

Displacement, Relief Governance And Humanitarian Response During The Manipur Crisis

Dr. Thounaojam Mani Singh

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Hill College, Tadubi, Senapati District,
Manipur.

L. Tombi Singh

Professor, Former H.O.D. Economics & Dean of Social Science,
Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal, Manipur.

ABSTRACT

The Manipur crisis has led to high rates of human displacement within the country which creates an inequality that results in bringing out the socio-political divide in the region that questions the governance and humanitarian systems. The paper will examine the trend, scale and socio-economic impact of displacement of the crisis and more specifically within communities the affected populations, the demographic impact and disruption of livelihood in the long term. It also looks at how relief governance structures can be effective and effective in addressing internally displaced persons (IDPs), such as the role of the state, local government and the security forces in the process as well as issues of coordination, policy implementation and allocation of resources. In addition, the paper will also evaluate the humanitarian response efforts applied by the government agencies, civil society organizations and also assess the non-governmental organizations and assess their appropriateness, inclusivity and overall contribution towards the mitigation and rehabilitation of crisis. In the synthesis approach to the study of governance and humanitarian evaluation, the research will yield contribution towards better understanding of the institutional readiness, failure of responses and the general implications of displacement in the context of social stability, human security and long term recovery in the conflict affected regions..

Keywords: Internal Displacement, Relief Governance, Humanitarian Response, Conflict-Induced Migration, Crisis Management and Rehabilitation

1. INTRODUCTION

The crisis in Manipur has become the one of the most significant examples of civil war and human sufferings in the contemporary India. Violence that ensued due to pre existing ethnic tension, land conflict, identity conflict and representation in political decision making led to destruction of property, death of people and engulfed mass displacement of innocent citizens. It displaced thousands of the people and they sought refuge in relief camps, in addition to community halls and other adjacent districts and turned the state of affairs into a multi-dimensional humanitarian crisis. The crisis not only brought to the fore a weak inter-community relations but also brought to the fore the structural governance issues of managing a displacement brought about by conflict.

Displacement has had a devastating social-economic and psychological effect on people in the example of Manipur crisis. Families were hit by the livelihood system, education, accessibility to health care facilities, and social networks, women, children, and the aged were even more susceptible. This mass movement in a very brief period provoked tremendous pressure on the

local infrastructure and administration systems, and fundamental issues were once again raised concerning the preparedness, coordination, and the appropriateness of institutional response systems. It is important to know the trends and impacts of displacement to assess the short-term relief aid and rehabilitation opportunities in the future.

It is against this backdrop that the idea of relief governance and humanitarian response comes into the limelight in as far as evaluation of crisis management is concerned. It is the quality of the state authorities, the local government, the security services and the humanitarian agencies to offer help, to ensure safety and to facilitate the rehabilitation process that confines the factors not only of the short term stability but also the long term outcome of the peace building. This paper shall therefore look into discriminatory dynamics of displacement, efficacy of relief governance platforms, and review inclusiveness and effectiveness of humanitarian intervention in the Manipur crisis which shall contribute to the general discussion of conflict management, human security, and resilient governance of weak states.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Manuvie (2023) discussed the politics of displacement government in the larger framework of climate migrants and citizenship in India. The research considered the response of the state institutions to the internal displacement and described the gaps in the legal awareness of the problem, policy and strategy of rehabilitation coordination. It alleged the existence of a tendency towards governance responses to the political discourses of belonging and non-belonging, which dictated the accessibility of relief supplies and state protection. The reading provided a theoretical perspective of the role played by institutional arrangements to address displacement and introduce affective groups into the practice of administration and citizenship. **Pautunthang (2025)** studied the role ethnic affiliation plays in the reception of refugees through a comparative analysis of Zomi refugees in Manipur and Mizoram. As it was depicted in the study, ethnic solidarity played a very strong role in informal support and social accommodation tendencies in the host societies. It determined that the more ethnic solidarity enhanced community based provision systems and made overall success of the first rehabilitation on displaced communities successful. The paper has identified the significance of identity-based networks in defining the practice of humanitarian reception and local governance response during crisis.

