



Rajiv Gandhi University

Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

CALL FOR PAPERS

**22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF NORTH EASTERN ECONOMIC
ASSOCIATION-2021**

(Blended Mode)

14th - 15th December 2021

Organised by
**Centre for Development Studies
Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar
Arunachal Pradesh**

Themes

Theme 1

Migration and Development in North East India

Theme 2

Pandemic and the Economy

Concept Note

Migration and Development in North East India

Migration is a complex phenomenon. It is both a cause and a consequence of various social, cultural and economic constraints as experienced by the people in society. It is a heterogeneous phenomenon having varying degrees of impact both at the origin and destination points. Migration in India is not a caste/class neutral process. It takes place in rich as well as poor classes. Rural elite migrate to the city for higher education and subsequently take up urban jobs, adding to the family's wealth. They provide the capitalist base for agriculture to the parent family (Shah, 1973: 9). On the other hand, poorer peasants and dispossessed tenants, landless labourers, marginal groups and artisans whose crafts are not valued any more, migrate to other villages, towns and cities in order to avoid unemployment. Migration from North Eastern Region (NER) to the rest of India especially in the big cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Chennai has been noticeably increasing in recent times. Urban people from NER show a higher tendency to migrate to the metro cities. NE people, both males and females migrate to the metro cities mainly for education and employment.

Migration is very much related to the development process. Studies of migration in developing countries have confirmed that the decision of rural people to move to cities is predominantly influenced by economic factors. In fact, a strong relationship exists between economic conditions in urban and rural areas that influence rural migrants' decision (Rondinelli, 1986: 681). It is found that economic, social and psychological factors influencing people's expectations of finding better opportunities in cities are perceived differently by various social and age groups in rural areas. For educated people migration is mainly motivated by the 'pull' of the opportunities in cities. Less educated, less mobile and married migrants tend to move because of the 'push' factors of rural poverty and unemployment. Todaro's study has shown that much of the migration from the rural areas is the result of perceived or expected, rather than actual, employment opportunities. Migrants compare the possibilities of obtaining jobs or higher wages in cities with the advantages of remaining in rural areas (Todaro, 1969: 142). There are three main theoretical approaches to the study of human migration: (i) Pull-push theory, which considers the interaction of factors that attract migrants to their destination with factors that repel them from their origin; (ii) the human capital approach interprets migration as an investment. Potential migrants are assumed to evaluate costs and streams of benefits associated with migrating to alternative destinations to decide whether to migrate or not and to select a destination; (iii) the selectivity approach proposes that migrants are the most enterprising members of a community who respond to labour market disequilibria by migrating. These three theoretical approaches to migration overlap to a significant extent (Falaris, 1979: 335).

The most important explanatory variable for explaining rural-urban migration is the standard of living differentials. In addition, age and sex are important determinants of rural-urban migration as the vast majority of migrants are able bodied, and males especially in

the younger age ranges. This phenomenon can be explained in part by the pursuit of higher education since higher educational institutions are located in urban areas, though it is also suggested that rural dwellers with higher educational achievement are more mobile and are more likely to migrate (Stuart and Gregory, 1979: 88).

The above theories and studies do apply to the states of North East India. Except for the state of Assam, this region is industrially backward and hence urban areas are not industrial areas but mainly administrative centres. Therefore, compared with the rest of the country, economic opportunities are less in the urban sector of the states. Hence apart from Assam, the magnitude of migration in the States of North East India is much less than the magnitude in the country as a whole. Further, the level of development also influences the pattern of migration. For example, urban areas attract a great deal of external migrants despite cultural and political restrictions to migration. This is because of the availability of employment opportunities for educated migrants as well as migrant labourers in the informal sector. The states in the north east region are mainly tribal dominated states where the sons-of-the-soil attitude still prevails and various reservation policies are in force. Developmental planning and the process of modernization and urbanization have significantly affected the life and the work of the people, particularly in rural areas. Recent studies have disclosed that a significant proportion of migration in India takes place for economic as well as educational reasons and therefore there is a need for closer analysis of the pattern of employment of the migrant in the changed circumstances. While economic factors are basic to migration decisions, socio-cultural factors give migration streams particular shapes in the Indian setting.

A special dimension of migration from NER in general is migration for education and economic opportunities. Educational opportunities, especially vocational and technical, are quite sparse and concentrated in the capital cities of the region. Geographical factors like distance, terrain, poor connectivity and lack of opportunities within the states of North East India force a lot of young boys and girls to migrate to other parts of the country for education, training and skill formation. The favoured destination are the metro cities, where metro cities play a key role and often a stepping stone for moving to various other cities in the country. Very often these young people, after completing their education do not come back to their native state and look for employment opportunities elsewhere. Lack of development and limited local livelihood opportunities push them out and educational migration is just a transitional phase before they become migrant worker. This in turn causes the best human capital of the region to move out, drawing back the human capital quotient of the region.

