

## THE PUSH AND PULL FACET OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN NAGALAND: A CASE STUDY OF THE LOTHANAGA

**Thungdeno Humtstoe**

*Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University, Lumami, Nagaland, India*

**Athungo Oving**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Nagaland University, Lumami, Nagaland, India*

### ABSTRACT

*The movement of people from rural to urban areas constitutes one of the main category of migration, and an important phenomenon of demography which contributes to population redistribution. This paper analyses the range of push and pull factors of migration taking place amongst the Lotha Naga of Wokha District in Nagaland, a North-eastern State of India. The study covers new growth which was hitherto neglected by the scholar and academician concerning this particular tribe. The study focuses on two major concerns i.e., the push factors against the rural families to the urban localities or towns, and the pull factors of migration from urban localities.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Migration, Rural, Urban, Lotha Naga*

### INTRODUCTION

Migration of people has been an important aspect in history since the very inception of human society. Migration is known as the movement of people from one permanent residence to another permanent or temporary residence for a substantial period of time by breaking social and cultural ties. This movement has always shaped and reshaped human history.

Migration involves three types of changes- change in the area of out-migration, change in the area of in-migration and change in the migrants themselves. Everett Lee, a sociologist has developed a theory called push and pull theory of migration. He categorized the forces of migration into push and pull factors. The push factors are “negative” factors such as, primitive conditions, not enough jobs, few opportunities, poor medical care, natural disasters, poor housing etc tending to force migrants to leave the area of origin, while the pull factors are “positive” factors such as, job opportunities, better living conditions, political and religious freedom, education, enjoyment, better medical care, family links, industry etc., attracting migrants to the areas of destination in the expectation of improving their socio-economic position. He theorized that

factors associated with origin area conditions would be more important than those associated with destination areas.

Singh and Kaur (2007) in their study on *Causes and consequences of Migrant labour in Ludhiana city* attempted to highlight the important push and pull factors of migration. Their findings revealed that poverty, lack of employment, low income, indebtedness, small land holdings in the area of origin, and more employment opportunities and higher wages in the area of destination were the major factors for migration. The study stated that economic and social causes were the main factors which forced the respondents to migrate to Punjab.

Samal and Mishra (1998) in their study on *Migrant workers in a coal mine region of Odisha*, mentioned that pull factors have been mainly responsible for inducing migration. The workers who migrated from their native places have a positive view of getting hold of some economic benefit in the industrial centre compared to their place of origin. The pull factors are further reinforced by the fact that most of them have their jobs pre- arranged by their friends, relatives and contractors and some people moves out of their place of origin to earn money to establish their own business firms.

As elsewhere, even in Nagaland, the phenomenon of migration from the rural areas has contributed largely to the rapid growth of urban population. Nagaland is primarily a rural state with 71.03 percent (census 2011) of its population living in rural area and only 28.97 percent of its population in urban areas. The proportion of rural population had recorded 11.23 percent decline during the decade 2001-2011 over the previous decade. This can be attributed to migration of rural people to urban areas in search of better education facilities, employment opportunities and a better standard of living.

In spite of the fact that the majority of the Lothas' of Wokha District (78.95%) are living in rural areas, yet the rural areas still have little or no opportunities for education and employment. No doubt, rural areas of Wokha District are characterized by poor communication and transportation facilities, unproductive agriculture with the use of traditional

implement, low per capita income, lack of proper health facilities, better educational institutions, irregular electricity, etc. All these problems may act as a push factors against the rural dwellers to the urban areas, where they can enjoy social and modern amenities and infrastructure such as electricity, water supply, health care facilities, good roads, educational facilities and employment opportunities.

### METHODOLOGY

The study has been confined mainly to the parameter of Wokha district of Nagaland. The sampling technique adopted in this study has been based on simple random sampling. A total of 315 respondents (household) were taken from twelve sample villages namely, *Phiro, Wokha Village, Changus(old), Tsungiki, Lakhuti, Soku, Moilan, Lio-Longidang, Yimpang and Yampha* and three sample urban unit namely; *Kohima, Dimapur and Wokha town*

**Table 1**  
**District-Wise distribution of rural and urban population**

Districts	Rural Population (%)	Urban Population (%)
Mon	86.15	13.85
Longleng	84.96	15.04
Phek	84.93	15.07
Peren	84.41	15.59
Tuensang	81.28	18.72
Zunheboto	80.42	19.58
Wokha	78.95	21.05
Kiphire	77.72	22.28
Mokokchung	71.19	28.81
Kohima	54.40	45.60
Dimapur	48.05	51.95

*Source: Census of India 2011. Provisional Population Total. Paper 2, Volume 1 of 2011. Rural – Urban Distribution, Nagaland Series 14. Directorate of Census operations, Kohima, Nagaland, Govt. of India*

Table 1 show that the highest percentage share of total rural population is recorded in Mon district (86.15%) and least with Dimapur district (48.05%). Likewise when it comes to highest percentage share of total urban population is recorded in Dimapur district (51.95%) and least with Mon district (13.85%).

