

# Analysis on the Patterns, Drivers and Impact of Migration in Tuidam Village, Mizoram

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**Abstract:** *Migration of any types affects the economic, social and political condition of a particular area. Rural migration in Tuidam village is largely caused by the outbreak of insurgency in Mizoram in 1966 and the reallocation of families from Serhmun village in 2017 for the areal extension of Dampa Tiger Reserve by the state government. This paper seeks to study the patterns and impact of migration in Tuidam Village and discusses its drivers, and consequences. The study was conducted by collecting primary and secondary data of Tuidam Village. Key finding of the study is that internal migration inter - state migration is dominant in the study area and most people migrated to the study area in search of better economic life and also to get close to their relatives, friends or known ones. The impact of migration shows both positives and negatives in terms of economic and tensions in the society.*

**Keywords:** migration, rural migration, internal migration, inter - state migration, economic impact

## 1. Introduction

The study examines the migrant population who are not original settlers of the village excluding individuals who were present during the village's formation in 1972 when village councils were administered, as well as those born and raised in the village from the year beyond. Many people migrated to the study area due to the insurgency (1966 - 86) in search of better socioeconomic opportunities. Other conflicts, such as the clash between Mizo and Bru (1995) and various push factors, caused migrants, mainly from the western part of Mizoram, to relocate to the study area.

The village authorities had so far made no official records of the exact number of migrant population and household. Although from personal interviews of the village authorities and people who were present during the official formation of the village in 1972, it could be estimated that almost half of the households, i. e., 150 households can be regarded as migrants.

The paper studies the social and economic conditions of the migrant population by comparing them with their places of origin and previous settlements. It also covers demographic aspects, such as literacy, population structure and composition, and sex and age distribution. Additionally, this study examines economic factors, including the number of households engaged in primary, secondary, and tertiary economic activities.

**Location and extent of the study area:**

Tuidam village is located between 23°93' North latitude and 92°32' East longitude, with an average elevation of approximately 718 m. The area is located in Zawlnuam Tehsil, in the Mamit district in Mizoram, India. It is located 14 km west of the district headquarters, Mamit. 25 km from Zawlnuam. 48 km from the state capital, Aizawl. Tuidam is surrounded by the Mamit Block towards the East, Dasda Block towards the west, the Zawlnuam Block towards the North, Damcherra Block towards the north. Tuidam is bounded by North Tripura district of Tripura state and Bangladesh.

The study area has a tropical climate. It is located in the lower western part of the state, and supports the cultivation of tropical crops such as areca nuts (betel nuts), oil palms, and oranges, which hold significant commercial and economic importance in the village.

### History of the study area

The former settlement of villagers in Tuidam Village was called Tukkalh, located just 1 km away. Tukkalh is a small hamlet with approximately 35 houses. On February 28, 1966, the Mizo National Army (MNA) initiated a revolt against India, sparking Mizoram's insurgency. By 1967, the military and government had begun regrouping villages. At that time, a single road ran south from Silchar in Assam, extending to the southern boundary of the state. On either side of this road lay vast forests, hills, and ravines, scattered across hundreds of villages. The military strategy was to relocate these villages and cluster them along the road (Barman 2013). As a result, in 1969, the hamlet was burned, and the villagers were moved to the Kawrthah regrouping

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center. Between 1972 and 1983, the villagers returned and resettled in the study area, officially establishing Tuidam under village councils. Schools and churches were built starting in 1973, and more people migrated to the village due to ongoing insurgency and other political factors, leading to the formation of the entire village.

The village's name, 'Tuidam,' is derived from 'Tui' (water) and 'Dam' (calm), inspired by a stream that once flowed through the village from the north to the southeast, joining the Teirei river so calmly that it fascinated the locals. This tranquil river was believed to be the source of the village name. Although the river is no longer visible due to damming, which has created several lakes in the village, these lakes have become valuable for fisheries.

