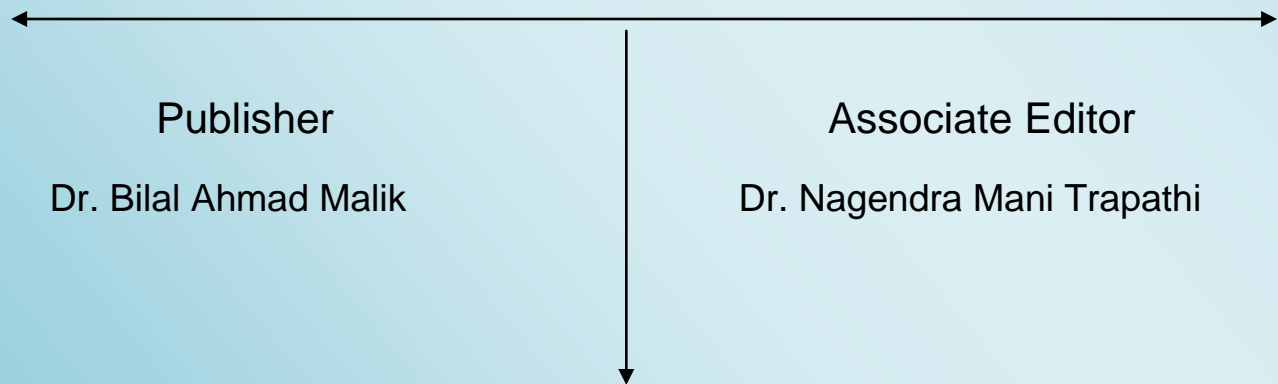


# North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal of  
Social Science & Humanities*

**Chief Editor**

Dr Rama Singh



NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian  
International  
Research Journal Consortium



## Welcome to NAIRJC

**ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827**

North Asian International Research Journal Social Science and Humanities is a research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

## Editorial Board

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| J.Anil Kumar<br>Head Geography University<br>of Thirvanathpuram                        | Sanjuket Das<br>Head Economics Samplpur University   | Adgaonkar Ganesh<br>Dept. of Commerce B.S.A.U,<br>Aruganbad  |
| Kiran Mishra<br>Dept. of English,Ranchi University,<br>Jharkhand                       | Somanath Reddy<br>Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga<br>University.                                | Rajpal Choudhary<br>Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner<br>Rajasthan                                 |
| R.D. Sharma<br>Head Commerce & Management Jammu<br>University                          | R.P. Pandday<br>Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman<br>University                                     | Moinuddin Khan<br>Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity<br>Rajasthan.                               |
| Manish Mishra<br>Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU<br>Lucknow                     | K.M Bhandarkar<br>Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia                                    | Ravi Kumar Pandey<br>Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad  |
| Tihar Pandit<br>Dept. of Environmental Science,<br>University of Kashmir.              | Simnani<br>Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree<br>College Pulwama, University of Kashmir. | Ashok D. Wagh<br>Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy,<br>B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane,<br>Maharashtra. |
| Neelam Yaday<br>Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College<br>Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra | Nisar Hussain<br>Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College<br>(U.P) Kanpur University             | M.C.P. Singh<br>Head Information Technology Dr C.V.<br>Rama University                             |
| Ashak Hussain<br>Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald.<br>Kanpur University            | Khagendra Nath Sethi<br>Head Dept. of History Sambalpur<br>University.                         | Rama Singh<br>Dept. of Political Science A.K.D<br>College, Ald.University of Allahabad             |

**Address: -North Asian International Research Journal Consortium (NAIRJC) 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815, Email: [nairjc5@gmail.com](mailto:nairjc5@gmail.com) , [nairjc@nairjc.com](mailto:nairjc@nairjc.com) , [info@nairjc.com](mailto:info@nairjc.com) Website: [www.nairjc.com](http://www.nairjc.com)**

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN NORTH BENGAL IN 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

**JAGABANDHU ROY\***

**\*Department of History, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University**

### INTRODUCTION

A recent trend has been seen in the study of historiography with the prospect of demographic profile of a particular area. Demography is the science of populations. Demographers seek to understand population dynamics by investigating three main demographic processes: birth, migration, and again (including death). All three of these processes contribute to changes in populations, ethnicity and culture. Today there is growing interest among the social scientists in demography, as “demographic change” has become the subject of ethno-politico-social debates in many higher academic institutions. While demography cannot offer political advice on how to tackle demographic change, demographers seek to describe the phenomena related to this change, and to understand their causes. Modern demographic researchers embrace many scientific disciplines, including mathematics, economics and other social sciences, geography or biology to explore the ultimate root cause of demographic changes by the constant flow of immigration. Immigration flows are part of emergence of ethnically, culturally diverse society. In many sphere of life question immigration and multi-culturalism give rise to very critical question of ethnic identity and due to this change how does it affects this area in ethno-politically.<sup>1</sup>

### MIGRATION IN DOOARS

Before going to enter the main theme of the proposed area we should have a look at a glance the early history of the dooars region. The tea growing area in this district is known as “Duars” derived from the English word “Door” and Bengali word “Duar”. Dooars means “door to Bhutan”. Jalpaiguri was a strategic location for the British to get access to trade in Bhutan and it was not until 1865 that the district was annexed by British from Bhutan. The tea area that runs along the foothills of Bhutan, with that river Teesta on the west and the river Sankos in the east. The Dooars of Jalpaiguri is a flat strip of land about twenty miles long, hemmed by Bhutan and Darjeeling district in the north and Cooch Behar district in south.<sup>2</sup>

Through this paper I have tried to explore the causes of the demographic change in North Bengal in pre-colonial and post-colonial period. At this point it is a study only to unveil the hidden truth that how demographic changes took place in Dooars after the annexation of the area by the British and later on how this change takes a turn into ethno-political turmoil. Before the advent of the European adventurers specially the British, the area was

<sup>1</sup> Debkumar Sengupta, Demographic change and Ethno-Political turmoil in Dooars-Origin and Impact: A Historical Analysis in Changing Society of Twentieth Century Bengal (ed.), Shyamal Chandra Sarkar, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2014, P.187.