Against this background, the proposed conference aims to explore the issues related to migration and development with special reference to north east India. It would also focus on the social issues faced by migrant communities in destination cities; and the coping mechanism adopted by them to deal with the challenges.

Sub-themes

The broad themes of the conference has been identified as follows:

- **Conceptualizing Migration as a phenomenon**
- **Out-Migration from Northeast India**
- **Migration to North East India**
- **Youth and Student Migration**
- **Migrant Rights, Discrimination and Migration Policy**

Pandemic and the Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge to both national societies and the international order. As evident by the fallouts of the current Covid-19 pandemic, pandemics by its very nature are much more than a public health crisis. Although the situation is still unfolding, some of its impacts are already visible. Globally, this pandemic has triggered the deepest economic recession in nearly a century threatening health, disrupting economic activity and financial markets, thus leading to significant reductions in income, rise in unemployment and disruptions in supply chains, transportation, service and manufacturing industries. Consequently, reduced productivity due to loss of life and workplace absenteeism, business closures, trade disruption and the complete collapse of the tourism industry, has been the most visible fallout of this economic devastation. It is therefore, abundantly clear that in the era of globalisation and economic interconnectedness, communicable diseases such as Covid-19 has the potential to inflict severe economic and financial costs on regional, national and global economies.

Measuring the effect of a pandemic is not easy as every pandemic is unique. However, the impact of the current pandemic on the economy is expected to be enormous as it has halted the engines of the world economy at once leading to loss in production, income and employment (Harilal 2020). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections the global economic growth in 2020 is likely to be -3 % (Gopinath 2020). The world trade in goods is projected to decline by 13 % to 32 % in 2020 (WTO 2020). Thus, the pandemic has caused deep impact on various sectors of the world economy and different sections of the people thereby inflicting a massive huge blow to the economy and the fiscal health of different countries of the world. The impact has been particularly unfair to migrant workers, poor households, marginal farmers, artisans, traders, and those involved in service sector including tourism and hospitality industries.

Whether the ongoing crisis will have a lasting structural impact on the global economy or will the impact be largely of a short-term financial and economic consequences, remains to

be seen. However, the nature of the crisis warrants an international collective response that would not only save human lives but also secure economic prosperity. While it is too early to fully grasp the meaning and consequences or indeed even the full extent of all the changes underway, it is nevertheless incumbent upon scholars and analysts to seek to understand these momentous changes. Against this background, the proposed conference seeks to deliberate upon the impact of the pandemic on the global economy with special reference to India/North-East India and suggest strategies to cope with the adverse economic impact of the crisis at the regional, national and international level.

Sub-themes

The broad themes of the conference has been identified as follows:

- **Covid-19 pandemic and the global economy (international economic order, global trade, investment and sustainable development).**
- **Covid-19 pandemic and the Indian economy**
- **Covid-19 pandemic and the Labour market**
- **Covid-19 pandemic and health challenges**
- **Covid-19 pandemic and tourism & hospitality industry.**
- **Domestic societies, politics and economies**
- **India's policy responses and initiatives**

About Rajiv Gandhi University

Rajiv Gandhi University, formerly Arunachal University, is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The campus is located on a panoramic table land locally known as Rono-Hills in the outskirts of Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. It is connected to the national highway No. 415 leading to Itanagar. The distance from the national highway (Bage Tinali) to the campus is 7 km. Itanagar is well connected to the rest of the country through roadways. The nearest city is Guwahati (Assam) which has a railway station and airport. Itanagar is about 420 K.M. from Guwahati & Day and night bus services are available from Guwahati to Itanagar on a daily basis. There are also train services (Dony-Polo Express) between Guwahati and Naharlagun. The nearest railway station to the University is the Gumto station.

Itanagar also has its own regular chopper service from Guwahati. Shared/Reserved taxi is also available from Guwahati to Itanagar (8 hours journey). Arunachal Pradesh has a pleasant weather during November-December.

About the Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University

The Department of Economics made its beginning in July 1991. The main objective of the Department has been to impart socially relevant education at the Post Graduate level by judicious mix of theory and empiricism. The Department of Economics has the distinction of acting as the nodal Department for the preparation of first Human Development Report (HDR) of Arunachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh State Development Report.

The 7th and 17th annual Conference of NEEA was organised by the Department in 2005 and 2015 respectively. Recognising the contributions of the Department, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in 2012 sanctioned grant-in-aid for establishing the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) attached to the department.

Submission of Abstract:

Abstract of the paper (about 300 words) on the above **two themes** and for **Researchers' Forum** should be sent by email to neeaconference2021@gmail.com.

Submission of Full paper:

Full paper (within 5000 words) should be in MS Word, font Times Roman, 12 font size, 1.5 line spacing, APA style of referencing.

Important Dates:

Last date for submission of abstract: 25th November, 2021

Last date for submission of full paper: 5th December, 2021

Accommodation: Accommodation will be provided only to selected delegates (single occupancy room in view of Covid-19 Pandemic)

Registration: Registration fee for each participant is

INR 500/- for academicians | **INR 200/-** for Research scholars and Students

Last Date for Registration and fee payment: 5th December, 2021

Mode of Payment: Registration fee should be deposited in the bank account of the Head, Department of Economics, RGU.

