Migration of College Students to Shillong, Meghalaya from the Neighbouring States of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram and their Future Intentions to Migrate for Higher Studies: A Study in North-East, India

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Abstract: This study profiles the migration of college students in Shillong among the students from the states of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Majority of the college students migrated in to Shillong because of having better infrastructural facilities besides many of them stated it's nearer and cheaper as compared to other cities in mainland India. About 57 percent of the migrant college students has future intentions to migrate for higher studies out of Shillong once they get graduated. More than half wanted to move to Delhi followed by other cities in India such as in Hyderabd, Kolkata and Pune. It is observed that these future migrations not just confined for educational purpose, but majority of respondents don't want to come back to their small towns even after completion of their studies. They rather prefer to continue studies in mainland India and also look for prospective jobs in their relevant area of specialization.

Keywords: Future intentions, higher studies, students migration,

I. Introduction

Migration of college students in India has been a relatively neglected area of research. Most of the migration studies have tended to focus on permanent migration. In India, studies on migration have been confined hugely on migrant laborers, followed by returned migration, refugees and other displaced people, but comprehensive studies on migrant college students, especially in the North East of India, have been few and far between. In this connection, an attempt has been made to study migration of college students to Shillong, the capital city of the State of Meghalaya in North East India, and their future intentions to migrate for higher studies. The study assumes greater significance in the light of high out-migration among the students from the North Eastern states especially from the states of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, in particularly, the first two named states i.e. Nagaland and Manipur; which have been ravaged by decades of insurgency, ethnic violence and tribalism, political turmoil etc which has resulted in spiraling levels of violence affecting the overall education scenario in these states.

Unlike mainland India, where inter-state migration of college students primarily take place because of lack of educational infrastructure, inter-state migration of college students in North East India takes place due to plethora of reasons. Proximity of Shillong to many neighbouring states and its reputation as an educational hub in the region is an attractive proposition to many college migrant students. The city also offers educational facilities at a relatively affordable price and it is also a preferred destination for students whose ultimate goal is to migrate to bigger cities in mainland India for higher and further studies.

II. Objectives

- > To examine the reasons for coming to Shillong by different background characteristics.
- > To examine their choice of destinations and future intentions to migrate for higher studies.

III. Methodology

1.3.1 Study area: The present study has been conducted among migrant college students in Shillong, capital of Meghalaya. It was the capital of the erstwhile undivided state of Assam, was chosen by the Britishers as an ideal place for education of their children because of its similarity, especially the climate and topography with the British Isles. In fact, the early missionaries who came here from England, Wales and Scotland found the similarity so striking that they nicknamed Shillong "Scotland of the East". So from the latter half of the 19th century educational institution run by missionaries, from Britian and Ireland were established which stands like beacon even today after hundreds of years. Probably, except Shillong, no city in the North-east can claim to have so many schools and colleges where students from other states flock to get admitted each year. Moreover, since the headquarters of the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), a premier university of the region is located in Shillong, those pursuing postgraduate studies as well as undergraduate from neighboring states find a

convenient place to come to Shillong. This was the rationale behind selecting Shillong and conducting such a study among the migrant college going students from the state of Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.

1.3.2 Sample size: Out of the initial targeted 600 sample size, only 556 migrant students responded belonging to three years integrated bachelor's degree, irrespective of arts, science and commerce streams. So the response rate was very as high as 92.66 percent.

1.3.3 Sampling: Out of 26 colleges in Shillong and its suburbs affiliated to North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), I had chosen 19 co-educational institutions. All of these 19 colleges impart three years bachelor degree courses in Shillong and are situated within the city limits. A complete listing of all the 1st, 2nd & 3rd year students in these 19 colleges was compiled and 10 colleges having the maximum migrant students was ultimately selected for my sample selection. However, I had extended to include to 5 more colleges as few students from the 10 colleges were found irregularly attending classes. So overall the total colleges covered were 15 in number. All 15 colleges were listed and questionnaires were distributed among the students after getting permission from the principal. Altogether, 600 copies of questionnaires were distributed among the students from 15 colleges. A student from each stream, each year of graduation and from each college was given the charge for collecting the distributed copies in the class room. Each student's cell phone number, land line number, email addresses, residence or hostel addresses were asked in order to keep track for updating the information and the final questionnaires were collected from the students when it was ready from his/her side. Once the filled questionnaires were received, the same was read thoroughly.