<sup>2</sup> Sailen Debnath, The Dooars in Historical Transition, N.L. Publishers, Siliguri, 2010, pp.V-VI.

inhabited by different aboriginal tribal groups, viz toto, Rabha, Mech, Koch-Rajbanshi, Lepcha, Drupka, Tharu etc. But This scenario had been changed that as we have seen at present day owing to the establishment of tea garden in Western Dooars . The first mention of experimental tea garden in India was in Calcutta, 1780 . Darjeeling was occupied By the British in 1835, the Assam dooars in 1842 and the Bengal dooars in 1865, after second Anglo-Bhutan war. seeing that all these land under the possession of the British , the government encourage the tea enterprise and even offer them land. Hence tea Industry got an impetus and rapidly begun in full swing in Dooars region . It is said that the first tea garden in Dooars is Gazoldoba opened by dr. Broughan, 1876. And one after another tea garden had been planted in different parts of the region. The demographic pattern of dooars area begun to undergo a drastic change since the establishment of tea garden by the European entrepreneurs. Instance may be made in this regard that after the annexation of western dooars, a rough census was taken by survey officer (special Deputy-Commissioners of Bhutan Dooars) The population of the western dooars at 49,620souls. For this neo-economic movement the government needed manpower and mostly people of toiling class. For this purpose government had decided to bring people from outside of the Dooars . Therefore the technical and official works as educated Bengali from southern districts were called in by the planters in the dooars, similarly labourers in Thousand from Bihar, Chotonagpur, Santal pargana and from Nepal were brought into the dooars . Thus there immigrated thousand of Santals, Oraons, Mundas were from southern Bihar and Nepalese from Nepal region as labourer. <sup>3</sup>

The equivalent approach that as government declared the forests of the dooars as reserved for the management of the forest and for fortification, auction and sale of valuable timber hundreds of people were called into govt. services in the Dooars immensely amplified. There is no wonder that this myriad influx of people from outside broke the demographic equilibrium of the days gone by and that led to a surprising admixture of people in the Dooars. The immigrants were allured by the easily availability of arable land or waste land in the Dooars heartened them to reside for agriculture. As a result a large number of people came from Cooch Behar, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bihar and thousand of Nepalese from Nepal driven out by deficiency either settled by tea planters or by govt. to settle here in the Dooars. The following Table-IA depicts the scenario of total population of the western Dooars, 1872.<sup>4</sup>

## CAUSES OF IMIGRATION

The Main cause of immigration in North Bengal are-

**1. Britisg economic policy (Plantation economy):** After establish its domination over north Bengal the British East India Company realized that the soil of this land is highly suitable for Tea plantation and they started tea planting. Tea is a highly labour intensive plant and it required a huge number of labour . But the local people of this part of the area were mostly cultivators and they were not agree to pay labour in tea garden. The British officials recognized it and they tried to import labour from various part of India viz. Santal Pargana, Nepal, Bihar

<sup>3</sup> Op.cit., pp. 188-189.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p.189.

etc. As a result these people were settled down in North Bengal and the demography of the region has dramatically changed.

**2. Business:** North Bengal is an agrarian land and Nearly 90% of total population is still depending on agriculture. Tobacco and Jute are exported to Burma from this district. This export business was done by immigrants of Saha community of Bengal. After the merger, Marwari community is the main immigrants from Rajasthan.

**3. Partition of India:** Due to the partition of India huge refugees had come to the Koch Bihar , Jalpaiguri and other parts of North Bengal and they permanently stayed here due to loss of their properties and houses by communal riots. These refugees are of different communities like Bengali, Rajbanshi, Santals, Hajongs, etc.

**4. Bangladesh Independence war:** Due to Bangladesh independence war in 1971 large number of people had escaped from east Pakistan for their existence from Pakistani Army and Rajakar of east Pakistan as they were cruel against Bengalis. After the independence of Bangladesh many of them returned to their motherland but a large number of them stayed in the North Bengal as immigrants.

**5. “Bangal Khedao” Movement in Assam :** During the “Bangal Khedo” movement in Assam in 1980s by AASU and other parties a large number of Bengali people from Assam and other parts of north-east states had started to shift to Bengal. They reached Koch Behar which is the most nearest district of Assam.

**6. Dispute of Ram Janmabhumi and Babri Masjid:** Due to the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992, communal tension increased in Bangladesh and Hindu community of the Bangladesh again started to migrate to India as well as North Bengal.

**7. Immigration from Bihar for job searching:** A large number of Bihari people mainly from Bihar and Jharkhand came to here as unskilled worker and settled here .

**8. Bodyguard for Jamidar :** Many zamindars of this region brought many tribal people from outside of North Bengal for their own security. Those security men were settled in this region . Asur people of Inderkuthi village of Mathabanga had brought by then Jamidar of Nayerhat from Chotonagpur plateau region.

**9. Other Reasons :** Infiltration is going on continuously from Bangladesh due to religious intolerance and economic poverty. People From Assam and other North-East states are also coming to North Bengal due to increasing terrorist activities in Assam and other states of North East.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Sanjit Kumar Shil Sharma, Immigration and its Impact on Environment- A Case Study of Koch Bihar District, West Bengal, in Changing Society of Twentieth Century Bengal (ed.), Shyamal Chandra Sarkar, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2014, pp. 165-167.

