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## Migration and Settlement: A Case Study of Zeme Naga of Northeast India

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### Abstract

The most common reason for the change of residence that leads to migration in the early part of civilization is connected to either scarcity of food or conflict with other communities. The Zeme Naga community in Northeast India may be studied from the above perspective as its history is the story of displacement from their place of origin and subsequent settlement in different areas of the region. The oral history of Zeme Naga has plenty of such references of displacement due to their conflict with other tribes. But unlike most other ethnic communities, the reason for migration of the Zeme people from one place to another is connected with their traditional custom and practice. It is not limited to the immediate reason of traditional practice of shifting cultivation, rather to the concept and practice of establishing a new settlement. This paper will study traditional practice of the Zeme Naga for establishment of new settlement and how it is involved with a unique process by accomplishing many rites and rituals and in the process gives a new understanding of migration issue.

**Keywords:** Migration, Settlement, Zeme Naga, Custom, Tradition.