1.3.4 Data analysis: For describing the data, Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was used. We had used the uni-variate and bi-variate analysis. And for inferencing, models such as binary logistic regression was used to predict the factors independently associated with each of the outcome.

1.3.5 Consent of the students: All the respondents were briefed about the purpose of the research. They were also informed that while replying the questions laid down in the questionnaire, their honest and frankness would be highly valuable and appreciated. Further, they were told that the information collected would be used only for research purpose and their identity will be kept confidential.

1.3.6 Data collection: As stated earlier both quantitative and qualitative methods have been used for data collection but only quantitative data were used in this present paper. Semi-structured self-administered questionnaire was used in order to get the quantitative data and to supplement the quantitative information thirteen in-depth interviews had been conducted. After taking prior permission from the principal in respective colleges, the researcher took the help from the teachers in the respective colleges and briefed about the questionnaire for 15-20 minutes and finally distributed the same among the students. The field work for the study was carried out over a period of five months (October 2008-Febraury 2009). The first month was spent on locating the colleges, rapport building with the students, seeking consents from the principals, and also with some important key informants and in pre-testing of questionnaire. Subsequent months were spent in collecting the questionnaire and in interviewing the respondents.

IV. Results

1.4.1 Socio-demographic and educational characteristics: Of the 556 students interviewed, majority (57%) of the migrant college students belongs to the Naga tribes who have come from the states of Nagaland and Manipur, followed by Mizo tribe (26%) from Mizoram and most of the students are from the Christian-dominated tribal community who were found residing in small-urban towns (76%). Females out-numbered males among the migrant college students in Shillong and majority of them fall in the age group of 20-22 with their mean ages at 20.22 (Table 1). As per the educational characteristics, more than half (55%) of the migrant college students were in the second year of their three-years-bachelors integrated degree course who had been staying in Shillong for the last 1-2 years (54%) who were mostly studying arts (76%) opted for general course (71%). Majority (70%) of the migrant college students were found studying at co-educational institutions where one-third (37%) of them studies in the private colleges, followed by govt. colleges (33%) and catholic colleges (30%) who mostly commutes from private hostels (Table 2).

Table 1: Background				
Background characteristics	Frequency	Percentage		
Gender				
Male	256	46.0		
Female	300	54.0		
Age group				
17-19	213	38.3		
20-22	244	43.9		
23-29	99	17.8		
State				
Nagaland	234	42.1		
Manipur	182	32.7		
Mizoram	140	25.2		
Tribe				
Naga	318	57.2		
Mizo	145	26.1		
Kuki	70	12.6		
Others	23	4.1		
Town/village				
Town	426	76.6		
Village	130	23.4		
Caste/tribe				
ST	533	95.9		
SC	10	1.8		
General	9	1.6		
OBC	4	0.7		
Religion				
Christian	507	91.2		
Hindu	18	3.2		
Others	31	5.6		
Total	556	100.0		

characteristics of the migrant college students in Shillong

1.4.2 Migration experienced within state and inter-state at the time of their schooling-days: About twofifth (40%) of the migrant college students in Shillong had migration experienced at the time of their schooling days while 15 percent had an inter-district migration experienced within their own home state and about more than one-fourth (24%) had inter-state migration experienced. Majority (59%) of the migrant college students never experienced migration at the time of their schooling days. Even at the time of schooling days, females experienced more than males in terms of migration related experienced at inter-district level as well as at inter-state level within the country (Table 3).