**Table IA**

| Source of information | Total population | Male   | Female |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1872 census           | 100,111          | 52,457 | 47654  |

**Source:** W. W. Hunter's report, 1876.

**Table IB**

Table IB shows population of aboriginal and semi-aboriginal people of western Dooars.

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| 1.Mech      | 40     |
| 2.Kachari   | 04     |
| 3.Murmi     | 23     |
| 4.Pahariya  | 33     |
| 5.Oraon     | 453    |
| 6.Koch      | 04     |
| 7.Khyen     | 2,380  |
| 8.Rajbanshi | 37,135 |

**Source:** W. W. Hunter's report, 1876.

The distribution of aboriginal people in western Dooars is shown in the following table:

**Table: II**

| Caste    | Male  | Female |
|----------|-------|--------|
| 1.Koch   | 63953 | 59486  |
| 2.Limbu  | 807   | 411    |
| 3.Mech   | 9403  | 8581   |
| 4.Bhutia | 1893  | 1618   |

Census report, 1891

From the above Table No. I (A,B) & II shows that the figure of population of the aboriginal inhabitants who had once resides there, Later on the population of the Dooars increased by leaps and bounds due to the influx of immigrant people who had become that integral parts of tea plantation. It is important to note that the influx of immigrant people was twofold, (a) interprovincial immigration and (b) immigration from neighbor countries, viz Nepal. A fresh chart table is given below for the better understanding of the readers that how the demography of the Dooars was rapidly changed within the few decades of voyage of tea plantation.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Debkumar Sengupta, op.cit., P. 190.

Table: III

| Source of information/year | Total population |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Census,1881                | 182687           |
| Census,1891                | 296348           |
| Census,1901                | 410606           |
| Census,1911                | 519372           |
| Census,1921                | 558971           |
| Census,1931                | 661068           |

The figures of the census of 1891 compared with the census of 1981 show a voluminous increase of 114,227 in population of the Dooars. This increase accounted for as follow:<sup>7</sup>

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Immigration from Darjeeling | 1588  |
| „ Dinajpur                  | 505   |
| „ Rangpur                   | 10101 |
| „ Cooch Behar               | 32224 |

#### Inter provincial immigration

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Immigration from Bihar District | 8491  |
| „ Orissa Districts              | 202   |
| „ Chotonagpur region            | 20341 |
| „ Uttar Pradesh                 | 2969  |
| „ Assam Province                | 394   |

Table: IV-A

#### Inter-Provincial Immigration from Assam to Dooars

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 1901-11 | 877  |
| 1911-21 | 770  |
| 1921-31 | 1132 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 191.

**Table IV-B  
From Bihar to Dooars**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1891 | 8491  |
| 1901 | 51734 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

**Table IV-C  
From Uttar Pradesh to Dooars**

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 1901 | 3388 |
| 1911 | 3468 |
| 1921 | 3571 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

**Table IV-D  
From Punjab to Dooars**

|      |     |
|------|-----|
| 1891 | 654 |
| 1901 | 402 |
| 1911 | 527 |
| 1921 | 512 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

**Oraons, Mundas and Santals from Their respective region:**

**Table-V  
Oraons**

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 1881 | 210    |
| 1901 | 62844  |
| 1921 | 115350 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

**Table-VI  
Mundas**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1981 | 1855  |
| 1901 | 11672 |
| 1921 | 34601 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.



**Table-VII**  
**Santals**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1901 | 10857 |
| 1911 | 24000 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

**Table-VIII**  
**Nepalis people from Nepal**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1872 | 144   |
| 1921 | 20000 |

**Source:** Relevant District gazetteers.

From the above available census report shows the rapid growth of immigration was hastened the population of Dooars region. Not only that, its impact was far reaching consequence over the early ethnic inhabitants of the Dooars namely Koch-Rajbanshi, Limbu, Toto, Mech, Boro, Tharu, Drupka, Etc. Let it be explaining that, as the place was dominated by the aboriginal people of this region, they had enjoyed the forest and agricultural land long before the advent of the British. But The problem rose while British government declared the forest of the Dooars as reserved. Dr. Sailen Debnath rightly observed the process of exclusion of the inhabitant both from forest and land, He writes, *'Because of the protection of the reserved forest by the government, the early inhabitant of the Dooars.....were precluded from clearing the forest for the creation of new agricultural land. More over the creation of a big number of Tea gardens and the embarking of a huge amount of land as the lease land led to the reduction of arable land during the long course of immigration of people from outside.'*<sup>8</sup> The circumstances became further heightened while the copious of arable land was the intrusion of non-agrarian people and money lending class in the purchase of ryoti land from hereditary farmers and lease holding of lease land in the Dooars. Such non-agrarian malingerer owners of land produced not only a predicament of land in the by now condensed agrarian belt of the Dooars, they rather caused more pecuniary hardship for the original denizen and autochthons of the Dooars. Since archaic denizen had begun to feel the pitch of economic and ethnic alienation.<sup>9</sup>

In this connection it is relevant to note that centring the tea garden new ownership had been germinating across the Dooars. Once Jalpaiguri was a administrative part of Rangpur division, in 1869 it become a Full-fledged District. The western Dooars become dotted with inhabited villeges, Tea gardens and small factories. In addition to other factors, the growth of military cantonments too contributed to some extent to the establishment of townships including Alipurduar, Falakata, Maynaguri, Madarihat, Malbazar, Banarhat, Binnaguri, Rajabhatkhawa etc. after the formation of new settlement in Western Dooars, The place began to attract educated populace from east Bengal Districts. The administration needed educated people for official purpose, most of them settled in the new township across the forest and tea gardens. Simultaneously, their needed attracted doctors, teachers, lowers and Marwary businessmen. For this reason archaic denizen of Dooars lost their hold upon land

<sup>8</sup> Sailen Debnath, Essay on The Cultural History of North Bengal, N.L. Publishers, Assam, 2008.