Modarpha (2024) examined the issue of Myanmar refugees and the subsequent identity crisis in Manipur taking into consideration socio-political issue of the cross-border displacement problem. The article interpreted the impact of the reflections of the refugees on an already existing ethnic tension in the scenario and the way it caused more insecurity and political polarization. It raised the predicament of the government and the problem of choices between humanitarianism and matters of the regional stability and identity politics. The findings revealed that the migration of refugees augmented the complexity of the governance system and deteriorated the association between the administration and the society in the state.

Shaikh (2024) critically reflected the ethnic crisis and problem of governance in Manipur concerning administrative response to conflict and displacement. The research determined the institutional preparedness, lack of coordination and policy constraints during crisis of turmoil

and humanitarian suffering. It alleged that the development of late intervention and fragmented systems of governing weakened relief services and exposed individuals to lack of faith toward the state apparatuses. The study concluded that additional reformation of the inclusive government and the augmented attempts to sustain the crisis management systems were needed to sustain the displaced and humanitarian crisis scenarios.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was both systematic and interdisciplinary since it examined the relief governance, humanitarian and displacement to the crisis in Manipur. Qualitative and quantitative approaches were used as a methodology to ensure that the socio-economic impact of displacement, institutional efficacy and humanitarian interventions would be fully depicted. The research aimed at coming up with neutral evidences that would be applicable in policy and academic issues using both primary and secondary sources of information.

a. Research Design

The study was a descriptive and analytical design. The descriptive section helped to tell the story, the scale, tendencies, and socio-economic impacts of the displacement, and the analytical one was about the mechanisms and systems of governance and strategies of the humanitarian response. The mixed-method approach was a profitable way of capturing both the statistical tendencies and experience lives of the afflicted parties of people. This design enabled to assess institutional performance as well as crisis management structures in an organized manner.

b. Population and Study Area

The study population was composed of internally displaced persons (IDPs), people who have been staying at the relief camps, local administrators, and the humanitarian organization representatives in Manipur. The sample was based on the purposive and random sampling methods of a total of 100 respondents who were those representatives of relief camps and affected groups in the study area that was selected as conflict-affected districts particularly 5 valley districts of Manipur (Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal, and Kakching). This guaranteed representation of various types of people in society such as women, the elderly, and marginalized groups of people to capture a variety of displacement experiences.

c. Data Collection Methods

The study employed both the primary and secondary data. The structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and focused group discussions held among displaced people and officials were used to collect primary data. Secondary data was collected using government reports, policy documents, academic sources, media, and publications of the humanitarian agencies. The reliability and validity of the research findings were boosted by this triangulation of data.

d. Variables and Measurement

The research has provided major independent and dependent variables. Independent variables had governance efficiency, relief distributions mechanism, institutional coordination and humanitarian intervention strategies. Dependent variables were the socio-economic status of displaced individuals, access to basic services (food, shelter, healthcare, and education), restoration of their livelihoods, and rehabilitation. The perceptions of effectiveness, adequacy,

and inclusiveness were measured in terms of Likert responses, frequency distribution and qualitative thematic indicators.

e. Data Analysis

The statistical tools were utilized to determine the patterns and trends of quantitative data by using percentages mean scores, and tabular representation. Interpretation of governance challenges, institutional gaps and community experiences was done through an interview-based qualitative data gathered through thematic analysis. The combination of the two analysis techniques gave an overall analysis of the displacement dynamics, relief governance performance, and humanitarian response output in the Manipur crisis.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the survey of 100 participants give a quantitative data to the examination of displacement patterns, efficiency of relief governance, and mechanisms of humanitarian response in the Manipur crisis. The table of results is summarized in the following analytical tables.

