

Process of Migration from Northeast India

Jointly Organised by

North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC)

& Labour & Migration Unit of Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru

Date: 23-24 February, 2017

**Venue: North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC), Guwahati,
Assam**

Concept Note:

The last decade has witnessed a rapid rise in the movement of people, especially the youth, from the Northeast to the metropolises of India and to other regions of the country. Some papers presented at a recent international seminar held in Tezpur University, Assam, focussed on the mobility of people, resources and ideas from the Northeast frontier to other states of India and contest edits hitherto stereotypical image as a conflict zone. The reasons for the change in the perception of Northeast are many, among them globalisation and low employment generation with a high level of education in the region.

The proposed seminar-cum-workshop is organised against this backdrop of mobility of human resources from Northeast India to the towns, cities and even villages of South Indian States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The objectives of this exercise are:

- (a) to examine the causes – pull and push factors – of out-migration to South Indian States,
- (b) to better understand the plight of the migrant youth in their destination, and
- (c) to explore possibilities of intervention to better their working conditions.

The seminar-cum-workshop intends to throw light on the patterns of migration at the source, the settlement scenario at the destination, the pull—push factors of migration, migrants' perception of themselves at the destination, their perception by others, their plight at work places and explore possibilities of intervention to improve their living conditions. We invite papers on the following themes:

1. Patterns of migration of people out of Northeast India during the past decade;
2. Pull-Push factors of migration

3. The movement of people into the Northeast as a possible factor in out-migration;
4. Climate, conflict and development as causes for people moving out of the Northeast
5. Settlement patterns in the areas of destination.
6. Interventions required for a just process of Migration

Scholars and activists interested in participating in the seminar-workshop may send their abstract not later than 26th January and their paper by 15th February. Those who send their abstracts will be informed by 30th January whether they are accepted for paper presentation. The organisers will meet the cost of the travel and accommodation of participants during the workshop.

Interstate Migrant Workers in Kerala: Labour and Civic Life

Jointly organised by

**Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram and
Labour & Migration Unit of Indian Social Institute, Bangalore**

Date: 07/03/2018 to 08/03/2018

**Venue: Loyola College of Social Sciences, Sreekaryam,
Trivandrum**

Concept Note:

Migration history of Kerala has always been in a state of flux. The developmental prospects of the State are no longer dependent only on out-migration, of its people. In-migration has become more crucial to our economy and society. Demographic and socio-economic features of Kerala such as ageing population, low population growth, higher dependency rate, better family planning, better standard of living, higher educational standards, etc substantiates the dependency of Kerala to the migrant workforce not only in the present but also in the future. The interstate migrants (ISM) have become the manual labour power of Kerala. Even though there is no consensus regarding their numerical strength their presence is estimated to be around 30lakh, which is quite a replacement to the people of Kerala working abroad.

ISM labourers are visible across Kerala in all sectors, especially in those, which demands manual labour power. Their presence is no longer confined to urban or city centres. They are satisfying the labour needs of domestic labour market. But, like any other migrant labour class across the globe, these people are exploited, excluded and vulnerable. They are forced to live with substandard living conditions and are very often exposed to dangerous working conditions. The effectiveness of the Policy level responses from both the Central and State government is still under question. Inter State Migrant Workers Act, 1979 is heavily criticized for its inability to tackle the diverse interstate migrant issues in India. Kerala Government's Inter State Migrant Workers Welfare scheme 2010, formed under Kerala Construction Workers Welfare board has failed to adapt itself to the needs of migrants. Recently, at the end of 2017 a more refined and migrant inclusive insurance coverage plan called 'Aawaz' was launched by the Kerala State Government. Such initiatives are widely appreciated even at the National level because of its uniqueness. Along with that projects such as shelter homes and information centres are under process.

The present seminar critically looks into the existing patterns and emerging trends in the in-migration friendly nature of Kerala. ISMs are no longer a migrant work force. Family migration is also happening across the State. Kerala's intervention is no longer confined to labour alone. The present seminar is organized to address these issues at length. This will be a platform for both the academicians and activists to discuss and debate upon the civic life of ISM labourers in Kerala. Special focus will be given to the following themes,

- ❖ Demographic challenges, Socio-cultural changes and spatial transformations
- ❖ Labour-economics of in-migration
- ❖ Migrant identity and social acceptance
- ❖ Welfare policies and social security measures
- ❖ Civic rights and Human rights of ISM labourers
- ❖ Unionization of ISM labourers
- ❖ ISM labourers and civil society responses
- ❖ Migration and gender dimensions
- ❖ Emerging trends- Children, Education, Mental health
- ❖ Migrant labourers as a potential labour force

This seminar envisages to set a platform for the politicians, bureaucrats, academicians, social workers, social activists and students to discuss and debate upon the afore mentioned themes.

Postponed

Due to certain inconvenience the proposed Seminar on

Labour Migration in the Post Liberalization Era (1991)

Dated 17th & 18th March, 2018 at Indian Social Institute, Delhi has been postponed