<sup>9</sup> Debkumar Sengupta, op.cit.,p.193.

and had begun to move away from their native place. The immigrant people grabbed land from the autochthonous people of Dooars Still continued, the new settlers become richer classes whereas the archaic denizen became poorer classes . In this occasion Instance may be made that the Bodo people began to migrate from western Dooars to Assam Dooars.

**Table-IX**  
**Decadal decrease of Bodo people from Dooars**

| Years | Population |
|-------|------------|
| 1891  | 21608      |
| 1901  | 22350      |
| 1911  | 19893      |
| 1921  | 10777      |
| 1931  | 9510       |
| 1941  | 6886       |
| 1951  | 10507      |
| 1961  | 13178      |

**Source:** Relevant census reports.

It is Crystal clear by the census reports that, how demography was changed in Dooars? And what were its consequence effects? It gave birth to the separate ethnic feeling among the primitive settlers who have become either impoverished or marginalized. In this connection mention may be made that Rajbanshi people ethnically different from the other settlers of the Dooars, it was they who had been much affected by the new comers. Professor Dasgupta rightly observed the trend of immigration in Dooars. He wrote, *'In the Duars there was a phenomenal, Six times increase of population between 1872 and 1921 ... Besides that, peasant cultivators too were attracted not only from the western tract of the district but also from Rangpur district and Koch Bihar state...it was in Jalpaiguri district that the greatest proportion of population came to be composed of immigrant.'*<sup>10</sup> First phase of the twentieth century witnessed the Rajbanshi kshatriya movement in North Bengal, Goalpara in Assam, Princely state of Cooch Behar . The movement centred on the claim that Rajbanshi Hindus were Kshatriya of Aryan origin. It is true that it was a caste upliftment movement in Assam, Rangpur and other parts of North Bengal except Dooars. Because in Dooars the movement took a different shape owing to a new political, social and economic change that was placed by the British and new settlers . The British rule brought about major dislocation in the social economic life of the rural population resulting in narrowing down of opportunities and increase in pressure on available resources . In Dooars a prime untrue aspect was the introduction of tea plantation . Besides this service sector went to the hands of either by upper caste Hindus or Noakhali Muslims. On the other hand Noakhali Muslims brought with them new farming methods which opened up commercialization in agriculture that helped to get new opportunities, viz. improvement of communication and spread of education . For this reason, ( alienation of land, out of work) they began to drum up the kshatriya movement . The immigration of the 'Bhadralok' class in the traditional Rajbanshi society altered the erstwhile

<sup>10</sup> Ranjit Dasgupta, *Economy, Society and Politics in Bengal: Jalpaiguri 1869-1947*, Oxford, Bombay, 1992.

socio-economic pattern of the society. Apart from holding a large number of lands, on account of their proximity to the local administration and control, they become a dominant group in the local society, economy and polity. The upper class immigrant people called the Rajbanshi as 'Bahe', on the contrary the local Rajbanshi used to call the outsiders as 'Bhatiyas'. This social and cultural hiatus between immigrant Hindus and the Rajbanshi created a pitch of alienation and solidified the ethnic identity among the Rajbanshi (above mentioned situation did not confined only in Dooars rather occurred in whole North Bengal).

### POST-INDEPENDENCE SCENARIO OF DOOARS

Partition in 1947 added a new dimension to the demographic profile of Dooars, thousands of refugees from east Pakistan crossed the border and settled in different areas of Dooars. Again in 1960s Bengali Kheda Andolon in Assam caused a massive immigration settlement in different parts of Dooars (Statesman, Calcutta, 31.07.1960, 'No going back even it was the attitude of the refugees'). Those uprooted Bengali immigrants from Assam may engage in agriculture but directly or indirectly they hastened the population and economy of the region.<sup>11</sup>

**Table -X**  
**Number of people immigrated from Assam In 1960 riot.**

| Year       | Number |
|------------|--------|
| 16.07.1960 | 9365   |
| 01.08.1960 | 8975   |
| 21.08.1960 | 10043  |
| 25.08.1960 | 50000  |

**Source:** Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri, 1960 records.

It is to be noted that in 1990s nearly 1 Lakh Nepalese were thrown out from Bhutan, all of them did not return to Nepal rather settled in Dooars. Seen in early that the Nepalese were brought into tea garden, by tea planters, in Darjeeling and Dooars as coolie (1921 census 20000 Nepali). Due to poverty and unemployment in Nepal, thousands of Nepali people immigrated to Darjeeling and Dooars in colonial period. It is surprisingly that this process is still continuing, a large number of Nepali immigrants have been coming every year which caused the political turmoil in respective region.<sup>12</sup>

**Table -XI A**  
**Growth of Nepali speakers in India .**

| Year | Total population | Absolute growth | Percentage of growth |
|------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1971 | 1419835          | -               | -                    |
| 1981 | 1360636          | -59199          | -4.17% 1971-1981     |
| 1991 | 2076645          | +716009         | +52.62% 1981-1991    |
| 2001 | 2871749          | +795104         | +38.29% 1991-2001    |

**Source:** Relevant census reports.

<sup>11</sup> Debkumar Sengupta, op.cit., p.196.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., P. 197

Table –XI B

The projection of expected growth (as per national growth rate) of endogenous Nepali speaking population in North Bengal.

| Year      | Existing Nepali speaking population | National growth rate of general population | Naturally expected absolute growth of Nepali speaking population |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1981-1991 | 1360636                             | 23.84%                                     | 324375   |
| 1991-2001 | 2076645                             | 21.55%                                     | 447516   |

Source: Relevant census reports.

Table- XIC

| Year      | Existing absolute growth of Nepali Speakers | Naturally Expected absolute growth of Nepali speakers in North Bengal | Nepalese migrants in India |
|-----------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1981-1991 | 716009                                      | -324376   | 391633                     |
| 1991-2001 | 795104                                      | -447516   | 347588                     |

Source: Contemporary Nepali census deserves a mention here for its pertinence to this information.