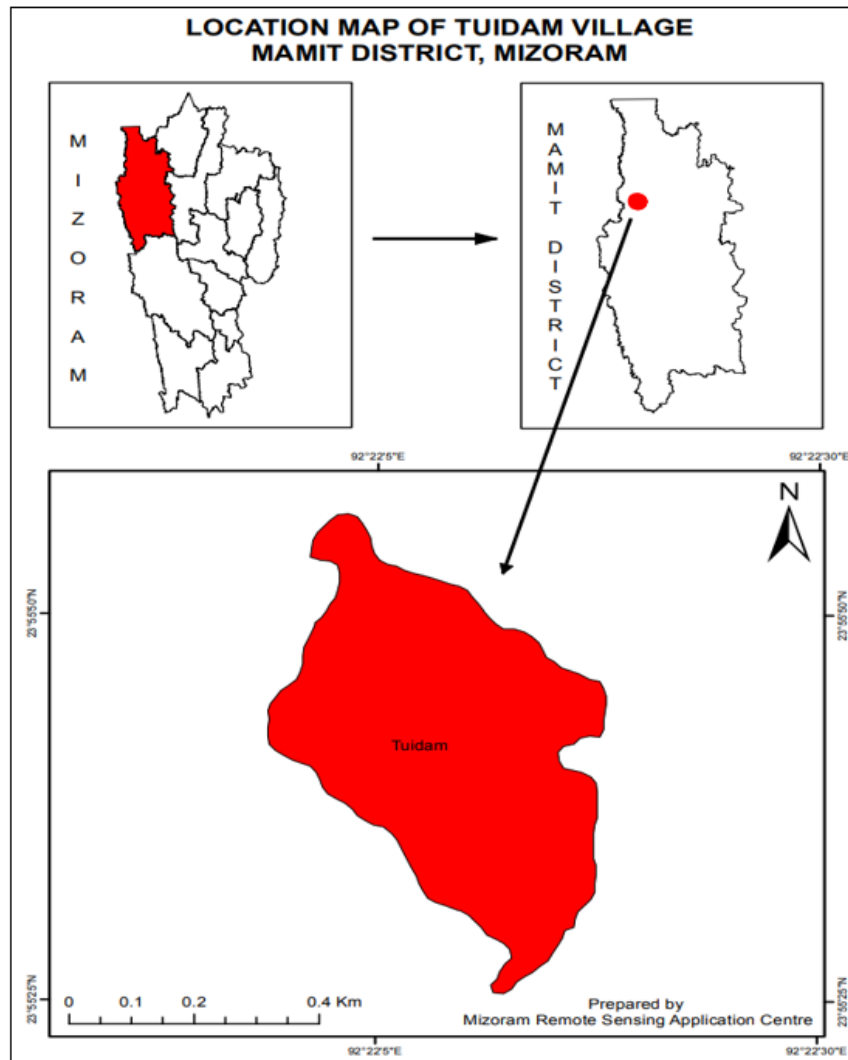


Figure 1: Location map of Tuidam village

**Demography**

According to the State Census 2011, the total population of Tuidam village is 1695, out of which 870 are male and 825 are female. The total number of households is 335. People living in Tuidam depend on various skills. There are 803 workers, of which 435 are men and 368 are women. About 549 people are dependent on agricultural farming, out of which 294 are men and 255 are women. Ninety seven (97) persons comprising 53 men and 44 women, worked on agricultural land as labour in Tuidam village. Out of the total population 175 migrants are taken as sample. Out of total sample population male constitutes 55.43% and 44.57% is constituted by female. The following table shows the total number of population of the sample collected in the study area.

**Table 1:** Number of population

Location	Male	Female	Total	% of male	% of female
Venglun	37	27	64	57.81%	42.19%
Vengchhak	36	29	65	55.38%	44.62%
Vengthlang	24	22	46	52.17%	47.83%

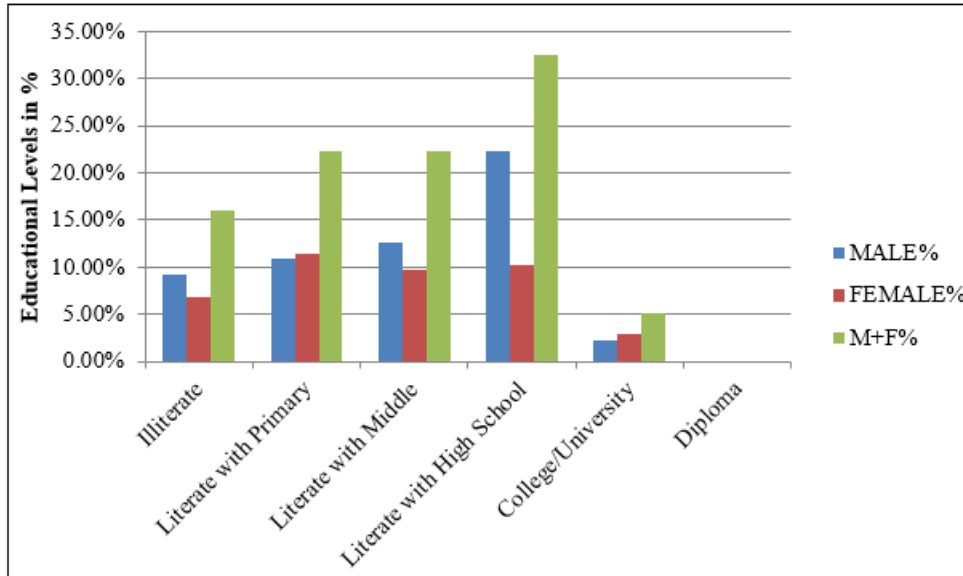
Source: Field Survey, 2022

In Tuidam village, the population of children age 0 - 6 is 248, which makes up 14.63 % of the village's total population. The child Sex Ratio for the Tuidam as per census was 984, higher than the Mizoram average of 970. According to the constitution of India and the Panchyati Raaj Act, Tuidam village is administrated by Sarpanch (Head of Village), who is an elected representative of the village. The literacy percentage from the sample study is 82.28%. Male literate constitutes 48% while female literacy rate is 34.28%. The following table shows the distribution of education level in the study area: -