Table 2: Educationa	l characteristics o	of the migrant	college student	s in Shillong
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Educational characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Year of graduation		
First year	154	27.7
Second year	305	54.9
Third year	97	17.4
Type of colleges		
Catholic college	164	29.5
Govt college	185	33.3
Private college	207	37.2
Type of institutions		
Co-educational institutions	389	70.0
Single-sex institutions	167	30.0
Accommodations		
Hostel	401	72.1
Non-hostel	155	27.9
Stream		
Arts	424	76.3
Science	99	17.8
Commerce	33	5.9
Major/general		
General subjects	393	70.7
Other Major subjects	59	10.6
History	26	4.7
Political Science	25	4.5
Sociology	21	3.8
English	17	3.1
Economics	15	2.7

Duration of stay in Shillong		
1-2 years	299	53.8
2-3 years	110	19.8
3 years and above	147	26.4
Total	556	100.0

Table 3: Migration experienced within state and inter-state at the time of their schooling-days

	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total
Migration experienced during schooling days				
Inter-district experienced	13.7	17.6	16.4	15.6 (87)
Inter-state experienced	25.2	26.9	21.4	24.8 (138)
Never experienced migration (first timer in Shillong)	61.1	55.5	62.1	59.5 (331)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)

1.4.3 Reasons for coming to Shillong by migrant college students: Table 4 shows the results reasons for coming to Shillong. Majority (80%) of the migrant students had reported to have come for further studies. In almost all the three states, i.e., Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, majority of students reported that studying in Shillong was better than their home town as they perceived that educational facilities in Shillong are far better than their home colleges and this was an important factor motivating their decision to come and study in Shillong. About 6 percent of the migrant students had reported that they either don't have colleges or no proper colleges exist in their hometown. If we look at the state wise figures, then Mizoram has the highest percentage (10%) of reporting to have no colleges. This is because many of them have come from rural settings where higher educational facilities have not yet penetrated. The corresponding figure for Nagaland is about 4.3 percent and Manipur is 3.3 percent. About 7 percent of the students stated that they had come to Shillong because of other reasons such as they would like to experience living in new places where they would get an opportunity to interact with different people (1.4%), learn other culture (1%), get exposure (0.9%) and about 0.72 percent would like to stay away from their parents and also 0.7 percent had a habitual in studying in different places (Figure 1). Again if we look at the state wise figures of others reasons to come to Shillong, in Nagaland about 2 percent had come to get an exposure (Figure 2) while in Manipur it's because of the insurgency problem (2%) that they had to come to Shillong for studies and about 1 percent of the students had moved because of their father's job being transferred (Figure 3) but the case is different in case of Mizoram students, who apart from studies also come to Shillong because they could improve their English language (Figure 4).

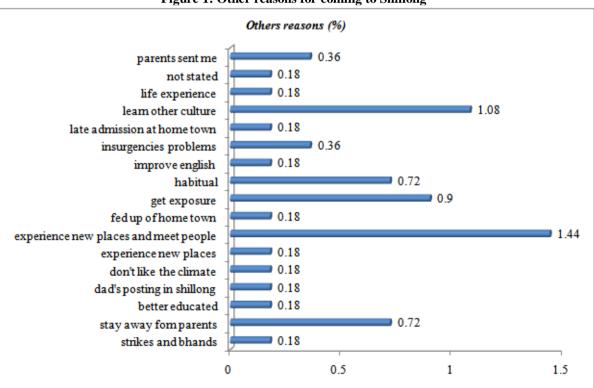


Figure 1: Other reasons for coming to Shillong

Table 4: Reasons for coming to Shinong by migrant conege students					
Push factor	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total	
Reasons/push factor for coming to Shillong					
Further Studies	80.8	81.9	75.7	79.9 (444)	
Education facilities are not good inmy home town	8.5	6.0	6.4	7.2 (40)	
No Colleges/No good Colleges	4.3	3.3	10.7	5.6 (31)	
Others	6.4	8.8	7.1	7.4 (41)	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)	