Table XI shows the decadal growth of Nepali speaking population in North Bengal along with the percentage of growth. The figures of actual growth of Nepali speakers indicated in Table XI, when matched against the naturally expected growth of endogenous Nepali speaking population calculated as per national growth rate of general population of India, it gives us a clear picture as to how huge number of immigrants from Nepal are silently and permanently intruding and getting illegally merged into the population of India. A simple subtraction of the naturally expected absolute endogenous growth (Table XI-B) from the actual absolute growth of Nepali speakers (Table XI-A), shall reveal the approximate number of migrated Nepali nationals settled in India. By the 1991 Nepali census, the number of immigrants from Nepal during 1981-1991 had been 658337, of which 89.2% i.e. 587236 person had gone to India.<sup>13</sup>

The figure of Table XII is self explanatory. The possible natural growth of the target population is worked out with the help of the Indian standard decadal growth rate. The estimated naturally expected total population obtained from this calculation, when subtracted from the actual population of the corresponding year table XII B shall reveal the additional growth, which obviously should be the number of the intruders (Read Nepalese migrants) in Darjeeling district. One thing that transpires from the above figures and calculations is that the addition to the number of the Nepalese migrants in Darjeeling district is conspicuously unceasing; the persistent rise in their number is palpable in every decade after the commencement of the constitution. Significant information from the contemporary Napoli census shall be very much relevant here. The Nepali census of 1961

<sup>13</sup> Dr. D.P. Kar, The Gorkhaland Movement a Clandestine Invasion, N.L. Publishers, Siliguri, p.44.

showed emigration of 328000 persons from Nepal, of which 92% i.e. 301760 persons entered India. Unfortunately the 1971 Nepali census did not supply any information regarding absentee population in Nepal.<sup>14</sup>

**Table-XII A**  
**Population of Nepali Speakers in Darjeeling District.**

| Year | Population | Actual absolute growth (decadal) | % of Actual growth (decadal) | Estimated Naturally expected total population @ national growth rate. | Estimated absolute growth @ national growth rate |
|------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1951 | 88958      |                                  |                              |   |  |
| 1961 | 369130     | 280172                           | 314.95%                      | 108252<br>@21.69%   | 19295<br>(1951-1961)                             |
| 1971 | 446446     | 77316                            | 20.95%                       | 135098<br>@24.80%   | 26846<br>(1961-1971)                             |
| 1981 | 540444     | 93998                            | 21.05%                       | 168413<br>@24.66%   | 33315<br>(1971-1981)                             |
| 1991 | 637874     | 97430                            | 18.02%                       | 208562<br>@23.84%   | 40149<br>(1981-1991)                             |
| 2001 | 778528     | 140654                           | 22.05%                       | 253507<br>@21.55%   | 44945<br>(1991-2001)                             |

**Source:** Relevant census reports.

**Table XII B**

| Year | Existing population of Nepali speakers. | Naturally expected population of Nepali speakers. | Possible no. of Nepali migrants in Darjeeling District. |
|------|---|---|---|
| 1961 | 369130                                  | -108258   | =260872   |
| 1971 | 446446                                  | -135098   | =311348   |
| 1981 | 540444                                  | -168413   | =372031   |
| 1991 | 637874                                  | -208562   | =429312   |
| 2001 | 778528                                  | -253499   | =525021   |

**Source:** Relevant census reports.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., pp. 49-50.

From 1971 to 2001, as reflected in table XII B, we find a near normal or even lower growth percentage of Nepali Speaking population in Darjeeling district. This growth percentage bears no conformity to that of the rate of migration from Nepal to India, as conformed by other corroborative information. The national growth rate of Nepali speakers in India between 1981 and 1991 was as high as 58.62%, and the same was 38.29% between 1991 and 2001, whereas in Darjeeling district during these period the growth percentage were 18.02% and 22.05% respectively. To get at the root of these contradictions of numbers, the factors of increasing population density of the hills has to be taken into account. From 1951 to 1961 in one decade, the

**Table- XIII**  
**Population growth of North Bengal (1951-1981)**

| District/State                   | Area/Sq.K.M | 1951   | 1961   | 1971   | 1981   | 1991  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Darjeeling                       | 3386        | 469.6  | 624.6  | 781.8  | 1024.2 | 28.78 |
| Cooch Behar                      | 3075        | 668.1  | 1319.8 | 1414.2 | 1771.8 | 25.25 |
| Jalpaiguri                       | 6224        | 916.7  | 1369.3 | 1750.1 | 2217.8 | 26.11 |
| W.Dinajpur<br>(North &<br>South) | 5206        | 976.9  | 1323.8 | 1857.9 | 1404.9 | 29.19 |
| Maldah                           | 3713        | 937.6  | 1221.9 | 1612.7 | 2631.8 | 26.16 |
| West Bengal                      | 2162.5      | 3959.7 | 5549.4 | 7418.7 | 9447.6 | 22.96 |

**Source:** Census Report of India,1981(population in lakhs)

Inflow of the famished population from the hills of Nepal on to the slopes of Darjeeling almost instantaneously elevated the density of population to a suffocating level. But this is not the end of it: the flow of Nepalese migrants as tea garden labourers and sustenance seekers continued.<sup>15</sup>

.The table XIII shows that after 1961 the population of North Bengal was gradually being increased. The population growth rate was much more in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur . If we try to understand the causes of the growth of population, we will find that the Tibetan took shelter in the Dooars in 1960, because of ‘Bangal Kheda Andolon’ in Assam in 1960-61, a large number of refugee came in North Bengal and thousand of Nepalese were driven away from Meghalaya or Bhutan who took shelter in North Bengal . Apart from these, after the war between India and Pakistan in 1965, huge number of refugees infiltrated in North Bengal.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., pp.50-51.