**Table 2:** Distribution of Educational Level

Educational Level	Male%	Female%	M+F%
Illiterate	9.14%	6.85%	15.99%
Literate with Primary	10.85%	11.43%	22.28%
Literate with Middle	12.57%	9.71%	22.28%
Literate with High School	22.28%	10.28%	32.56%
College/University	2.28%	2.85%	5.13%
Diploma	Nil	Nil	

Source: Field Survey 2022



**Figure 2:** Literacy level in percentage

From the above diagram, it can be seen that the number of illiterate constitute 15.99%. High school level constitutes the highest percentage with 32.56% followed by middle and primary school constituting both 22.28%, college/university constitutes 5.13%. Person with any diploma course is absent among the migrants. The literacy rate of male and female is almost equal in every levels education.

**Age sex composition**

The composition of a population is determined by the number or proportion of males and female in each category

**Table 3:** Age - sex distribution

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	% of male	% of female	% total
0 - 10	22	15	37	59.45	40.54	21.14
11 - 20	18	9	27	66.66	52.94	15.42
21 - 30	23	14	37	62.16	37.84	21.14
31 - 40	14	15	29	48.27	51.72	16.57
41 - 50	6	6	12	50	50	6.85
51 - 60	9	6	15	60	40	8.57
61 - 70	8	8	16	50	50	9.14
71 - 80	0	1	1	0	100	0.57
81 - 90	0	0	0	0	0	0
91 - 100	1	0	1	1	0	0.57

Source: Field Survey, 2022

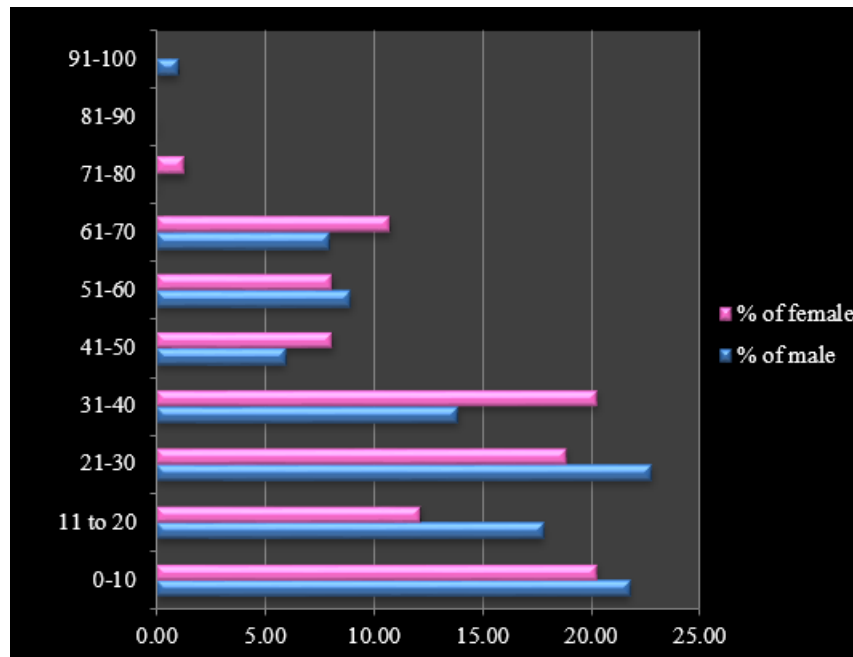


Figure 3: Age sex bar

The above age - sex bar shows that the highest percentage is found in the age group of both 0 - 10 and 20 - 30 constituting 21.14%. It can be seen that the male and female population is rapidly declining from the age 41. The 74% of the population belongs to the age group of 0 - 40, and the rest 26% is distributed in the age group of 41 - 100. The fact that the age group 21 - 40 constitutes about 37% of the migrant population indicates high working population among the migrants which is an important factor in increasing the rate of economic development in Tuidam village.

## 2. Methodology

This study relied on the collection of primary and secondary data. To gather primary data, a non - probability method was performed, focusing on the current migrants within the study area. A sample size of 20% was selected from the migrant population for further empirical and descriptive statistical analysis. Primary methods such as personal interviews and household questionnaires also inculcated data collection. For secondary sources, published books, journals, articles, the Internet, and souvenirs were taken into consideration.

