

HIGHER EDUCATION AND MIGRANTS IN MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION: AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Every metropolitan region attracts many people due to ample economic and educational opportunities. People migrate with high aspirations, but find it dissatisfying in most of the cases. Since education is the most basic of all, it needs to be developed in the best way possible so that rural migrants can be supported, and the required skills can be imparted in them. The gap can be filled only after identifying the spatial diversity and perception of people in the area under study. The present paper tries to examine the gap in higher education infrastructure between the core and the periphery, to understand the educational status of the migrants and their perception about the existing higher education infrastructure in Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The results show a spatial diversity in the number of higher education institutions between the core and periphery, reveals poor education status of the migrants and overall dissatisfaction with higher education infrastructure. Inclusive planning is the only way out to the identified problem, and it can be reduced with the help of planners and policy makers.

Keywords: *Dissatisfaction, higher education, metropolitan region, migrants, spatial diversity*

Introduction

Any metropolitan region develops mainly due to the availability of unending economic opportunities and resultant immigration of people on a very large scale. Mumbai Metropolitan Region also developed in the same way. The city of Mumbai had ample economic opportunities for all sections of the society and it eventually expanded to engulf its surrounding areas to become a metropolis and then a metropolitan region. Like every aspect has two coins, the expansion of Mumbai also brought in certain advantages and disadvantages. On one hand where the dream city fulfilled aspirations of many, it could not withstand the expectations of many. This includes aspects like equal economic opportunities, better quality of life, infrastructure- health, education, administrative, transport and other factors related to social and political spheres. The

present research work is an attempt to understand the discontent of the highly aspiring immigrants with higher education in the region so that the gaps can be filled in time.

Review of Literature

(UNESCO, 2018) Inclusion of immigrants in the education system is not only a global challenge but also a local challenge for urban systems where unskilled people migrate from rural areas in search of jobs but are unable sustain due to insufficient skills. Hence, policies must be developed to include this section of the society in higher education system. (Chandrashekhar and Sharma, 2014) India witnesses a massive migration within and between its states due to two major reasons viz. education and employment. A large number of youths migrates to other parts of the country in search of better higher education opportunities. In

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