Name of Bank: Bank of Baroda

Account Number: 83420100001463

IFSC: BARB0VJARUN

A copy of the payment receipt should be sent to neeaconference2021@gmail.com



Keynote Speaker for Theme 1: Migration and Development in North East India

Prof. Deepak K Mishra

Prof. Deepak K Mishra is Professor of Economics at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi. His research interests are in the areas of the political economy of agrarian change, rural livelihoods and agrarian institutions, labour migration, gender, and human development. He has co-authored *The Unfolding Crisis in Assam's Tea Plantations: Employment and Occupational Mobility* (Routledge, 2012) and has edited *Internal Migration in Contemporary India* (Sage, 2016). Recently, he has co-edited *Rethinking Economic Development in Northeast India: The Emerging Dynamics* (Routledge, 2017) and *Land and Livelihoods in Neoliberal India* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2020). Before joining JNU, Prof Mishra taught at the Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University and contributed to the first Human Development Report of Arunachal Pradesh (GoAP-UNDP-Planning Commission, 2005) and Arunachal Pradesh Development Report (Academic Foundation, 2009). During 2008-9 he was a Commonwealth Visiting Fellow, Department of International Development, University of Oxford, UK. In 2012, Prof Mishra was ICCR Chair Professor, International Centre for South Asian Studies, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow. He was a Visiting Fellow at the York Centre for Asian Research, York University, Toronto in 2019.



Keynote Speaker for Theme 2: Pandemic and the Economy

Prof. S. Mahendra Dev

Prof. S. Mahendra Dev is the Director and Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai. He has been the Director and Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai, India since 2010. Prior to this position, he was Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ministry of Agriculture from 2008 to 2010. He was Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, India for 9 years from 1999 to 2008. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C. He was Acting Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, Government of India. He received prestigious Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for outstanding research work on development studies.

He received his Ph.D. from the Delhi School of Economics and did his postdoctoral research at Yale University. His main areas of interest are development economics, employment, poverty, inequality, agriculture policies, rural development and social sector. He has around 120 research publications in national and international journals. He has written or edited 19 books. He has been a member of several government committees in India, including the Prime Minister's Task Force on Employment, member of the Committee on Financial inclusion, member of the Expert Group on Poverty chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan. He is the Chairman of the Committee on Terms of Trade on Agriculture constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture. He has received honors for eminence in public service.



Speaker for the Special Lecture: NEEA 2021

Prof. Barbara Harriss-White

Prof. Barbara Harriss-White is a Senior Research Fellow, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies; Professor Emeritus of Development Studies; Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford, Oxford UK. Her research interests have developed from the economics of agricultural markets to India's socially regulated capitalist economy and corporate capital; and from the malnutrition caused by markets to many other aspects of deprivation: notably poverty, gender bias and gender relations, health and disability, destitution and caste discrimination. She has a long term interest in agrarian change in southern India and has also tracked the economy of a market town there since 1972. She held academic posts at Oxford from 1987 until her retirement in 2011. Since then she has directed an ESRC-DFID research project entitled Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Technology And Work In Production And Distribution Systems: Rice In India. She has been an adviser to the UK'S Department of International Development (DfID) and to seven UN organisations; as well as a trustee of the International Food Policy Research Institute and of Norway's Institute for Environment and Development.

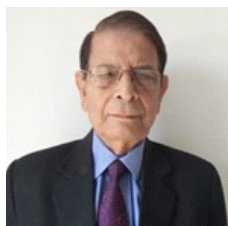


Speaker for the Gopal Bordoloi memorial lecture: 2021

Dr. Dilip Ratha

Dr. Dilip Ratha is head of KNOMAD and lead economist, Migration and Remittances, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice at the World Bank. In a career spanning three decades, he has done pioneering work on remittances, migration, and innovative financing (diaspora bonds, future-flow securitization, shadow sovereign ratings). His TED talk, with over 1.4 million views, has inspired many fintech start-ups. He is the Founder of KNOMAD, Migrating out of Poverty Research Program Consortium, and African Institute of Remittances. Prior to the World Bank, he worked at Credit Agricole Indosuez W.I. Carr Securities (Hong Kong and Singapore), and the Policy Group (Delhi), and taught at Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad) and Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi). He has a Ph.D. in economics from Indian Statistical Institute.

Conference President



Professor Homeshwar Goswami

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Organised by

Centre for Development Studies, Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

Registration Form

1. Full Name [Capital Letters] Dr/ Mr/ Ms _____

2. Designation _____

3. Affiliation _____

4. Address _____

Email _____

Phone No. _____

5. Title of the paper to be presented _____

6. Registration fee (with transaction No.): Rs. _____

Signature

[Please e-mail this Registration Form to: email to: neeaconference2021@gmail.com