### PUSH FACTORS FROM RURAL AREAS TO URBAN AREAS

Rural-Urban Migration is facilitated by push factors that forces people influx from rural areas to urban areas. Push factors of migration are also called as the involuntary forces or factors

that force people to migrate without any choice. There are many involuntary factors which forces or drive the rural families to migrate to the town namely Kohima, Dimapur and Wokha. Issues faced in rural areas are involuntary and it triggers people's migration to urban areas. Eight factors were specified as the push factors of rural-urban migration i.e., famine and poverty, lack of employment opportunities, poor educational facilities, poor transport and communication facilities, failure in agriculture, land shortage, poor climatic conditions, and to free from cultural or community restrictions.

**Table 2**  
**Push Factors of Rural-Urban Migration**

N=315

Sl. No	Push Factors	Opinion Scale (in Percentage)						Total
		Strongly agree	agree	Neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree	No response	
1.	Famine and poverty	6.0	6.0	10.2	42.9	20.6	14.3	100
2.	Lack of employment	26.7	46.3	8.3	9.2	0.3	9.2	100
3.	Poor educational facilities	32.7	45.7	6.7	4.8	1.0	9.1	100
4.	Poor transport and communication facilities	19.7	47.9	14.6	4.8	3.2	9.8	100
5.	Failure in agriculture	1.0	3.2	11.7	52.7	16.5	14.9	100
6.	Land Shortage	1.3	1.3	8.9	49.8	24.4	14.3	100
7.	Poor climatic conditions	0.3	1.3	10.8	50.1	22.8	14.7	100
8.	To free from cultural or community restrictions and obligations	0.3	1.3	8.6	48.9	26.4	14.5	100

*Source: Field Work, 2018*

The study reveals that 'poor educational facilities' was found to be one of the prominent causes of migration from rural to urban areas by 78% of the respondents. 73% of the respondents also agreed on 'lack of employment' as one causes of rural-urban migration followed by 67% of the respondents agreed on 'poor transport and communication facilities' as one main factor of rural-urban migration. Majority of the respondent holds wrong or doesn't agree on other factors such as famine and poverty, failure in agriculture, land shortage, poor climatic conditions, and to free from cultural and community restrictions as push factors that forces people from villages to towns or cities.

## PULL FACTORS OF MIGRATION FROM RURAL TO URBAN

Rural-Urban Migration is facilitated not only by push factors, but also by pull factors. The bright city life attracts or drives people from countryside to towns especially to Wokha, Kohima and Dimapur. Pull factors are the voluntary forces which incite people from rural areas to make a shift towards towns and cities in search of better life opportunities, not through force but by will. The pull factors such as better employment opportunities, advanced technology, modern urban facilities and services, better educational facilities, better health care and housing, better transport and communication facilities etc make people want to voluntarily decide to move to urban areas to have access to better living conditions for the family.

**Table 3**  
**Pull Factors of Rural-Urban Migration**

Sl. No	Pull Factors	Opinion Scale (in Percentage)						Total
		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No Response	
1.	To obtain job/to seek employment	30.5	37.8	8.3	16.2	0.3	6.9	100
2.	To join families, relatives and friends	2.2	7.0	31.1	37.5	8.3	13.7	100
3.	Children's education and career	44.8	40.3	4.1	1.3	0	9.5	100
4.	Training and other professional courses	11.7	27.0	23.8	22.9	0.6	14	100
5.	Modern urban services & facilities	24.4	39.0	16.5	8.6	1.9	9.6	100
6.	Job Transfer	20.3	26.0	14.3	24.4	1.6	13.4	100
7.	To open up or extend personal or family business	10.5	13.7	30.2	27.9	4.1	13.6	100
8.	To seek good climate	6.0	13.0	23.2	41.6	3.8	12.4	100

Source: Field Work, 2018

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents agreed on four factors as the main pull factors of rural-urban migration. It reveals that 'Children's education and career'(85.1%) was found to be one of the major causes of pull factors of migration from rural to urban areas followed by 'obtaining job or seeking employment' (68.3%), 'seeking modern urban services and facilities' (63.4%), 'job transfer' (46.3%) Majority of the respondent do not agree on other factors such as to seek good climate, to join relatives, families and friends, and to open up or extend personal and family business as the pull factors of migration from villages to towns or cities.

## CONCLUSION

Major causes or push factors of rural to urban migration are mainly three out of the many factors i.e., lack of employment, poor educational facilities and poor transport and communication facilities. Whereas, other factors such as failure in agriculture or low productivity, land shortage, poor climatic conditions and cultural or community restrictions doesn't contribute to the push factors of migration. Thus, it is observed that in the rural areas or villages, the people do not face any problem or issue with regard to agriculture, land, climatic conditions and cultural or community relations. This study also reveals that the major causes or pull factors of rural to urban migration are mainly five out of the many factors i.e., children's education and career, to obtain job and employment, training and other professional courses, to access

modern urban services and facilities, and job transfer or occupational shift. Whereas, other factors such as, good weather and climate, extension of personal or family business and to join immediate relatives, families and friends doesn't not contribute to the pull factors of migration.

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