

Social Networking among the Migrant Street Vendors in Guwahati

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Abstract

In this paper, we examined the role of social network among the migrant street vendors in Guwahati city of Assam in generating employment, determining work process and providing hospitality at a new working place. The paper also highlights the reasons and patterns of migration of street vendors into Guwahati, the premier city of Assam. It reveals that lack of sufficient agricultural production and various unfavourable situations at home compel people to migrate to different cities. Migrant workers from different places of origin, both from within and outside the state of Assam, come to the capital city Guwahati with the hope of getting better working condition and livelihood opportunities. The study finds that there is a well-functioning social network among the migrants which helps the newcomers in getting jobs as well as adapting and sustaining themselves in the big urban market. Additionally, the research tries to address how with the starting of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) processing in Assam many people including the migrant street vendors in Guwahati had to face the brunt of getting notified as D-voters.

Keywords: Street vendors; Urban Guwahati; Migration; Social network; NRC.