The following table (Table 1) gives the demographic profile of the respondents who will be used in the study. In the table, there are three variables which help to categorize respondents: gender, age group and social category. The male and female respondents are included in gender distribution. The variable of age group is further broken down into three, including; 18- 30 years, 31-50 years and 51 years and above. The social category variable categorizes respondents based on their social background within the study population. These demographic characteristics are displayed in the form of a graphic representation as shown in Figure 1.1 to give a graphical idea of how the sample is composed and distributed in proportions among various categories.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

Category	Sub-Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	48	48%
	Female	52	52%
Age Group	18–30 Years	29	29%
	31–50 Years	46	46%
	51 Years & Above	25	25%

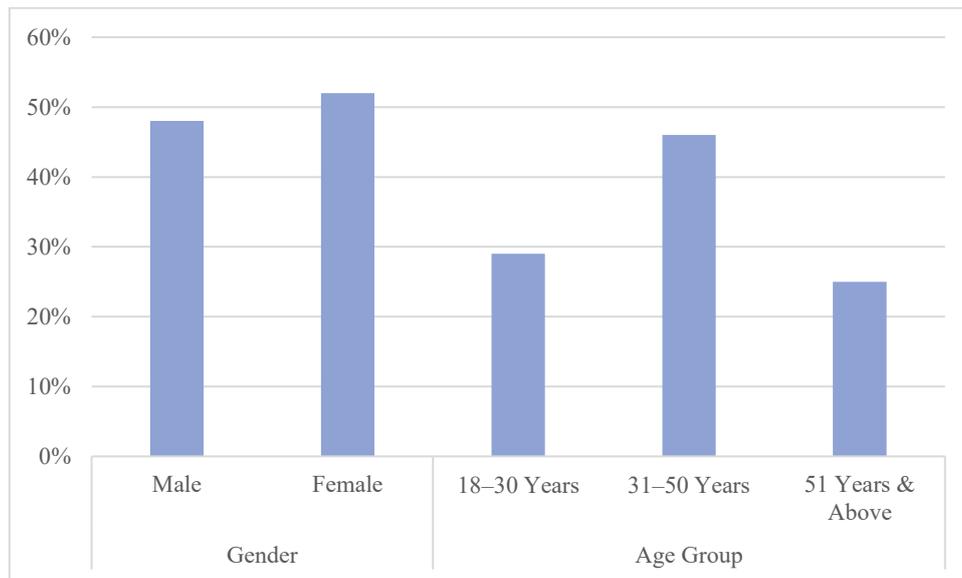


Figure 1.1: Graphical Representation of Demographic Profile of Respondents

The demographic profile of the respondents presented in the table provides an overview of the gender and age distribution of the study sample. The gender composition shows that out of the total respondents, 48% were male (48 respondents) and 52% were female (52 respondents), indicating a relatively balanced representation of both genders with a slightly higher proportion of female participants. In terms of age distribution, the respondents were categorized into three groups. The 18–30 years age group accounted for 29% (29 respondents), representing the younger segment of the displaced population. The 31–50 years age group constituted the largest proportion with 46% (46 respondents), indicating that middle-aged individuals formed the majority of the respondents in the study. Meanwhile, 25% (25 respondents) belonged to the 51 years and above category, reflecting the participation of older individuals in the survey. Overall, the demographic structure suggests a balanced gender representation and a predominance of respondents from the middle-age group, which provides meaningful insights into the experiences of the economically active and socially responsible population affected by the crisis.

Table 2: Nature of Displacement and Duration

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Type of Displacement	Completely Displaced	72	72%
	Partially Displaced	28	28%
Duration of Stay in Relief Camps	Less than 3 Months	21	21%
	3–6 Months	44	44%
	More than 6 Months	35	35%