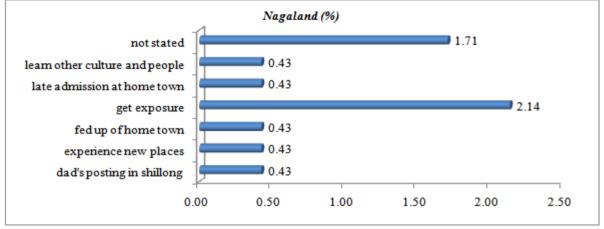
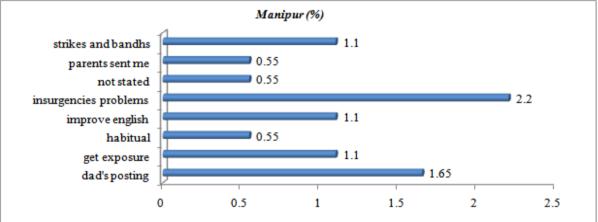
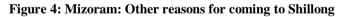
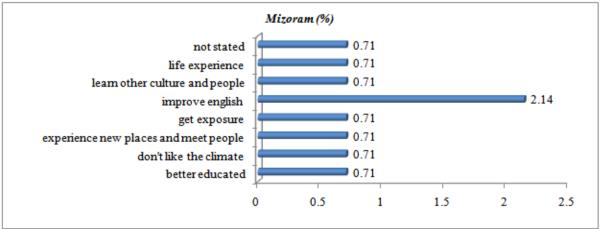


Figure 2: Nagaland: Other reasons for coming to Shillong









1.4.4 Attraction of Shillong among the migrant college students

Nearly two-fourth (42%) of migrant students stated that they were attracted to Shillong because of the better educational system and facilities followed by better climatic conditions (16%) and about 10 percent of the migrant students stated it has a better environment than their home town. A lot of students from Nagaland and Mizoram would like to intermingle with different people and know and learn other cultures but in the case of Mizoram, about 12.1 percent stated that they have come to Shillong in order to improve their English language as the medium of instruction in all institutions is English. Moreover, they said that since English was the primary medium of communication among the inter-tribal or sub-tribal groups, it would be an added advantage in improving their English language as well as enhancing their communication skills. The move to Shillong offers students the opportunity to improve their English in a native speaking environment, which would enhance their speaking skills, employment as well as higher studies or research prospects. Also a lot of students were attracted by the natural sceneries and by the cleanliness of the town. About 3.8 percent of the students from Manipur found Shillong to be very peaceful because back in their hometown a lot of strikes and bandhs are being called-in by the insurgents group which in turn affects their academic studies in the long run. About 1.3 percent of the students from Nagaland reported that Shillong is rather peaceful than their own state (Table 5).

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Pull factor	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total
Attractions for coming to Shillong				
Better educational system/facilities	44.0	38.5	45.0	42.4 (236)
Climatic conditions	14.1	17.6	17.1	16.0 (89)
Good environment	10.3	11.5	6.4	9.7 (54)
Place	8.5	8.2	7.1	8.1 (45)
Know & learn other cultures	5.6	8.2	1.4	5.4 (30)
Improving English	.9	3.3	12.1	4.5 (25)
Natural sceneries	4.3	3.3	5.7	4.3 (24)
Intermingling	5.6	1.1	2.9	3.4 (19)
Cleanliness	4.7	3.3	.0	3.1 (17)
Peaceful and Exposure	2.2	4.9	2.1	3.1 (17)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)