Various methods and techniques have been employed in the calculation and tabulation of data pertaining to demography, educational status, migration patterns, occupational structure, and economic structure. The methods employed are briefly described as follows:

### 1) Demographic Structure.

#### a) Sex ratio:

The sex ratio is the ratio of males to females in a population. The sex ratio of each village council in the study area is determined by the following formulae -

$$\frac{\text{Total number of male} \times 100}{\text{Total number of female}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Total number of male}}{\text{Total number of female}} \times 100$$

#### b) Occupational structure

The occupational structure is tabulated based on the number of workforce engaged in different activities.

The workers in each activity were classified as primary, secondary, or tertiary. Workers of different activities are grouped into their respective occupation and their percentage to the total workers are calculated as under -

$$\frac{\text{No of workers engaged in the activity} \times 100}{\text{Total workers}}$$

### c) Literacy and Education

To calculate literacy and levels of education, the entire population was divided into two categories: literate and illiterate. The literate population was further subdivided into the following five groups:

- 1) Primary school educated population.
- 2) Middle school educated population.
- 3) High - school - educated population.
- 4) College/university - educated population.
- 5) Diploma.

The literate population has been determined as -

$$\frac{\text{Number of literate in the sample} \times 100}{\text{Total sample population}}$$

d) Sample size:

The total number of households in the study area according to the 2011 census was 335, of which 150 households were considered to be migrant households, and 30 households were taken as samples from the total migrant households.

### 2) Economic Structure –

#### a) Income Generation

The total income is in monetary terms from these sources and is calculated separately to obtain the total annual income generated by households taken from the samples. The percentage of each of the annual income generated from different sources is calculated by using the following formula -

$$\frac{\text{Annual income from the sources} \times 100}{\text{Total annual income}}$$

3) Migration

It is customary to classify the techniques used for measuring or estimating internal migration into two categories-

- a) Direct techniques.
- b) The indirect technique.

Direct techniques were performed by asking questions required for direct observation to the subjects. Questions on the following items provide information for direct estimation of migration movements: the place of the birth of the person or the duration of stay of a person at the present place of residence. The important advantage of the data on the place of last residence in the study of migration is that it reflects a directional movement from the place of origin to the destination.

The indirect technique of estimating migration can be estimated without special questions; the extent of migration can be estimated from the total counts and the available age - sex distribution of the population.

Results and Discussion

It is very important to observe the economic condition of the migrants for understanding the impacts of migrant workers in the area. Economic activities include any activity that deals with the producing, distributing, or utilizing of products or services. Different parameters such as occupational structure, workforce, income of the family and expenditure have been used to show the influence of the migrant population in the economy of the village. From the collected data within the study area there are no homeless families and 96.66% of households lived in their own residence on their own land that ranges from 24 - 150sq feet large.

The migrants working in the primary sectors are mostly engaged with jhum cultivations, agriculture, plantation and piggery. Secondary activities are concerned mainly with carpentry, construction, and other types of labouring. Within the tertiary sector, there are workers engaged in commercial activities and different kinds of services.

Table 4: Occupational Structure in Percentage

Name of occupation	Male%	Female%	Total%
Primary	23.16	21.25	22.29
Secondary	30.53	12.5	22.29
Tertiary	6.32	5	5.71
Non - Workers	1.5	11.25	5.71
Non - workers below 6yrs/ above 60 yrs	13.68	17.5	15.43
Students	25.26	32.5	28.57

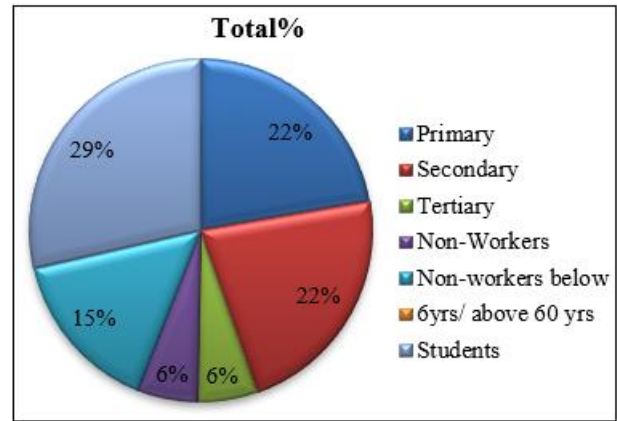


Figure 4: Occupational Pattern of Tuidam Village

From the above table, it can be seen that secondary activities are most common among the male population occupying 22.29%, and is the same for primary activities in total population since it is the fabric of rural society. It is also evident that the non - working population among the male is extremely low occupying only 1.5% of the total population while female non - workers occupied 11.25% as many females have to operate the household chores and considered themselves as non - workers.