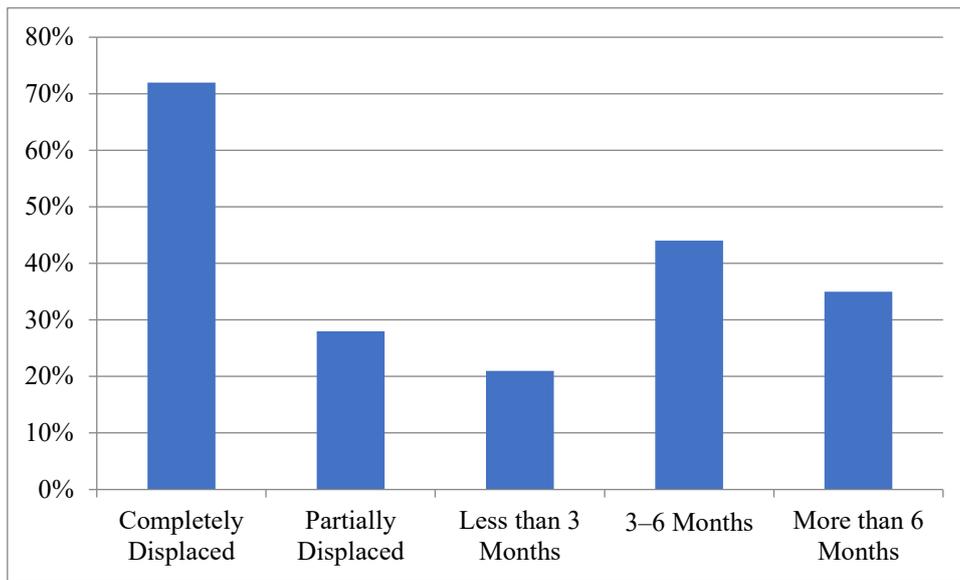


Figure 1.2: Graphical Representation of Nature of Displacement and Duration

The results show that a massive majority of the respondents (72%) were totally displaced with 28% being partially displaced meaning that the majority of the affected people had no option but to leave their homes. On the number of months that the respondents were at the relief camps, 44% of the respondents spent 3-6 months in camps, 35% spent over 6 months, and 21% spent less than 3 months at the camps. This means that a significant percentage of the displaced individuals suffered a long duration of displacement, which is an indication of delays in rehabilitation, resettlement, and reestablishment of normal livelihood.

Table 3 details the key socio-economic effects which respondents have gone through due to displacement. The table gives some of the important impact indicators, such as loss of livelihood, loss of property, interruption in education of children, diminished access to health services, and mental distress. All the indicators represent a certain aspect of suffering among displaced people and families. The graphical illustration to these impact indicators has been given in figure 1.3 in order to provide a graphical depiction of the level and spread of the socio-economic problems in the population that is affected.

Table 3: Socio-Economic Impact of Displacement

Impact Indicator	Affected Respondents	Percentage (%)
Loss of Livelihood	68	68%
Loss of Property	74	74%
Disruption of Children's Education	59	59%
Reduced Access to Healthcare	63	63%
Psychological Distress Reported	71	71%

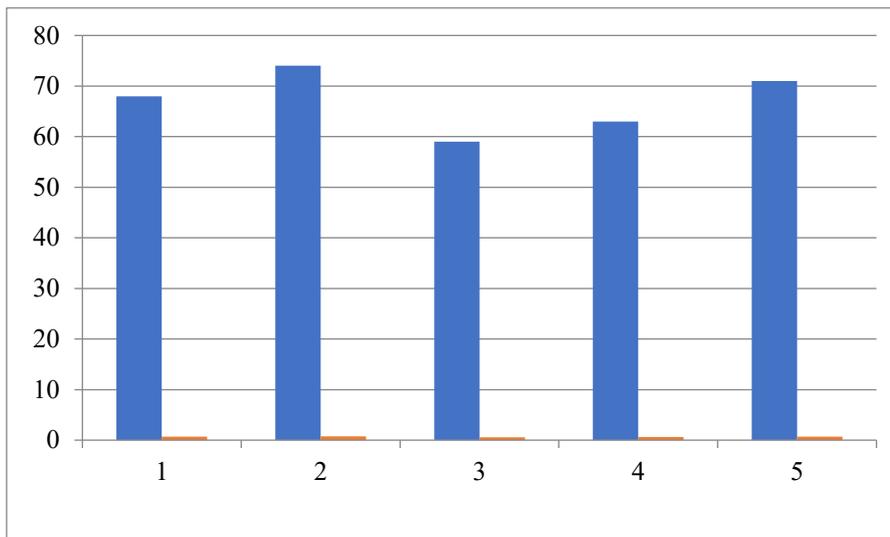


Figure 1.3: Graphical Representation of Socio-Economic Impact of Displacement

The statistics show that the most prevalent effect was loss of property since people experienced it in 74% of the cases, closely followed by psychological distress at 71%. A high 68% had lost their sources of livelihood, which underlines excessive economic interference as a result of displacement. Also, 63% said that they had a lower access to the healthcare services whereas 59% said that their children were disrupted in their education. This evidence shows that the crisis caused complex impacts in terms of displacement, which had strong economic, accessibility to vital amenities and general psychological health of impacted populations.