1.4.5 Knowledge and awareness of host state as an influencing factor in student's destination choice

The desire or even readiness to emigrate does not in itself induce migration. The availability and characteristics of potential destinations must be taken into account, as well as prospective migrant's knowledge of these destinations (Mangalam and Schewarzweller, 1970). The items of information about Shillong of most concern to the respondents dealt with social/political environment and to a lesser extent, the physical environment. Knowledge of economic situation, although reasonably wide spread, was less than either of the former. However, the two items of information most often mentioned were Shillong's educational facilities and the climatic conditions were known to be available (See Table 4 & 5). The source of information on possible destinations is also thought to influence the selection process. Most received some information from both nonpersonal sources, such as from schools i.e., teachers and from personal sources, such as relatives, friend, parents and sisters and brothers. About 46.2 percent received most of the information's from their friends followed by relatives 24.1 percent, brothers and sisters 14.2 percent while parents played a minor role in disseminating the information about place of destinations to their children. Besides being a suitable destination, the other main attraction of Shillong was the presence there of friends, their relatives or family members (Table 6). The great majority of the movement can be described as either family reunion or chain migration, with most migrating under the auspices of kinship, sponsored by friends, relatives or family members. In all three states, friends and relatives exceeded in disseminating the information about the place of destinations. Parents in Mizoram 18.6 percent, and brothers and sisters 17.1 percent played a major role in sharing the information to the migrant college students in Shillong. While in Nagaland, brothers and sisters (14.1%) were the third important source of learning about Shillong. Students in Manipur availed the information through other sources (9.9%) such as teachers, self, mass media and brochures etc.

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Source of information	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total			
Friends	47.0	47.8	42.9	46.2 (257)			
Cousins/Relatives	29.9	18.7	21.4	24.1 (134)			
Parents	8.5	11.5	18.6	12.1 (67)			
Brother/Sisters	14.1	12.1	17.1	14.2 (79)			
Others	0.4	9.9	0.0	3.4 (19)			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)			

Table 6: Source of information about Shillong colleges

1.4.6 Reasons for choosing Shillong rather than other cities in India

A close-ended question was asked directly to know the specific reasons for choosing Shillong rather than other cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Overall, they stated that they chose Shillong as the place of destination for study because of the better education system (34.4%) and its geographical proximity (32.7%). About 10.4 percent of the respondents said that it was much cheaper with better educational facilities which can be afforded at a relatively cheaper price. Most of the students perceived that Shillong could be the initial perfect destination to get an experience and get exposed to different environment and academic disciplines whose ultimate aim is to migrate for bigger cities in the mainland India to pursue for higher studies. This could be not only the fact but there are other factors like the reconstitutions of extended families or primary groups in Shillong (Table 7).

Reasons for choosing Shillong rather than	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total
other cities				
Better education facilities	38.9	36.3	24.3	34.4 (191)
Cheaper	4.7	14.3	15.0	10.4 (58)
Climatic conditions	4.3	7.1	5.0	5.4 (30)
Nearer	35.9	22.0	41.4	32.7 (182)
Others	16.2	20.3	14.3	17.1(95)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)

Table 7: Reasons for	choosing Shillong	y rather than	other cities in India
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1.4.7 The persons who helped in the selection of Shillong as the destination place

Table 8 shows the person who has helped in selecting the destination place. The information given in table show that majority (41%) of the students had themselves selected Shillong as the place of destinations for pursuing their studies. In about one-fourth (25%) father involved in selection process while targeting Shillong. Because traditionally, families are large and strongly patriarchal with father in a role which calls for a considerable degree of dominance. The role of the father as a provider, decision-maker, and final authority on discipline gives him more prestige and allows him to be more demanding. On the other hand, the prime function of the mother is to look after the household, but she (only 6.5%) also exerts some authority over her children collectively in selecting the place of destinations though in the state of Nagaland mothers with 10 percent is playing a greater role in selecting the destinations as compared to other states. Among the Manipur students, 17.6 percent of "others" category including uncle, aunts and brother and sisters are responsible for selecting the destination place.

