

CASE STUDY



A case study on international Migration in North Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT

In the case of international migration, people migrate from one country to another. If we look at the history of this migration, we can see that people have migrated everywhere, from underdeveloped and developing countries to relatively more developed ones. However, reverse migration is often seen. People travel internationally for a better, more prosperous life, excellent education, and to escape political instability, war, and riots. This region has been selected for research because most districts in North Bengal are located near the international borders with Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. The main purpose of this work is to determine the causes of international migration. To carry out this research, various information has been collected through interviews with 110 International Migrants using a random sampling method. As a result of this study, the population of North Bengal has increased. On the other hand, the politics, economy, society, and culture of this region have been profoundly affected. If the national law grants citizenship to legal migrants and curtails illegal migration, the country's society and economy will be positively affected.

KEY WORDS

International migration;
Push factor; Pull factor;
Legal migration; Illegal
migration; Overpopulation;
Cultural diffusion

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Introduction

Primitive people have been migrating from one part of the world to another for ages for their food, clothing, shelter, livelihood, and socio-economic reasons [1]. Even today, modern people migrate from one place to another for their livelihood and financial well-being. But there is a big difference between the migration of the primitive people of that time and the modern people of today [2]. At present, new concepts have been added to the migration process: globalization, liberalization policy, and the amenability of international migration law. As a result, people are no longer confined to certain parts of the world. Given the ease of migration laws, people from anywhere in the world can reach the other end in a short time. The only way to travel in a moment is with the help of an advanced transportation and communication system. After people from one end of the world migrate to the other, their social customs, culture, ideas, talents, and scientific discoveries spread. However, due to international migration, the populations of source and destination places decrease and increase, respectively [3]. Creates more pressure on resources. In the 21st century, international migration is needed, but it must be regulated by international law in the public interest.

Objectives

To know the real situation of international migration in the eight districts of North Bengal [4].

To discuss the problems arising in this region because of international migration.

To provide some valuable tips to solve the problem caused by international migration.

Research Methodology

This research work has been carried out using observation and survey methods. Through Random Sampling in the survey method, a lot of information has been collected about

the causes of migration and their current situations by interviewing 70 international migrants [5]. An attempt has been made to understand the origins of international migration by visiting various parts of North Bengal through observation. Some secondary information on migration has been collected from various journals, books, magazines, and the internet. All primary and secondary information related to migration has been analyzed using the descriptive method [6].

Study Area

The northern part of West Bengal is officially known as North Bengal. Traditionally, the river Ganga divides the state into two parts [7]. The southern part of the Ganga River is known as South Bengal, comprising 15 districts. The northern part of the river Ganga is known as North Bengal, comprising 8 of the state's 23 districts [8]. The total area of this region is 21750 sq km, the total population is 19012993 people, and the density is 874 people per sq km. Siliguri is the third-largest metropolitan city in the state. The education, health, tourism, wood, and tea industries of North Bengal are of special importance in the state and the country, acting as key factors in international travel.



Figure 1. Location map of Majuli Island, Assam, within India.

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Figure 2. Map showing North Bengal districts and neighboring regions.

Concept of International Migration

The socio-economic, political, and cultural factors that cause people to move from one country to another, or from one continent to another, for permanent or temporary residence are called international migration [9]. International Migration has the largest geographical range, and this migration is not free. International migration results in population growth, population restructuring, and changes in the sex ratio [10]. International Migration is usually due to political instability, change of national borders, wars, riots, etc.

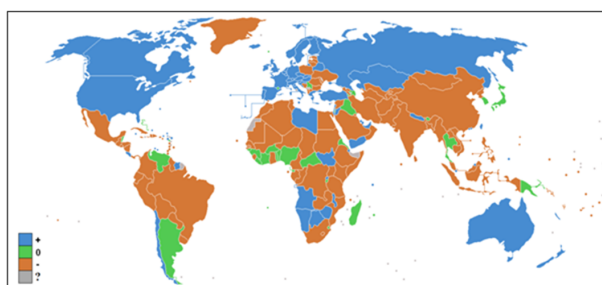


Figure 3. Net migration rate for 2008 (Positive migration blue color, Negative migration orange color, Stable Green color, and No data grey color).