Table 4 shows the degree of satisfaction of the respondents towards the relief governance during the crisis, on a five-point Likert-scale. The levels of satisfaction are Highly Satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, and Highly Dissatisfied. The classification is used to evaluate how effective, transparent, and sufficient authorities respond to the relief measures are in the eyes of the respondents. These satisfaction levels have been graphically demonstrated in Figure 1.4 to give a pictorial view of the general opinion of the respondents concerning relief governance.

Table 4: Satisfaction Level with Relief Governance (Likert Scale)

Level of Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Highly Satisfied	6	6%
Satisfied	18	18%
Neutral	20	20%
Dissatisfied	36	36%
Highly Dissatisfied	20	20%

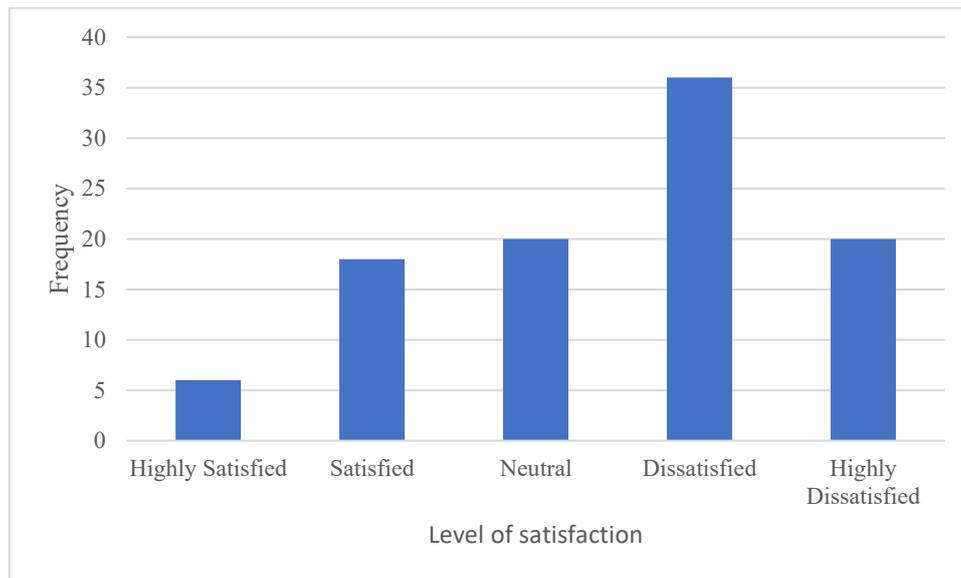


Figure 1.4: Graphical Representation of Satisfaction Level with Relief Governance (Likert Scale)

The findings reveal that a relatively small proportion of respondents expressed satisfaction with the relief governance mechanisms during the crisis. Only 6% of the respondents reported being highly satisfied and 18% satisfied with the relief measures implemented by the authorities. A moderate share of respondents (20%) remained neutral regarding the effectiveness of the governance system. However, a significant proportion of the displaced population expressed dissatisfaction, with 36% reporting dissatisfaction and 20% expressing strong dissatisfaction. These results clearly indicate that a majority of internally displaced persons were not satisfied with the relief governance. The responses highlight perceived shortcomings in transparency, coordination, adequacy of relief services, and the pace of rehabilitation efforts, suggesting the need for more inclusive and effective governance mechanisms in managing displacement crises.

5. CONCLUSION

The study draws the conclusion that the crisis in Manipur entailed massive and enduring internal displacement with severe socio-economic and psychological effects on the communities that were affected. The results show that most of the respondents were completely displaced, lost property largely, and their livelihoods affected and did not get access to most of the basic services including health facilities and schools, and this is multidimensionality of humanitarian crisis. Despite the relief governance mechanisms offering immediate shelter, food, and the basic help, the satisfaction levels were still at the middle-range, and a significant percentage of the respondents were not satisfied with the transparency, coordination, and the long-term rehabilitation work. Delays in sustainable resettlement and restoration of livelihoods were also further illustrated by the long period of people being stationed in relief camps. On the whole, the work highlights the idea that humanitarian interventions alleviated short-term misery, but there were gaps in the governance and a lack of rehabilitation plans, which restricted long-term recovery. To increase resilience, social stability and tackle the overall human security issues caused by the conflict-related displacement in Manipur, it is crucial to

strengthen institutional preparedness, ensure equity and inclusiveness in the delivery of relief, and adopt the holistic rehabilitation approaches.

