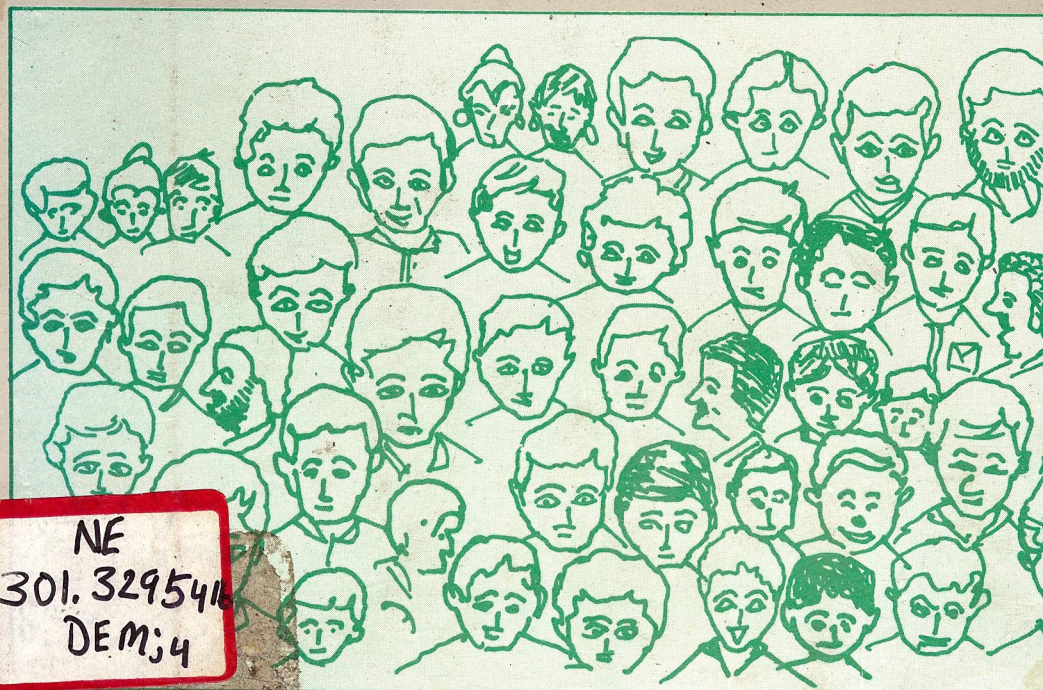


DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF NORTH-EAST INDIA



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Ed. Sanu Mukherjee • Fatima Imdad Hussain
Parjit Chakravorty • Gurudas Das

ABOUT THE BOOK

To corelate the demographic features and the structure of development planning in North Eastern region, all the processes of social and economic development must be taken into account.

This book can be classified into three groups:

The first group of papers deals with the population canvas of Northeast.

The second group of papers concentrates on the state's specific demographic structure and the trends of in Northeast.

The third groups of papers deals with the tribe-specific micro-studies.

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Edited by:

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FOREWORD

A one-day seminar on Population with special reference to North-East India was organised under the auspices of Population Education Club and Women's College, Shillong on 4 October 1991 to examine the population dynamics in North-East India. All processes of social and economic development must take into account the demographic dimension. We are to correlate the demographic features and the structure of development planning in a region like North-East India for adopting a meaningful strategy of growth. The papers included in the volume put stress on factors like density of population, higher annual population growth, major physical factors, paradox of high activity rate with low economic development, growth of population and its effect on environment. The papers in this volume will help the readers to understand the demographic scenario of North-East India.

I take this opportunity to thank all scholars and researchers who participated in the seminar, particularly Professor B. Pakem, who inaugurated the seminar, Professor J.B. Bhattacharjee, Professor M.C. Pandey, Dr. L.S. Gassah, Mr. P. Chakravarty, Mr. Gurudas Das and Mr. Fatima Imdad Hussain. Mr. Ramesh Kumar of Omsons Publications, New Delhi deserves our special gratitude for undertaking the publication this volume.

B. Datta Ray

Secretary

11 July 1992

Women's College, Shillong

PREFACE

Except a few papers included in this volume can conveniently be classified into three groups. The first group of papers deals with the population canvas of the North-Eastern region as a whole. M.C. Pandey observes that the rate of growth of population in the region is higher than the national average. R.P. Bhattacharjee seeks to explain the causes of this high rate of growth of population in the region. P.H. John has noted the problem arising out of high growth rate of population associated with the low rate of growth of the regional economy and has suggested to step up the latter. Mitali Chakraborty has compared the demographic trends of the North-Eastern states *vis-a-vis* India.

The second group of papers concentrates on the state specific demographic structure and trends of the states of North-East India. Out of the seven states in this region, four hill states of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have been studied. Keya Sengupta has pointed out that the rate of growth of foodgrain production in Meghalaya is lagging behind the rate of growth of population. She advocates for a strategy which could reconcile the long term measures for economic development with short term measures to control population growth. Mrinmayi Banerjee writes on the secular growth of population in Meghalaya. Sarit Kumar Chowdhuri and Dipak Kumar Adak find no correlation between the birth rate and death rate in Manipur and have made an assessment on the effects of population growth upon the state economy. S.K. Choudhuri and S.K. Mukherjee notice the nature of demographic attributes of the people of Mizoram. Gurudas Das has made an attempt to assess the economic potentiality of the population of Arunachal Pradesh. He explains the paradox of high activity rate that has been associated with the low economic development in the state.

The third group of papers deal with the tribe-specific micro studies. P.M. Buzarbarua writes on the bio-demographic aspects of the Noctes of Arunachal Pradesh. He observes a high still birth rate and prenatal death rate among the Noctes.

R. Khongsdier's study of the War-Khasis of Meghalaya reveals low admixture rate, low mean marital distance, village as well as religious endogamy among them. Bandana Das undertakes a micro-study of the Deuri population of Dibrugarh and finds higher growth rate among the urban dwellers than their counterparts in rural areas. Dipesh Choudhury, M.C. Behera and Dipak Kumar Adak in their study of the Khampti population of Arunachal Pradesh find high sex ratio and index ageing and low rate of selection intensity among them.

Apart from these, Zahid Husain observes the effects of population growth in the region in terms of higher land-man ratio and shortening of Jhum cycle which have led to serious deterioration of the hill ecology. Saumitra Oarua and Ram Th. Varte argue the case of small population in the light of the tribal communities of the region. Sanu Mukherjee observes the declining trend of women population in the country.

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