

“Revolution Might Be a Start”: Gender Norm Change Among Chin Refugees in Mizoram, India

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Abstract

This paper examines how gender norms are negotiated and reshaped among Chin refugees in Mizoram, India, in the context of Myanmar’s post-coup political upheaval. Drawing on qualitative research with displaced Chin communities, the study explores whether revolutionary political discourse translates into shifts in everyday expectations around masculinity, femininity, family authority, and community leadership. The research considers how displacement destabilizes traditional structures while simultaneously reinforcing certain patriarchal norms. It asks whether the language of revolution creates space for renegotiating gender relations or whether material precarity and survival pressures limit transformative change. By situating refugee experiences within broader debates on gender and political transition, the paper contributes to discussions on displacement, social transformation, and gendered power relations in borderland contexts.