

Chapter-5

Execution of Focus Group Discussions

The present chapter deals with the results related to focus group discussions. In all, 4 (Four) FGDs were conducted during this research (2 each from migrants and natives). The first FGD for Migrants had 7 participants and second one had 9 participants. The native's FDG comprised of 12 and 13 participants respectively. The purpose behind these FGDs was to attain a deeper insight to understand the perception of both migrants and natives on the pattern, causes and impact of migration in the study. These four FGDs served more qualitative data. In these FGDs participants comprised of village elders, Head man, Secretary of village council, Migrant leaders who are selected by convenient sampling.

The focus group sessions were recorded and subsequently transcribed the whole of the interview since the focus was not only on the response, but also on how they responded, the use of language that they employed while expressing their views.

The focus group session began with an introduction whereby the researcher thanked the people for coming, introduced herself, the objectives of the research were described, the reasons for recording the session and the format of the focus group session was sketched and some of the conventions of the focus group participation such as only one person should speak at a time, all data will be treated confidentially and anonymized; the session is open and everyone's' views are important and the amount of time that will be taken up. The participants were asked to fill in forms providing a basic socio demographic information about themselves such as age, gender, occupation, and where resident. Participants were encouraged to introduce themselves. The researcher then explained very briefly what will happen to the data they have supplied.

Focus group research are more naturalistic than individual interviews. It is less artificial than many other methods, because in emphasizing group interaction, which is

a normal part of social life, it does not suffer from the problem of gleaning information in an unnatural situation. Only natural groups are used. It avoids DE contextualization: that is that successfully study the individual within a social context, because the individual is very much part of a group in the focus group method.

Participants' points of views are much more likely to be revealed than in a traditional interview. It has also helped to evaluate the other data collected using interview schedule.

Very general questions were asked to simulate discussion. The discussion lasted for almost an hour and a huge amount of data were very quickly produced which formed the secondary data for the study.

Result and Discussion on the Focus Group Discussion

Perception of the Migrants

Impact of Migration

Majority of the respondents are of the view that this rapid migration has raised awareness to protect the indigenous culture, language and practices together with respect and participate in native cultural practices eg. Festivals, 'cultural programs, yearly picnic etc. Moreover, they also follow obey the rules of the native people like cooperating in the village community meeting and attending and contributing in programmed related to the welfare of the society. Example the migrant's shopkeeper closes the shop on Sunday because the native people used to go to church service.

Inter community marriage is also identified as one of the major aftermaths of the migration in the study area. Migrant women enjoy the practice of not moving to husband house but they can start to set up the new family within the parent's house. Thus, the men who come and enter into the house follow the wife's culture and

traditions and become the native people. The wife does not need to change her culture even after marriage.

Almost the respondents highlighted the competition among the natives and the migrant's students in the education levels. Because they raise the quality of skills supply in the host community.

Improvement of the school administrations and infrastructures and quality of teachers teaching standards are also highlighted by the respondents is also underlined by the respondents.

Respondents were also found to be aware of the opening of new tuitions classes together with new institutional buildings in an around the areas is leading to the rise in enrollment of school's students in these institutions.

Few of the respondents highlighted the setting up of new pharmacies by the migrants in the areas which have helped the natives together with migrants' people during the time of emergency. Few of the respondents also reported that few professional and skilled health workers and doctors settling in the area helped in providing medical health check up to the people. Especially to the women by encouraging awareness about the health conscious and control of birth population. Some of the respondents also focused on the good environment in the study area free from pollution together with easy availability of organic food which is encouraging overall health of the people.

Some of the migrants also highlighted the help they are receiving from the traditional medicinal practices that the indigenous people are practicing.

The new practice by some of the migrants of introducing yoga and gym centers in area where both native and migrants meet together and join

Patterns of Migration

Most of the respondents asserted that migrants sources of information related to the present area as their destination for migration is by themselves mostly in search of jobs or other business opportunities. Few of them also viewed that they got it from their

friends who are already residing in the area, relatives who have already settle or working in the area, neighbours and native people.

Most of the respondents opined that good communication (Assam, Nagaland and Manipur) is a motivating factor for migrating to the present area.

The respondents highlighted that the process of migration mostly started with one or two individuals, who after examining the worth of the place for living or for business, job purpose call the others, members of the family.

The labour migrant leaders hold that in case of labor migrants though they first used to come in groups for their jobs, but they are not mostly family relatives, later when they find the place suitable for their families, they used to call their respective family members.

