

A STUDY ON INCLUSION STRATEGIES FOR MIGRANT STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN MUMBAI

□ Sindhu Menon*
Sarita Nair**

ABSTRACT

Mumbai is not just a city of dreams for many, it is also an educational hub boasting of hundreds of educational institutions of high repute. This study was undertaken to understand issues faced by migrant students in Mumbai. It was found that cost of living and accommodation facilities were the major issues which the students face. The percentage of migrant students from north and east India were more compared to southern states. Mumbai being a commercial capital also has better job opportunities compared to few other states. The quality of education and wide range of programs in Mumbai was a drawing factor for the students. Additional support from teachers and fellow classmates could help the students cope with their academics and their personal problems. The study suggests few inclusive strategies which educational institutions could adopt for inclusion of migrant students into the education system in Mumbai so that the cultural diversity of the classroom could also be enhanced.

Keywords: Cultural diversity, higher education, higher educational institutions, inclusion strategies, migrant students

Introduction

Mumbai is not just a city of dreams for many, it is also an educational hub boasting of hundreds of educational institutions of high repute. Over the years, its schools, colleges and universities have been enticing students from all over India and abroad to experience its academic life. Tempted by the higher quality of education and a vibrant job market in Mumbai as compared to their hometowns along with the desire to assimilate oneself into Mumbai culture, thousands of students flock to Mumbai from other cities, states and even other countries. The Census 2011 data shows that Mumbai had around 47 lakh inter-state migrants and 43 lakh intra-state migrants. (www.indianexpress.com). The influx of migrants has, no doubt, put pressure on the resources and infrastructure of an already packed city of Mumbai, however the focus of this paper is to study

the impact of migration on the students who suddenly find themselves in a newer, bigger city with a sometimes radically different education system, a different culture, a different lifestyle. Migrating to Mumbai brings with it its own share of problems and adjustment issues for the migrant students.

Review of literature

Agarwal, Gupta, and Garg (2015) analysed the student housing industry with respect to options such as rented flats, paying guest accommodation and hostels in three major educational hubs of India viz. Pune, Delhi-NCR and Chennai. Since universities and colleges are unable to provide accommodation to the growing influx of students from other cities, the time is ripe for private investment in this sector especially considering the low risk and regular demand.

*Asst. Professor, Nagindas Khandwala College, Malad.
**Faculty, NASM Academy of Sports Management, Malad.