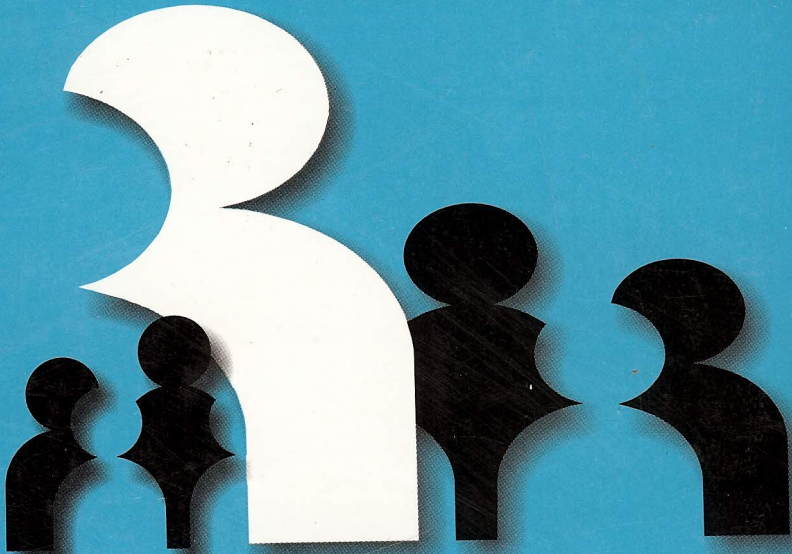


Bangladeshi Immigrants in Meghalaya

Sengjirang N. Sangma



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies
Kolkata



The problem of Bangladeshi immigrants has adversely impacted on socio-economic and political conditions in India.

The book focuses on unauthorized human movement from Bangladesh to Garo Hills, Meghalaya, in 1964 and then in 1971. Causes for migration, Relief camps, rehabilitation and reclamation of displaced persons from across the border, and impact of these immigrants on the region are discussed and analysed.

The book may be found useful by the policy makers and scholars having interest in the region.

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Impact on Garo Hills

Sengjrang N. Sangma



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Preface

The study takes up unauthorized human movement into Garo Hills, Meghalaya during 1964 and in 1971, the periods of political upheaval in earstwhile East Pakistan and the impact of Bangladeshi immigrants on the Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

I am thankful to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata for the support and cooperation extended for this study.

Sengjrang N. Sangma

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Introduction

The study of human movement from Bangladesh to Garo Hills of Meghalaya has been taken up because since the period around Independence involving the creation of India, East Pakistan and West Pakistan out of the single sub-continent, the flight of refugees into Garo hills is a frequent occurrence. So frequent is the problem of disturbances along the Indo-Bangladesh border and so great is the problem posed by a huge number of refugees crossing the border at regular intervals since 1947 that the government of India, during the tenure of Mrs. Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India, was compelled to take the extreme step of 'liberating' East Pakistan in 1971. December 16, 1971 is observed by Bangladesh as the day of victory from the rule of West Pakistan.

The problem of unauthorized human movement into India from Bangladesh has had an adverse impact on demographic balance, economy, environment, administrative machinery, social and political condition in India.

Bangladeshi Immigrants in Meghalaya

The population in the former East Pakistan has the same composite structure as India. Religion wise there are Hindus, Muslims, Christians and those practicing indigenous faiths. On both sides of the border there are Garos, Hajongs, Baniyas and other scheduled castes. The pattern of flight has been more or less the same on every occasion.

This study takes up the human movement into Garo Hills during 1964 and in 1971. Both were periods of political upheaval in East Pakistan/Bangladesh.

The official records of Garo hills show that in 1964 there were no Muslim refugees at all. Greater percentages of refugees were Garos and Hajongs. Classification has been done community wise.

The break up of refugees in 1971 was done according to the breakup of religions groups in official records. The records show that the number of Muslim refugees exceeded Christian refugees. The causes of the flight are also recorded in the available documents.

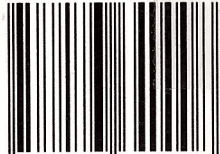
The shifting of the refugees to interior camps, the management of the camps, the attitude of the government towards them, rehabilitation, land reclamation and repatriation are the subject of study in this research project.



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