<sup>16</sup> Bishnudayal Roy, Bibartan Dharaya Dooarser Abhibasi Samaj (1864-1979) in Itihas Anusandhan 19, Paschimanga Itihas Samsad, 2005, pp.339-340.

Now we should have a look into the distribution of SC and ST population in North Bengal

**Table –XIV Distribution of SC and ST population in North Bengal**

| District   | Total   | SC     | ST     | % of SC to total population | % of ST to total population | % of SC /ST to total population |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Darjeeling |         |        |        |                             |                             |                                 |
| 1971       | 781777  | 98277  | 108586 | 12.58                       | 13.88                       | 26.46                           |
| 1981       | 1024269 | 145942 | 151073 | 14.25                       | 14.75                       | 29.00                           |
| 1991       | 1299919 | 209876 | 179163 | 16.14                       | 13.78                       | 29.92                           |

| District   | Total   | SC     | ST     | % of SC to total population | % of ST to total population | % of SC /ST to total population |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| W.Dinajpur |         |        |        |                             |                             |                                 |
| 1971       | 1859887 | 429578 | 221317 | 23.09                       | 11.89                       | 34.98                           |
| 1981       | 2404947 | 687094 | 261600 | 28.57                       | 10.82                       | 39.39                           |
| 1991       | 3127653 | 907553 | 208487 | 29.01                       | 6.66                        | 35.67                           |

| District    | Total   | SC      | ST     | % of SC to total population | % of ST to total population | % of SC /ST to total population |
|-------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Cooch Behar |         |         |        |                             |                             |                                 |
| 1971        | 1414183 | 665020  | 10611  | 47.02                       | 0.75                        | 47.79                           |
| 1981        | 1771643 | 883084  | 101105 | 49.58                       | 0.57                        | 50.42                           |
| 1991        | 2171145 | 1123719 | 132275 | 51.76                       | 0.61                        | 52.32                           |

| District   | Total   | SC      | ST     | % of SC to total population | % of ST to total population | % of SC /ST to total population |
|------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jalpaiguri |         |         |        |                             |                             |                                 |
| 1971       | 1750159 | 595424  | 428595 | 34.02                       | 24.48                       | 58.50                           |
| 1981       | 2214871 | 766498  | 491791 | 34.61                       | 22.20                       | 56.81                           |
| 1991       | 2800543 | 1035971 | 589225 | 36.99                       | 21.02                       | 58.02                           |

| District | Total   | SC     | ST     | % of SC to total population | % of ST to total population | % of SC /ST to total population |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Malda    |         |        |        |                             |                             |                                 |
| 1971     | 1612657 | 265697 | 130715 | 16.47                       | 8.10                        | 24.57                           |
| 1981     | 2031871 | 343089 | 153300 | 16.89                       | 7.54                        | 24.43                           |
| 1991     | 2637032 | 477896 | 171326 | 18.12                       | 6.49                        | 24.61                           |

Source: Census of 1921.

**Table-XV**  
**Distribution of the Rajbanshi population in North Bengal by the Census year**

| District    | 1951   | %     | 1961   | %     | 1971   | %     | 1981   | %     | 1991   | %     |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Darjeeling  | 15894  | 3.00  | 31887  | 3.50  | 31505  | 3.06  | 62770  | 3.60  | 96745  | 7.44  |
| Jalpaiguri  | 172710 | 32.68 | 316020 | 35.19 | 329191 | 32.03 | 514174 | 29.49 | 656073 | 23.42 |
| Cooch Behar | 252069 | 47.7  | 418839 | 46.63 | 481304 | 46.84 | 714221 | 40.96 | 865622 | 39.86 |
| W.Dinajpur  | 67489  | 12.78 | 93371  | 10.40 | 134976 | 13.13 | 369015 | 21.16 | 489642 | 15.65 |
| Maldah      | 20294  | 3.84  | 38443  | 4.28  | 50693  | 4.94  | 83463  | 4.79  | 114697 | 4.29  |

Source: Census of India, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1991

After independence, the influx of East Pakistani (Now Bangladeshi) refugee's including Rajbanshis to India had radically changed the demographic pattern of present North Bengal. Though it is very difficult to enumerate the exact figure of the refugee who got shelter in North Bengal. We can get an idea about the population growth rates of certain communities and decadal growth rate of population of North Bengal from census report and district gazetteers.<sup>17</sup>

**Table-XVI**  
**Comparative table of population growth rates in West Bengal and North Bengal( In %)**

| Census    | West Bengal | North Bengal |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1951-61   | 32.80%      | 40.49%       |
| 1961-71   | 26.87%      | 33.01%       |
| 1971-81   | 22.96%      | 27.63%       |
| 1981-91   | 24.55%      | 27.61%       |
| 1991-2001 | 17.84       | 22.43%       |

Source: Census of West Bengal , 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, and 2001

<sup>17</sup> Madhab Chandra Adhikary, Identity Crisis A Study of The Rajbanshis of North Eastern India (1891-1979), Aayu publication, New Delhi, 2015, p.162.



