impact of migration which are mostly captured in urban societies can also happen in rural areas when it fulfills the infrastructural advantages.