As far as the routes used by the migrants to reach to the present area, the respondents hold that majority of the respondents used on roads for communication as most of the North Eastern states are not yet connected by railways tracks. Air ways is comparatively much more costly hence; only economically well-off families can effort to travel through this medium.

In majority of the cases the eldest of the families who are exposed to better social network and collected enough information about the suitability of the place for settling down or for just migrating there took the decision of migration to decide the destination.

Causes of Migration:

Most of the respondents were of the view that employment opportunities, education, attraction to city centric life, higher standard of living and better income encouraged them to migrate in the destination area together with push factors as natural disasters, crop failure, poverty and unemployment in the place of origin.

Predominantly agricultural rural areas do not provide employment to all the people living there. Even the small scale and cottage industries of the villages fail to provide employment to the entire rural folk. Contrast to this, the present place even though it is a rural area where development is still new but the areas provide vast scope for employment in industries, transport and services, better education and health facilities and overall a security, since in the present origin place political disturbance and interethnic conflicts drive people away from their homes.

Perception of the Natives

Impact of Migration

The respondents have mentioned that due to the rapid migration in the area they can experience better performance of the native school students in the academic field

Thus, setting up of certain schools in the areas by the migrant family has drastically contributed to the literacy and education field in the areas. The migrants they set up education schools because they saw that the place need to established education institutions and also it was their interest and aims to set up education institutions.

Schools students started to take part in the extracurricular activities like going for music class mostly girls and boys participating in the sport field like football, cricket, volleyball and race. Students go for higher studies after completing their schooling outside the states or north east.

Students started choosing different areas of studies of interest and their professions.

The development in education in the area has opened multiple jobs and professions where students from the native communities are engaging.

The respondents also found that the native's students are now more motivated to go out and get job outside their origin place and chase the modern lifestyle.

The respondents told that parents of the native children now have understood the importance of higher education, hence now they need to spend and save more for their children's education mostly by checking their daily consumption patterns.

The respondents also informed that it brings stratification in work when migrants and natives both are working in the same field but in reality many tertiary educated natives work in occupations filled by migrants with secondary and lower educational levels. (As studied by Dustmann, Frattini, and Preston (2013), this phenomenon, known as “occupational downgrading” can seriously bias the wage and employment effects the natives across skills groups.

The respondents also reported that the migration also raised more concern for preserving the native culture and practices. Hence there is more consciousness by the natives to participate in the traditional rituals, festivals so that their identity is not threatened.

Many of the respondents also reported the friendly nature of most of the migrants (where they are also participating with the natives in most of their festivals and get together) coming from diverse parts of North East which helped in the peaceful co-existence.

The respondents have also highlighted the emergence and rising of a new market area in the locality which has open many opportunities for both natives and migrants.

One of the most important developments that the respondents have focussed is the development of small infrastructure of health facility in the area, with the opening of few pharmacies and the arrival and settlement of few doctors in the area who have started practicing from their houses too.

Some of the respondents also highlighted the process gentrification where the natives are slowly pushed by the migrants to the outskirts by buying the land at cheap price from the poor natives.

Overall, the natives have more highlighted the positive sides of the process of migration in the area.

Causes of Migration

The respondents have mostly emphasized on the advantage of good security in the destination places that is attracting the migrants here as the locality is safe and idle for residential purpose.

The respondents have also highlighted the growing employment opportunities in the area that is also responsible for the growing migration in the area, low cost of living is also raised by some of the respondents, availability of cheap plot of land is also one of the most popular reason given by the respondents, closeness to the facilities of city and distance from the crowded city (Guwahati) a reason highlighted by most of the respondents.

Patterns of Migration

Migration is the regular phenomena particularly who are staying in Pillangkata A, Pillangkata B and Maikhuli where these people are coming for jobs, for security, cheap prices of land, cheap rent. It has found that in the study area in all the five village migration is occurring.

When asked about the background of the community who are migrating in the village, most of the respondents reported that they are from Naga (from Nagaland), Mizo, Tripuri, Arunachali and Manipuri communities, Assamese, Bengali and Punjabi, Marwari and the Bihari migrants Hmar, Paite, Anal and Tangkhul (from Manipur), and Khasi, Garo, Nepali, Rabha, Bihari, Missing, Karbi and Bodo.

As reported by the respondents they find migration as a regular process in the area. Mostly in the beginning migration is single for tribal migrants followed by which they call their family members. In case of non-tribal labourers, they mostly come in groups to engage in construction works and stone crushing companies. There is mostly interstate migration from the North east region, followed by intra state migration. There are few cases of outside North east migration.