The male percentage is high in the secondary activities while in primary activities, both male and female are evenly involved. Most workers are daily labourers, earning income from wages, working for other employers on construction, agricultural field, etc. Shifting cultivation is also commonly practiced and most of the crops they get from this cultivation are maize, millets, rice, pumpkin, chillies, melons and bamboo sprouts. In fact, these crops merely contributed to their income since most of the crops were also yield by other families during the seasons. Since the area having tropical type of climate which is ideal for yielding oranges, areca nut, oil palms, ginger and turmeric from which families make a large amount of income. Only 5.71% of the population are engaged in tertiary activities.

The workforce of the study area comprises 80.73% of the total population in which the female working population out of the total working population is 35.23% and male occupying 64.77% of the working population. High percentage of workforce among the migrants can result in positive economic growth in the study area.

Table 5: Workforce

Workers		Total	% of male to total workers	% of female to total workers	% of total workers to total population
Male	Female				
57	31	88	64.77	35.23	50.29

Source Field Survey, 2022

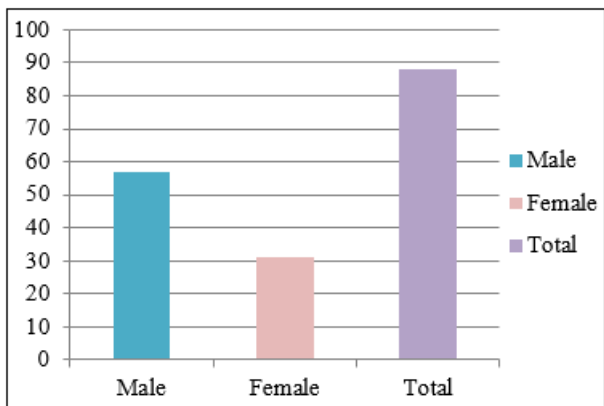


Figure 5: Workforce population of Tuidam village

The study area's total annual income is Rs.60, 90, 000. The average yearly income is Rs.2, 03, 000/-. The low average income of the area can be attributed to the higher number of low - income households in the study area. In other words, the study area's huge income disparity highlights the migrants' economic inequities.

Families are divided into seven occupational divisions based on how the migrants earn their living. Wages made up 41.14% of total revenue, which is primarily obtained on a

daily basis when someone needs men to work for a short amount of time. This is also the most popular activity among migrants. The total annual income from fixed salary is Rs.16, 68, 000, which is 27.39% of the total income of the households. This is followed by income from settled agriculture, retail (any kind of commercial activity, grocery, clothes, tailoring, vegetables, etc.), rent from home, dairy/livestock/piggery, and other sources, in that order. Families' income distribution is displayed in the following table.

Table 6: Family Income

S No	Occupation	Annual Income (in Rs.)	Annual Income (in percentage)
1	From fixed salary	1668000	27.39
2	From wages	2505200	41.14
3	From dairy/ live - stock/ piggery	120000	1.97
4	Rent from house	138000	2.27
5	From Shop	1106000	18.16
6	From settled agriculture	450000	7.39
7	Any Other	102800	1.69