Reasons for choosing Shillong rather than	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total
other cities				
Both Parents	17.5	13.7	15.7	15.8 (88)
Father	23.5	30.2	20.7	25.0 (139)
Mother	9.8	2.7	5.7	6.5 (36)
Self	40.2	35.7	49.3	41.0 (228)
Others	9.0	17.6	8.6	11.7(65)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)

 Table 8: The persons who helped in the selection of Shillong as the destination place

1.4.8 Future intentions and destinations among the migrant college students to migrate for higher studies

Table 9 shows students' future intention to migrate for higher studies outside Shillong. Although Shillong is the first destination of choice, more than half students (57.4%) are likely to migrate for higher studies in the other parts of mainland India. Also a large number of students (around 30%) had not yet decided whether to migrate or to go back to their home towns. Only 6.8 percent are sure enough to go back hometown and possibly look for a job while 5.8 percent of the migrant students are more likely to continue studies in Shillong who are mostly from the states of Mizoram (8%) and Manipur (6.6%).

Table 9: Future internoons to study among the migrant conege students						
Intention to migrate	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total		
Yes, intend to migrate	52.6	61.0	60.7	57.4 (319)		
Not yet decided	38.0	24.7	23.6	30.0 (167)		
Continue in Shillong	3.8	6.6	7.9	5.8 (32)		
Go back home town	5.6	7.7	7.9	6.8 (38)		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (556)		

 Table 9: Future intentions to study among the migrant college students

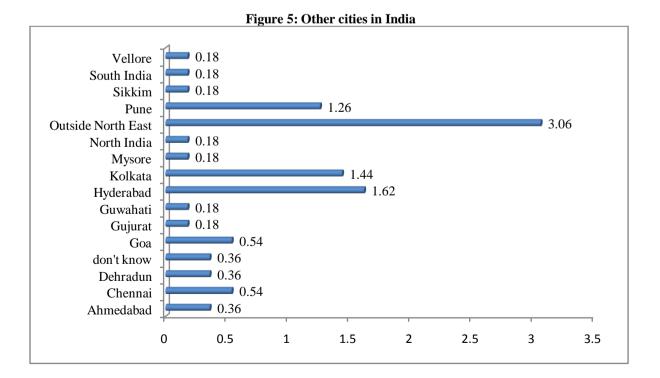
Taske 10. I deale destinations for inglief studies among the ingrant conege students					
Future destinations	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total	
Delhi (Northern)	51.2	60.4	49.4	53.9 (172)	
Bangalore (Southern)	15.4	14.4	21.2	16.6 (53)	
Mumbai (Western)	8.9	5.4	3.5	6.3 (20)	
Others cities in India*	18.7	14.4	24.7	18.8 (60)	
Abroad	5.7	5.4	1.2	4.4 (14)	
Total	123	111	85	319	

Table 10: Future	destinations	for l	higher	studies	among	the m	igrant (college	students
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For most students, Shillong is like a launching pad for further studies. Their ultimate aim is to head for bigger cities in mainland Indian cities and abroad which has a better educational infrastructures and also offers a wide range of career choices. Majority of the migrant students intended to head towards Delhi (54%) as their preferred future destinations followed Bangalore (16.6%) and Mumbai (4.4%). Other cities being Hyderabad (1.62%), Kolkata (1.4%) and Pune (1.2%) (Figure 5). While nearly 5 percent of the intended students would like to go overseas to pursue their further studies, the major destination are US, UK, Australia, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia (Figure 6). Those who wants to move outside Shillong once they are graduated, majority of them wants to opt in the faculties of Profession and Applied Science (31.3%), Social Science (29.5%), Humanities (19.4%), Natural Science (10%), Formal science (2.5%) and others (10.3%) (Table 11). Students mostly from the states of Nagaland and Mizoram would like to primarily pursue in the faculties of Profession and Applied Science by studying subjects such as MBA, MSW, Education and Law and there by studying in the places like Mumbai, and Bangalore and other cities while students from Manipur state would prefer Social Science subjects such as Political Science, Sociology and Economics studying in Delhi and Bangalore (Table 12).