Results and Discussion

Three neighboring states along the borders of eight districts of North Bengal are separated by international borders [11]. The largest international border is between India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh is located along the eastern boundaries of Kochbihar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, and Malda districts of North Bengal. The city of Siliguri, known as "The Gateway to Northeast", is in this region and has a significant impact on the state and country's economies [12]. The city of Siliguri is also known as "Three Ts". 3 Ts means Tea, Timber, and Tourism. Besides, the cities of Kochbihar, Jalpaiguri, Raiganj, Malda, and Balurghat are in this region, which is significant for the country's society, culture, politics, and economy [13]. The tea, wood, and tourism industries of this region are very important to the state's economy. In this region, people of Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, and other communities live together in harmony. The region is

internationally attractive as the society, culture, economy, and politics of North Bengal are very diverse [14]. For this reason, international migration in the region can be observed. There are two types of migration based on direction. These are Emigration and Immigration.

Emigration (Out Migration)

In the case of emigration, the person leaves their original residence and goes elsewhere. Although North Bengal is of great socio-economic significance, emigration is evident here [15]. Many people in North Bengal have migrated to different countries of the world. Most of the people in this migration are associated with tertiary, quaternary, and quinary work. Pull factors are more significant than push factors in this region as the causes of migration! Notable among the pull factors is.

Higher education

Many students from this region temporarily emigrate to developed countries, especially Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Europe, to pursue higher education [16]. Recently, many students from across North Bengal have traveled to China, Russia, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan to pursue medical courses.

High income

Several 7 engineers migrate from Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Kochbihar, Islampur, and Malda in North Bengal to Australia, New Zealand, and the American and European continents to earn high incomes and lead prosperous lives [17]. At present, many ordinary people from this region, especially Nepalese from Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong, go to Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and Jordan to earn more money. In the case of international migration, immigration is more prevalent than emigration in different parts of North Bengal [18]. These immigrants come in large numbers from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. The main reasons for this migration are the pull and push factors in the source region.

Relief

Nepal and Bhutan, the neighboring states of North Bengal, are in the highlands, so it is difficult to work in agriculture, industry, transportation, and other construction here, and there are fewer job opportunities [19]. Besides, these two countries are in the foothills of the Himalayas, so there is a high risk of earthquakes and landslides. As Nepal and Bhutan do not have strict international migration laws with India, Nepalese and Bhutanese from these two countries easily enter North Bengal and live temporarily and long-term in the area adjacent to Siliguri [20].

Facilities of occupation

North Bengal is very significant in the tourism industry. As Siliguri is the gateway to the Northeast, many people gather here every day. Besides, there are special opportunities in the tea, wood, and agricultural industries in this region, creating a large scope of work. This is why it enters North Bengal from Bhutan through Jaigaon and from Nepal through the Naxalbari area.

Secularism

Many countries in the world are formed along religious lines. But since India is a secular country, people of different

religions can live here easily. So, it acts as a pull factor for people of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, and Sikh faiths from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Country partition

When the state of Pakistan was formed with Muslims during the partition of the country in 1947, many Hindus of East Pakistan came to India and settled in West Bengal and Assam [21]. Even when Bangladesh was separated from Pakistan in 1971-1972, many Hindus immigrated to this country. With the eastern border of the eight districts of North Bengal bordering Bangladesh, immigrants from Bangladesh began living in this area. They acquired citizenship of this country under the Indian Citizenship Act [22].

Problems of the study

Many people from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan have migrated to North Bengal, increasing the population and putting greater pressure on resources [23].

International Migration. Although there are strict laws between India and Bangladesh, the migration laws between India-Nepal and India-Bhutan are less strict, leading to illegal trade and creating problems for both countries.

As it is easier for Nepal and Bhutan to travel with India, Indian criminals go into hiding in Nepal, which causes problems in the administration and judiciary of these countries.

The emigration of intellectuals from different parts of North Bengal to developed countries has resulted in Brain Drain in this region, adversely affecting the country's science and economy [24].

International Migrants often create an atmosphere of political instability and ethnic riots.

Suggestion

In the current era of globalization, international migration cannot be denied. However, the government must pay special attention to this migration to avoid creating an atmosphere of political instability and ethnic riots. The Government of India needs to enact special laws to curb illegal trade between India, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Conclusion

International Migration is especially significant in the 21st century. Because no country in the world is self-sufficient in agriculture, industry, trade, transportation, communication, technology, or scientific discovery, different countries need each other's help. Discoveries made anywhere in the world about the concept of globalization spread to other regions in a matter of moments. However, international migrants need to be regulated to prevent chaotic situations, and international migration requires regulatory frameworks.

Disclosure Statement

The author reported no potential conflict of interest.

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