Source Field Survey, 2022

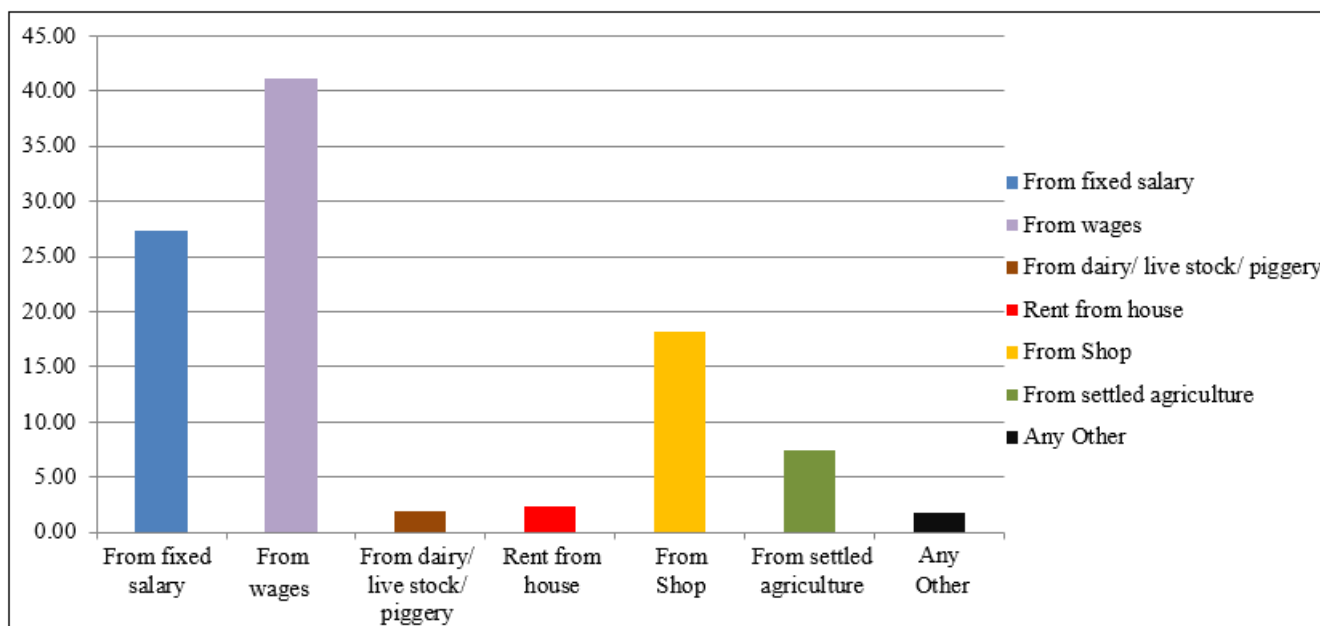


Figure 6: Sources of Income in Tuidam Village

**Migration Pattern**

The drivers of migration in Tuidam Village are mostly political, social security and pursue of better standards of living compared to their previous place of residence.

**Factors of migration**

1) Economic factors: The chance of migration being an economic factor is very low in small villages such as the study area. Most of the people migrated from rural to rural areas i. e. from their place of origin to Tuidam village, but still they consider that their economic condition is better than their previous place of residence. The reason is that they along with their families settled and maintained stability in the society which possibly leads to economic improvement.

2) Political factors: Political factors play an important role in migration in the study area. People migrated to seek asylum in other areas due to the outbreak of insurgency in 1966. Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Project Tiger" the government of Mizoram took the initiative to extent the areal extent of Dampa Tiger Reserve; as such many families were relocated from Serhmun village in 2017 which is only about 25 kilometers from Tuidam village. A number of refugees' fleet to the study area for the sake of their safety and the migration trend goes on, as they wanted to start a new life in Tuidam village.

3) Miscellaneous Factors: Other factors such as the presence of relatives and friends in the study area, closeness of cultural contacts, cultural diversity, great vitality, and individual attitudes are also associated with

migration. Most of the migrants in the study area migrated to get close to their relatives, friends or known ones.

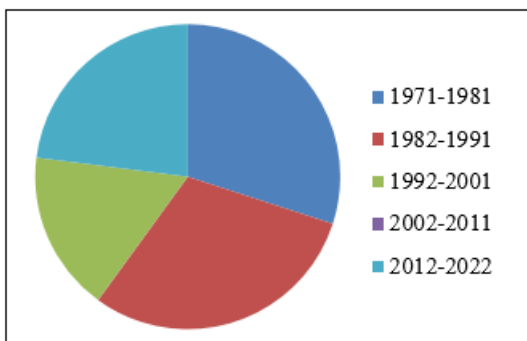
**Temporal analysis of migration**

The temporal analysis of the migrants describe the decadal variation in the number of migrants population between 1971 - 1981, 1981 - 1991, 1991 - 2001 and beyond 2001. According to the local village authorities and senior citizens, Tuidam village was officially formed into a village after the villagers returned from Kawrthah grouping center, as they were grouped to Kawrthah village and shifted their residence during the outbreak of insurgency in 1966.

During 1971 - 1981 refugees from Kawrthah, Tripura (Sakhan, Behliangchhip, Vaisam, Bangla) migrated to Tuidam as they are force to leave their place of origin due to political factor and moved to the study area in search of safety, social harmony and better economic life. And during the period of 1981 - 1991, 30% of total migrant population migrated from Tripura (Jampui, Tualsen), Zawlpui, Bangladesh (Lungtian) to Tuidam village. In 1991 - 2001, due to the clash between Mizos and Brus in Tripura several families (17%) migrated to Tuidam village where their known ones already migrated in the past years. The migration from 2001 till 2022 (23%) is mainly due to the reallocation of the people Serhmun village which is only 25km from Tuidam village. Other factors being migrants migrating due to change of residence either because of search of jobs or marriage.