.Table no XVI shows that in every census year the population growth of North Bengal Increased comparatively higher than of West Bengal And it led to the various Socio- Economic and political change in this part of India. From this table it is appears that population growth rate in North Bengal was always higher than that of West Bengal average in each decadal census which clearly indicates large cross border and inter-state migration in North Bengal The flood of refugee engulfed the border district of West Bengal and North -East India . The cross border immigrants (refugees) have gradually settled down in North Bengal with a strong attitude of resettlement in the new land. North Bengal also receives refugees from Nepal, Bhutan, and North-East India due to outbreak of regular ethnic violence. The following two tables indicate the settlement of the immigrants in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts.<sup>18</sup>

**Table-XVII**  
**Immigrants in jalpaiguri district (1891-1961)**

| YEAR | NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS |
|------|----------------------|
| 1891 | 98611                |
| 1901 | 95899                |
| 1911 | 152174               |
| 1921 | 163024               |
| 1931 | 158757               |
| 1941 | 156765               |
| 1951 | 278842               |
| 1961 | 454177               |

**Source:** West Bengal District Gazetteers, Jalpaiguri, Abani mohan Kusari and etel, 1981, p.73

**Table-XVIII**  
**Immigration and Emigration of Darjeeling District(1891-1961)**

| YEAR | ACTUAL POPULATION | IMMIGRATION | EMIGRATION | NATURAL POPULATION |
|------|-------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1891 | 223314            | 119670      | 962        | 104606             |
| 1901 | 249117            | 113588      | 802        | 136331             |
| 1911 | 265550            | 111269      | 6000       | 160281             |
| 1921 | 282784            | 101807      | 6000       | 186941             |
| 1931 | 319635            | 100700      | 3455       | 222390             |
| 1941 | 376369            | 95750       | 4120       | 284739             |
| 1951 | 445260            | 100311      | 6900       | 351849             |
| 1961 | 624640            | 169250      | N.A.       | 455390             |

**Source:** west Bengal District Gazetteers, Darjeeling, Amiya Kumar Banerjee and et al, 1980, p. 276.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., pp.163-164.

The demographic increase in post –colonial northern part of Bengal had altered the population composition. Even the percentage of the Rajbanshis in the total population decreasing gradually.

**Table -XIX**  
**Distribution of the Rajbanshi population in North Bengal by the Census year**

| District    | 1951   | %     | 1961   | %     | 1971   | %     | 1981   | %     | 1991   | %     |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| Darjeeling  | 15894  | 3.00  | 31887  | 3.50  | 31505  | 3.06  | 62770  | 3.60  | 96745  | 7.44  |
| Jalpaiguri  | 172710 | 32.68 | 316020 | 35.19 | 329191 | 32.03 | 514174 | 29.49 | 656073 | 23.42 |
| Cooch Behar | 252069 | 47.7  | 418839 | 46.63 | 481304 | 46.84 | 714221 | 40.96 | 865622 | 39.86 |
| W.Dinajpur  | 67489  | 12.78 | 93371  | 10.40 | 134976 | 13.13 | 369015 | 21.16 | 489642 | 15.65 |
| Maldah      | 20294  | 3.84  | 38443  | 4.28  | 50693  | 4.94  | 83463  | 4.79  | 114697 | 4.29  |

**Source:** Census of India,1966,1971,1981,1991

The table XIX shows that the population of Rajbanshis had been decreased from 47% in 1951 to 39.86 % in Cooch Behar district where the SCs have largest percentage even in 2001. Condition of Jalpaiguri district is more critical where the percentage of the Rajbanshis has been decreased from 32.68% in 1951 to 23.42% in 1991. It is to be noted that Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri districts remained the epitome of regional agitation led by the Rajbanshis. In addition to it , after partitioned, with rapid industrialization and the mushrooming of the tea gardens in North Bengal there was a gradual growth of land grabber in this region trying to monopolies the only large scale Agro-based industry of this region. Most of the land, which was earlier dominated by the local Scheduled Caste communities of Koch and Rajbanshis were thus brought over by the affluent Hindu refugees from Bangladesh and Marwari's from Rajasthan. In Jalpaiguri district while the number of Jots holds by Rajbanshis, those hold by the Marwari's, the upper caste Bengali middle class people, and other increased sharply. An important aspect of land alienation was the rapid growth of an unprotected tenancy structure in the form of adhere system. J. F. Grunning noted, “ *In some cases the sellers sinks to the position of adhiars and at the mercy of new jotedars, who can turn them at any time .*” During the post partition period the whole region become over populated with the influx of the immigrants from the then east Pakistan (Now Bangladesh). This huge number of influx of refugees (Bhatia) to north eastern part of Bengal added to the trouble, as they become unequal competitors of local people in the matter of service , business, and other socio-economic pursuits. Because the local people being mostly illiterate or semi-literate and having practically no connection with the higher ups were not in a position to compete with the immigrants , ( Bhatia) and the grievances of the indigenous people increased day by day . This has given rise to a tenancy in this community to organize a sort of middle class nativity movement in opposition to migrants.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p.165.

## IMPACT OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN NORTH BENGAL

Immigration has great impact over the socio-economic, cultural, political environment of the District.

**Total population increased:** Due to continuous flow of immigration total population of the North Bengal is increasing gradually. This total population increase created heavy pressure on land.

**Effects on environment:** once North Bengal was full with forest cover. There were 11 protected forests even in the beginning in this century . Forest had been started to destroy for increase of agricultural lands and other purposes. This destruction increased after the 1950s due to lands for immigrants for settlements. Now only few portion of total land is forested. This creates adverse effects on environment and it also led to the men-animal conflict in recent days.

**Increase out-migration:** Due to population increase for natural increase of population and immigration pressure increased on employment specially for unskilled worker. They began to migrate to outward of North Bengal for job searching.

**Increased crop production:** Due to applying new methods in agricultural sectors which had brought by immigrants and intensive farming had increased total crop production in North Bengal as well as economic prosperity of the district. The refugee made the unfertile badlands into cultivable lands with their hard labour and increased the total crop production of North Bengal.

**Increased of educational institutions:** Many new primary and secondary schools have been established for refugee in various part of North Bengal. These increase educational opportunities for all community people in remote places.

**New job for all:** The local people of this part of Bengal like Rajbanshis and other is traditionally farmer but due to decrease of possession of land and influence of other migrated community they are also entering into other sector of jobs like business.

