



University of Madras International Conference

On North East Indian Christians and Migration: Prospects and Challenges



7th (Thursday) and 8th (Friday) December 2023

(Blended Mode-Online / Offline)

Migration is a movement from one place to another within a country or outside of it. People migrate from one place to another for social, political, economic, cultural, or religious reasons. In the last two decades, the Indian population census shows an increase of Northeast migrants in the places like Delhi or the national capital region, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Chennai. 2011 Census of India states that there are 14.9 million in-migrants in the Northeast, which is about 33% of the total population in the region whereas a little over one million out-migrants from Northeast India constitute 2.2% of the region's population. It is found that about 52% of the migrants moving out from the region have originated from urban areas. (R. Lusome, R. B. Bhagat, 2020). Since Northeast India has a large Christian population there has been a great number of Christian migrants from the region in different parts of the country.

'Due to modernization and industrialization coupled with globalization, the cities are growing at a rapid space in terms of infrastructure development, investment, job opportunities, high salaries, stable economy, etc. In the recent years, the information technology and digital system in industrialization and other fields have helped the growth faster than what people ordinarily expected.' (L. Stanislaus & Jose Joseph, 2007). Since most of the migration take place due to economic factors, flow of migrants generally is from economically backward areas to economically advanced and prosperous areas.(A. Datta, 2003). Therefore, great number of people from the North East India are migrating to other regions and cities for education, livelihood, job opportunities, and better life. Many of the the North East Indian migrants particularly the uneducated or less educated or even skilled ones voluntarily leave their place in search of better economic opportunities. The issue of migration in general and lives of migrants in particular do not go without challenges. (Walotemjen, 2018). With an increase in migration from northeast region, many young people from this place began to question their identity, culture, and religion and faced different issues and challenges in the

host cities, and some of them face numerous hardships and even become “strangers in their own land” (Remesh 2012). Moreover, migration also offers new prospects to the North East Indian Christians ; it includes job, education, health care and better collaboration between the Christian denominations. Also, offered a change in their perspective towards multiplicity of religions, belief systems, language, food, culture and customs despite of challenges faced by them such as; stereotyping, unequal wages and treatment at work place, lack of access to accommodation, insecure and unprotected in the host cities.

Objective:

The primary objectives of this conference are:

- to explore and analyze the prospects and challenges faced by North East Christians in India due to migration.
- to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by North East Indian Christian migrants through open conversation and scholarly engagement
- to contribute to the development of informed policies and initiatives the government and other agencies.

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of the migration experiences of North East Christians in India.
- Identification of policy recommendations to address the challenges faced by North East Christian migrants.
- Establishment of academic and community partnerships for future research and initiatives.
- Increased awareness and appreciation of the cultural and religious diversity of the North East region.

The conference intends to cover the following areas or sub-topics and welcome original paper presentations based on objective research:

1. Contribution of the North East Indian Christian Migrants on the Urban Life and Work Places.
2. Issues Facing North East Indian Christian Migrants in Socio-cultural Life.
3. Problems and Prospects of North East Indian Migrant Outflow from Economic Perspective.
4. In-migration and Problem of Unemployment in North East India.
5. North East Indian Christian Migrants and the Issue of Identity.
6. North East Indian Christian Migrants’ Life in Host Societies: A Gender Perspective.
7. North East Indian Christian Migrants’ Life in Multi-religious Context of Host Societies.
8. Stereotyped Image of North East Indian Migrants in the Host Cities.
9. The Role of the NGOs for the North East Indian Migrants.

10. Impact of the North East Indian Christian Migrant Returnees on Local Societies.
11. Impact of the North East Indian Christian Migrant Returnees on Local Churches.
12. Impact of Socio-religious Life and Educational Institutions on North East Indian Christian Migrant Students.

A brief proposal not exceeding 300 words needs to be sent to neconfunom@gmail.com on or before **5th November 2023**. Results on the selected papers will be made known by **10th November 2023**. Selected paper presenters need to send in their final paper by **30th November 2023**. Papers with clarity of thought, cogency of ideas and critical reflections will be considered for publication in an edited volume/peer-reviewed journal post-seminar.

Convenors:

1. **Dr. K. James Ponniah**, Asst. Prof. & Head i/c, Dept. of Christian Studies Univ. of Madras, Chennai
Phone : 044 - 25399619
2. **Dr Songram Basumatary**, Principal, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai – 600010.

Faculty Coordinators:

1. Dr V Ulagaraja, Asst. Prof. (Temporary), Dept. of Christian Studies, Institute of Distance Education, University of Madras, Chennai.
2. Rev. Dr. Wilson Paluri, Department of Religion, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute, Chennai

Organizing Secretary:

Mr Wapangtoshi, Ph.D. Scholar, Dept. of Christian Studies, University of Madras, Chennai
Mobiel No. 9840127998

Registration fees for the Paper Presenters will be as follows

Faculty India and other SAARC countries INR 1,000

Students (Masters and PhD) from India and other SAARC countries INR 500

International scholars other than SAARC countries US \$50

International graduate students other than SAARC countries US \$20

Participation certificate (if needed): INR 100.

Registration Fees through Demand Draft drawn in favour of **‘The Head, Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras’**