**Table 7:** Period of migration in percentage, Source: Field Survey, 2022

Year	Total no. of household	% Total
1971 - 1981	9	30
1981 - 1991	9	30
1991 - 2001	5	17
After 2001	7	23



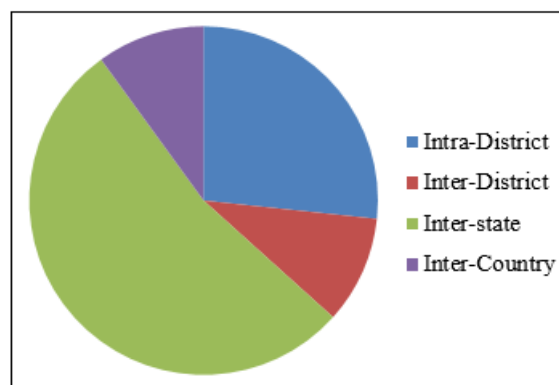
**Figure 7:** Period of Migration

**Pattern of migration**

The pattern of migration in the study area is broadly grouped into intra - district, inter - district, inter - state and international. Intra - district refers to the migration within the same district, inter - district occurs between districts, interstate occurs between different states and lastly inter - country is the migration between a country and a country. The pattern or streams of migration in Tuidam village is shown in the following table.

**Table 8:** Stream of migration, Source: Field Survey, 2022

Distance	No. of household	% of total household
Intra - District	8	26.67
Inter - District	3	10.00
Inter - state	16	53.33
International	3	10.00



**Figure 8:** Stream of Migration

26.67% of migrants that are classified as intra - districts mainly migrated from Tumpanglui, Serhmun and Kawrthah, with an average distance of 15km. Inter - district migration is mainly from Zawlpui constituting 10% of the total migrants which is around 335km from Tuidam village. Inter - state migration constituted 53.33% of migration where people migrated from different villages of Tripura with an average distance of 130 km. Tuidam village's close proximity to Tripura leads to poly - culturalism, which strengthens interpersonal bonds and explains the high rate of migration from Tripura. 10% of International migration is from Bangladesh, which is not very far from the village covering an average distance of 100km.

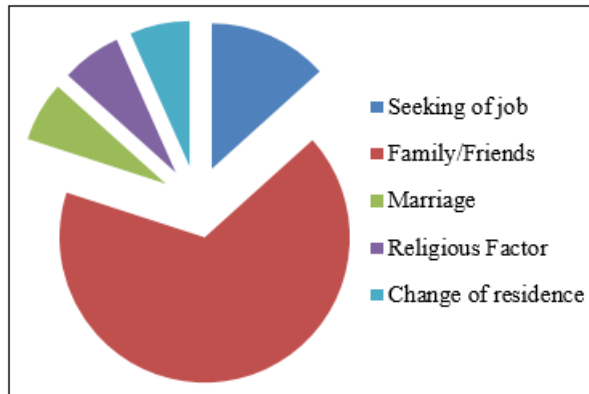
Due to insurgency in 1966 and the conflict between the Brus and Mizo in 1991, 60% of the people migrated to Tuidam between 1971 and 1991. In addition to this it is important to find out why migrants choose Tuidam village as their destination. "Choices" are often very limited. Rarely migrants and refugees select a place of travel based on their knowledge of the country's immigration laws, asylum procedures, or level of financial assistance. Rather, a migrant's destination is decided by family, friends, people traffickers, and a healthy dose of luck (MacGregor 2019).

In the study, 66.67% of the migrants select Tuidam village because their family, friends were already residing there or that they were moving altogether along with their neighbours. Since, in the society it is very important to maintain a good connection with people as a community especially for migrants. 13.33% of the migrants choose the study area in search of jobs as the village provides an ideal condition for practicing agricultural activities which is a great advantage for earning a livelihood. The other reasons like marriage, religious factor and change of residence occupies 16.67%. The reason for selecting the present residence is shown in the table:

**Table 9:** Reasons for selecting present residence

Purpose	No. of household	% of household
Seeking of job	4	13.33
Family/Friends	20	66.67
Marriage	2	6.67
Religious Factor	2	6.67
Change of residence	2	6.67

Source: Field Survey, 2022

**Figure 9:** Reasons for selecting present residence

### Consequences of migration

Migration is an important factor, which influence population change. Unlike birth and death, migration is primarily the outcome of intentional actions. People migrate to improve their living condition. A high rate of migration thus reflects significant interregional disparities in either the rate of expansion of economic activities or population growth or both (Kanagaraj et al., 2015). According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, rural migration, especially out - migration, can have a significant impact on poverty, food security and nutrition, and rural development. It can also have an impact on rural households, agricultural output, and the larger rural economy. The impacts of migration are felt both in migrants' areas of origin and in their areas of destination.

Migration has both Positive and Negative implications in the study area.