Table 11: Future intended subjects among the migrant college students

Faculties	Nagaland	Manipur	Mizoram	Total
Social Science	27.6	30.6	30.6	29.5 (94)
Profession and Applied Science	33.3	27.9	32.9	31.3 (100)
Humanities	21.1	15.3	22.4	19.4 (62)
Natural Science	3.3	13.5	3.5	6.9 (22)
Formal Science	2.4	1.8	3.5	2.5 (8)
Others	12.2	10.8	7.1	10.3 (33)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 (319)



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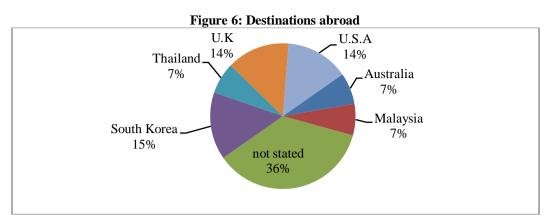


Table 12: Future intended subjects in future destinations among the migrant college students

Faculties	Delhi	Bangalore	Mumbai	Others	Abroad	Total
Social Science	34.3	28.3	20.0	23.3	14.3	29.5 (94)
Profession and Applied						
Science	21.5	35.8	40.0	51.7	35.7	31.3 (100)
Humanities	26.7	7.5	10.0	8.3	35.7	19.4 (62)
Natural Science	7.0	7.5	5.0	6.7	7.1	6.9 (22)
Formal Science	2.3	3.8	0.0	3.3	0.0	2.5 (8)
Others	8.1	17.0	25.0	6.7	7.1	10.3(33)
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0(319)

1.4.9 Logistic regression for who are likely to migrate for higher studies after graduation from Shillong

In the binary logistic regression model (Table 13), it was found that migrants college student from the state of Mizoram are 4.7 times and 2 times from the state of Manipur are significantly likely to migrate for higher studies as compared to students from the state of Nagaland. However among the major tribes, Kuki tribe is less significantly likely to migrate for further studies as compared to their counterparts tribes. Also it is predicted that students who came from the higher studies outside Shillong once they are graduated.

V. Summary and conclusion

It is clearly seen from the results that students stated they come to Shillong for studies because they assumed colleges in Shillong has better educational infrastructure facilities than their home-town institutions. Besides they also come because it is nearer and cheaper as well as they want to experience new places and meet new people from different cultures and simultaneously improve their English language skills. But quite a few students from the state of Manipur stated they migrated to Shillong for studies as there are bandhs, strikes and insurgency problems. Among these migrant students more than half has intentions to migrate for higher studies to different parts of mainland Indian cities and also abroad for pursuing their higher degrees. Students mostly from the state of Mizoram, having a better standard of living index and those have an overall better academic performance are more likely to have an intentions to migrate to pursue for further and higher studies.

It is observed that these future migrations not just confined for educational purpose, but majority of respondents don't want to come back to their small towns even after completion of their studies. They rather prefer to continue studies in mainland India and also look for prospective jobs in their relevant area of specialization. Although migration of students to Shillong for further studies does not directly help the small towns and villages they migrate from in terms of getting employed-by benefitting from the knowledge that the migrant students have acquired over the years-because most of them prefer not to come back. There is, however, an indirect economic benefit: these out station students by dint of getting a part time/full time jobs manage to send a certain amount of money back home to their family which in most cases are not financially very well to do. This greatly increases chances of their siblings to get better education and also significantly contributes to the improvement of the quality of life for their family.

Table 13: Logistic regression for having intentions to migrate for higher studies among the migrant college students in Shillong

Background characteristics	Exp(B)
Gender	
Male@	
Female	1.02

Age group	
17-19@	
20-22	0.83
23-29	0.72
Tribes	
Naga@	
Mizo	0.25
Kuki	0.30**
Others	0.65
State	
Nagaland@	
Manipur	1.96**
Mizoram	4.79**
SLI	
Low@	
Medium	1.03
High	1.79**
Institutions	
Catholic College@	
Govt. College	0.65
Private College	0.80
Year of graduation	
First year@	
Second year	0.95
Third year	1.12
Stream	
Arts@	
Commerce	2.01
Science	0.57
Overall performance	
Low performance@	
Medium Performance	1.23
High performance	1.76**

***: Significance at 1% level; **: significance at 5% level; *: Significance level at 10%

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