**Multicultural environment:** Due to immigration from different regions and different communities the district has a multicultural environment. This enriches cultural aspects of North Bengal. Marriages with the immigrants and local people increase the communal harmony.

**Socio-political impact:** Immigration also increases socio-political problems in the district in language, jobs, inferiority complex and identity crisis among less developed communities. Immigrants also stay in anxiety of rootless situation for different movements in North Bengal.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>20</sup> Sanjit Kumar Shil Sharma, op.cit., pp.169-171.

**CONCLUSION:**

At the end of discussion, it may be said that the discussion it may be said that the North Bengal region is a land of various ethnic populaces. No one cannot be separated it from the other ethnic communities. The different ethnic groups living in this region have now become conscious about their age-long economic deprivation and unfulfilled social and political demands. After independence, no effort is made on behalf of the government to respect and protect the interest of the separate ethnic groups . And even no proper step is taken by the state government or central government to cheek the illegal immigration both from Bangladesh and Nepal. No real endeavour is made by the government to publicize the discontented goals of the ethnic communities residing in Dooars. Simultaneously, they also claim self-rule or autonomy from the central and state government to form autonomous council for their own development. In some cases, these ethnic groups have already achieved some success in drawing the attention of the government both at the central and state level but it is really a matter of thought that how can emergence of such separatists movements be tackled when those activists do not want to consider and compromise the national harmony.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

1. Abrar, Chowdhury R, *Human security, globalisation and migration: the case of temporary migrant workers of South Asia*. New Delhi: Social Science Press, 2003.
2. Agarwal, S N , *India's population problems*.- New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill,1985.
3. Ahluwalia, A S, *Status of plantation statistics in Labour Bureau's studies*.New Delhi: Kanishka,2004.
4. Bajaj, Subhash C, *Inter-state migrant labour and the law*.New Delhi: Kanishka, 2004
5. Bandyopadhyay, Sabari, *Migration in the North Eastern region of India in the perspective of security and development*, New Delhi: Concept, 2005.
6. Beverley, H., *Report on the Census of Bengal, 1872*., Calcutta: Secretariat Press. .
7. Bose, Shesadri Prasad, *Colonial India, Predatory State: Emerjence of New Social Structure in jalpaiguri Sistrict (1865-1947)*, Readers service,Jolkata, 2008.
8. Chakravarty, B, *The census and NSS data on internal migration*, New Delhi: Vikas, 1985.
9. Chattopadhyaya, Haraprasad, *Internal migration in India: a case study of Bengal*.- Calcutta: K.P.Bagchi,1987.
10. Chopra, Radhika, *Maps of experience: narratives of migration in an Indian village* New Delhi, Kanishka, 2004.
11. Das, GurudasMigration, *Ethnicity and competition for state resources: an explanation of the social tension in the North-East India*, New Delhi: Gyan, 1998.
12. Das Gupta , A. , *Migration: An Anthropological Perspective with Special References to North Bengal, India*. International E-Publication, International Science Congress Association , 2013.
13. Das, S K, *Inter-state migrant workers in India: Problems and remedial measures*, Delhi: Kanishka,2004.
14. Sash, A.J., *Eastern Bengal and assam District Gazetteer, Darjeeling, Siliguri*, N.L. Publishers, 2008.
15. De Haan, Arjan, *Migration, gender, poverty: family as the missing link?*, New Delhi: Sage, 2006.

16. Debnath, Sailen(ed), Social and Political Tension In North Bengal (since 1947) , Siliguri, N.L. Publishers 2007.
17. Debnath, Sailen, The Dooars in Historical Transition, Siliguri, N.L. Publishers, 2010
18. Grunning, J. F. , Eastern Bengal and assam District Gazetteer, Siliguri, N.I. Publishers , 2008.
19. Lambourn, G. E., Eastern Bengal and assam District Gazetteer, Malda, Siliguri, N. L. Publishers, 2008.
20. Mann, R.S., Tribes in India ; Ongoing Challenges, New Delhi, M. D. Publication, 1996
21. Milligan, J. A., Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operation in the Jalpaiguri District, Siliguri, N. L. Publishers, 2011.
22. Mitra, A.K., District Census Hand Book. Jalpaiguri. Appendix VII &VIII. Directorate of Census Cooperation. West Bengal. 1951.
23. Pandit, Susmita(ed), The Changing scenario of Socio-Economic Life in North Bengal, Malda, Dipali Publishers, 2013.
24. Risley, H. H. 1891. *The tribes and castes of Bengal* (Vol-1). (Reprint 1998), Calcutta, Firma KLM Pvt. Ltd.
25. ,Strong, F. W., Eastern Bengal and assam District Gazetteer, Dinajpur, Siliguri, N. L. Publishers, 2008.
26. Sarkar, Shyamal Chandra(ed), Changing Society of Twentieth Century Bengal,Kolkata, Progressive publishers, 2014.
27. Sunder, D. H. E., Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of the Western Duars in the district of Jalpaiguri, 1889-95, Siliguri, N. L. Publishers, 2013.
28. Sutradhar, Kartik, Chandra, Land and Livelihood: A study on the Agro-political Movements of a Bengal District, Jalpaiguri (1869-2004), Sibmandir, N.L. Publishers, 2013.

## Publish Research Article

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication.

**Address:- North Asian International Research Journal Consortium (NAIRJC) 221, Gangoo Pulwama - 192301**

**Jammu & Kashmir, India**

**Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570,**

**Ph No: 01933212815**

**Email: [nairjc5@gmail.com](mailto:nairjc5@gmail.com), [nairjc@nairjc.com](mailto:nairjc@nairjc.com), [info@nairjc.com](mailto:info@nairjc.com)**

**Website: [www.nairjc.com](http://www.nairjc.com)**

