INTEGRATION STUDIES: A STUDY OF THE INTEGRATION OF EDUCATION MIGRANTS IN SINGAPORE

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Executive Summary

Motivated by the increasing volume of global migration, especially for the purpose of education, this report seeks to examine the extent to which education migrants are integrated in Singapore. A lack of existing literature that focuses on education migrants prompt us to carry out this taskforce. Integration will be examined in four main aspects, namely structural, interactive, cultural, and identificational. Looking into sub-aspects of the entire integration process allows for a clearer comparison of where integration has been effective and successful, and where integration has fallen short. Analysing these four components concurrently will also help shed light on how different types of integration can be used to complement each other. Essentially, our research reveals that education migrants in Singapore appear to be more integrated structurally than in the other three aspects. Heavy state emphasis and attention skewed towards structural policies to aid the integration of education migrants has led to shortcomings in other aspects, resulting in uneven and incomplete integration of education migrants in Singapore. To tackle this issue, this report introduces three policy recommendations that are targeted at various stakeholders at both local and national levels. It is the belief of this report that fostering integration between education migrants and locals requires an organic development, and thus integration policies need to be able to adequately accommodate both the needs of education migrants from diverse backgrounds with different interests, as well as the interests and concerns of Singaporean state and society at large so as to yield success.