### Positive

1) Expanding the Labour Market: As migrants raise consumer demand for specific goods and services, there is a corresponding increase in the need for labour. In other words, it makes it more competitive for jobs already held in specific occupational sectors, but it also has the potential to generate new employment. The degree to which immigrants possess skills that either complement or replace those of current workers will determine the immediate short - term consequences of immigration on wages or employment. Alternatively, if the abilities of the newcomers complement those of the current workforce, then productivity increases for all workers, which should raise salaries for current employees. Migrants are generally anticipated to compete more with workers in low - skilled occupations because the skills required for those jobs are easier to attain and are less specialised. Immigration can increase the labour supply as well as the labour demand, which will lead to the creation of new jobs. This is due to the fact that there is no set amount of jobs in the economy—

a concept known as the "lump of labour misconception." The demand for goods and services is increased by migrants, and employers may increase production in sectors where migrant labour is used (Borjas 1995). The occupational structure of the migrants in the study area shows that about 22% of migrants contributed to the labour market which benefited both the labourers and the employers.

- 2) Increased Cultural Diversity: Culture is a broad term that encompasses beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, and overall can be understood as our "way of being". Multiculturalism is defined by the Encyclopedia Britannica as, "the view that cultures, races, and ethnicities, particularly those of minority groups, deserve special acknowledgment of their differences within a dominant political culture." With the presence of diverse cultures in a the study area, the settlers of Tuidam village recognized that the people residing in the study area respect each other's differences, acknowledging that all cultural expressions are valid and empowering diverse groups to contribute in different ways.
- 3) Growth of Local Economy: Migrants by performing each job increases the economy by boosting the working age population. Rural areas are less crowded than urban areas, when a large amount of migrants move into these places, the economy rises by contributing to employment activities. In rural areas, it is easier to practice agricultural activities, plantation of crops, piggery, dairy farming and other primary activities even though the population is less skilled or uneducated. The majority of the migrants assumed that they had somewhat improved their standard of living. They had higher incomes, better jobs, greater access to healthcare and educational resources, better food and nutrition, assets, and a higher standard of living.

### Negative

- 1) Increase Pressure on Natural Resources: The more the people migrate, the more the consumption of natural resources. In the study area, many people practice jhum cultivation (shifting cultivation) associated with deforestation, burning of forest increase pollution and greenhouse gas emission. The burning of secondary vegetation in shifting cultivation releases CO<sub>2</sub> and other trace gases to the atmosphere. Deforestation can lead to decrease groundwater recharge, and consequently, decrease ground water recharge which is important for ecosystem sustainability.
- 2) Racial Tensions and Discrimination: The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) stated that throughout the world, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced persons are the victims of racial discrimination, racist attacks, xenophobia and ethnic intolerance. Many indigenous tribe scattered over the Mamit district and the study area in particular, as a result, they added to the migrant population. Racial discrimination sometimes causes inequalities in indigenous health status, including physical, social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing.



### 3. Conclusion

The findings show that most migrants typically come from economically disadvantaged and politically unstable backgrounds and experience difficult lives in their previous place of residence. They have to move to a new place and start over, which presents several challenges and opportunity as well. According to this study, migration is a result of push and pulls factors. Many people migrated to the study area to seek asylum. People also migrated to the study area as they pursue better standard of living when compared to their previous place of residence.

The migrants found here originated from rural areas of different places. Inter - state migration is most commonly found constituting 53.33% where people migrate from different villages of Tripura travelling an average distance of 130 kms. International migration occurs at 10% from Bangladesh. According to the migrants, when it comes to choosing a destination it always depend on the native people, they prefer to settle where they have more family and friends. Although only 13.66% of the total migrants were there seeking better employment opportunities, in comparing their economic condition before and after the migration, only 30% of the families stated that it became worst. Mainly because they were forced to leave their land, farms and properties in their previous homes due to push factors and it became very difficult to restart a living especially if they were unskilled and uneducated, with no families and friends.

From 1971 - 2001 people migrated to Tuidam due to political, economic and social factors as they are either pushed from their previous place of residence or pulled to the study area in the hope of better standard of living. Migration from 2001 and beyond is mainly due to relocation of the whole village of Serhmun which is only 25km from Tuidam village while other factors are due to their change of residence either in search of jobs or marriage.

Both primary and secondary activities are prevalent across the migrant population as a whole because they form the foundation of rural life, particularly among men who make up 22.29% of the population. It is also clear that there are very few men who are unemployed, making up only 1.5% of the overall population, compared to 11.25% of women, who are mostly deemed non - workers because they are engaged in household chores. The study area's economy experiences a positive shift due to a high workforce percentage.

From the above discussion it may be concluded that migration affects the economic, social and political condition of a particular area. Migration was largely caused by the outbreak of insurgency in 1966. People choose to migrate to places that are close but familiar to them. Migrants took a huge part in transferring manpower and skills and it is necessary to improve the coordination of migration.

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