REFERENCES

1. Aggarwal, S. (2025). Rohingya Refugees in India: An Overview of Humanitarian Response and Policy Challenges of Rehabilitation and Repatriation. *Rohingya Stories: History and Geopolitics in a Multipolar World*, 227-249.
2. Hidangmayum, S., & Gaur, V. (2025). Echoes of Tragedy: Lessons from the Rwandan Genocide for Resolving the Ethnic Crisis in Manipur. *Jos Chathukulam K Gireesan*, 54.
3. Khai, T. S. (2024). India's refugee policy dilemma and its impact on Myanmar refugees at the India–Myanmar frontier. *Discover Public Health*, 21(1), 153.
4. Manuvie, R. (2023). Governing displacements. In *Climate Migration Governance and the Discourse of Citizenship in India* (pp. 55-92). The Hague: TMC Asser Press.
5. Mathur, P. (2023). Caught in the Crossfire: Myanmarese Refugees in India. *J. Contemp. Politics*, 2(1), 31-36.
6. Modarpha, C. (2024, December). Myanmar Refugees and Identity Crisis in Manipur. In *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* (Vol. 83, pp. 1324-1337). Indian History Congress.
7. Mohan, D. (2023). Manipur Violence: The role of localised networks and small peace-building models. *The Quint*.
8. Mohapatra, N., & Das, D. (2024). Ethnic Violence and Human Rights Violation in Manipur in 2023: A Scrutiny of Majority-Minority Model of Conflict. *Sampratyaya*, 1(2), 26-42.
9. Mushahary, J. (2018). Conflict induced internally displaced persons and the issue of human rights in Bodoland Odoland Territorial Council, Assam (Doctoral Dissertation).
10. Mushahary, J. (2023). Conflict induced internally displaced persons and the issue of human rights in Bodoland Territorial Council, Assam (Doctoral Dissertation, Jhanin Mushahary).
11. Naorem, V., & Muhindro, L. (2025). Vulnerability of Meitei Women IDPs and Government Initiative: Impact of Ethnic Turmoil 2023. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*, 10(2), 608245.
12. Pautunthang, N. (2025). The Role of Ethnic Ties in Refugee Reception: A Comparative Study of Zomi Refugees in Manipur and Mizoram.
13. Rajkumari, B., Ingudam, D., Yengkokpam, C., Oinam, G., & Yumnam, R. (2024). Psychological effects of Manipur violence among the internally displaced persons residing in relief camps across Imphal valley of Manipur—A cross-sectional study. *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*, 13(10), 4354-4362.
14. Renuka, M. (2024). Disaster-Induced Displacement in India: Law, Policy and Practice.
15. Shaikh, Z. (2024). In the shadow of division: Confronting the Ethnic Crisis and Governance in Manipur. *Multidisciplinary Research in Arts, Science & Commerce* (Volume-10), 23.



16. Singh, B. P., & Nunthuk, S. C. (2024). Addressing the Manipur Crisis: Policy Interventions and Pathways to Reconciliation. *Nirma ULJ*, 14, 63.
17. Singh, P. (2024). Ethnic Tensions and Political Turmoil: Analyzing Violence in Manipur. *GUINEIS Journal*, 11(1), 17-36.
18. Sinha, S., & Liang, J. (2021). Responding to Conflict: Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding in Bodoland. In *Health Inequities in Conflict-affected Areas: Armed Violence, Survival and Post-Conflict Recovery in the Indo-Bhutan Borderlands* (pp. 267-305). Singapore: Springer Singapore.
19. Sinha, S., Anto, C. P., & Mohan, D. (2023). The burden of conflict on Manipur's healthcare: An evolving humanitarian crisis. *The Quint*.
20. Sitlhou, H. (2025). Negotiating 'Home' and 'Belongingness': A Narrative Approach to Displacement and Migrants' Mobility. *Sociological Bulletin*, 74(4), 384-397.