





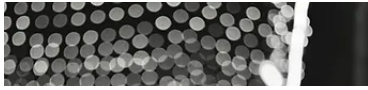


harassment, assault, and rape. The silencing of women's voices due to patriarchal structures and power domination is exacerbated in states like Manipur, where women lack freedom and face violence. In Manipur, as in many other conflict zones, women's freedom and agency are curtailed, and they often lack the ability to speak out against violence. The vulnerability of migrant Kuki women has made them targets for assault. Tragically, this incident is not an isolated one: hospital nurses and workers have also been targeted by the Meitei community. The economic need to migrate compels indigenous women to leave their homes, only to face such brutal fates. They are subjected to gruesome violence based on their identity and ethnicity. In Manipur, as in many other conflict zones, women's freedom and agency are curtailed, and they often lack the ability to speak out against violence. The silencing of women's voices, driven by power dynamics, perpetuates their victimisation and hinders efforts to address the issue effectively. The people of the north-eastern regions are often judged based on their ethnicity and appearances. The state is marked by complex political changes and interactions among various ethnic communities, leading to ethnic tensions and brutal violence. Ongoing conflicts and violence have created an atmosphere of insecurity and fear, affecting peoples' mental and physical well-being.

Ethnic tensions between different communities, such as the Nagas, the Kukis, and the Meiteis, have caused the loss of lives and the displacement of communities. Unfortunately, women bear the brunt of these conflicts due to exclusion, marginalisation, and displacement. It is especially challenging for women to relocate because they are often the primary caregivers in their families, making them victims of inevitable loss. The Manipur violence of May 2023 stands as a stark reminder of the power dynamics at play in the region and the vulnerability of women, especially those from minority communities. Addressing these issues is crucial for the well-being and safety of all individuals in the north-eastern states. It is imperative to challenge stereotypes, promote gender equality, and foster an environment of security and justice for everyone.



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