

## Foreword

The north-eastern region of India is an economically vibrant and politically active region. Labour force in this region has high literacy and excellent skills. The recent spate of events in the region has caused disturbances and some uncertainty in the labour market and hence there has been significant out-migration from the region. Besides, the labour market in the region had also become more inelastic due to the lack of new economic investment opportunities and therefore the study of the trends and patterns in migration from the north-eastern region became essential. Any such study needs to be based on the secondary as well as primary data and the results have to be carefully interpreted.

It is interesting that this study was perceived and implemented in the Institute. Quite rightly the study was undertaken by Dr U A Shimray and Professor M D Usha Devi of the Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD). The authors collected data based on the census documents. There are no two opinions about the high literacy, active youth culture in the north-eastern region. Present study notes active out-migration of the youth steadily increasing between 1981 and 2001. Interestingly, the rate of female migration is higher and the trend is almost the same across all NE states; but a sudden spurt in out-migration from Nagaland is noted. Family movement, marriage and employment are cited as the main causes. Karnataka seems to be emerging as one of the favoured destinations for the migrants from the NE region. Some of the hypotheses emerging out of this study need to be explored with the support of primary data. In continuation of this project, the authors may undertake the collection of primary data and test the results in the actual situation. The results of the study are quite interesting. I am sure this publication will be useful for researchers and policy makers alike.

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