



Economic And Political Impacts Of Illegal Migration On Assam

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Abstract

Migration, which is not a new term for Assam, has tremendous affect on the socio-political scenario of Assam. The British for the requirement of labour in the tea industry has encouraged migration to Assam from different parts of the country. But the migration influx has got a heavy pace during the independence war of Bangladesh. The increasing illegal migration caused serious threat to the identity of the native people. Moreover, the impacts of migration can be in the economic sector and it has created serious threat to the environment. The pressure on land is increasing. So this paper tries to analyse the causes and impacts of illegal migration into Assam.

Keywords: Migration, Assam, impact, social, political, economic

INTRODUCTION:

Migration is not a new phenomena of Assam. During the British colonial rule, a large-scale immigration influx began. The British administration encouraged the people to live in Assam. During British administration, a considerable number of tea garden workers arrived in Assam. The influx of illegal migration into Assam has grown since 1971 (during the Bangladesh war). During the Bangladesh war, ten million people invaded Assam. For the indigenous people of Assam, illegal migration has presented a severe challenge to their identity. The inflow of illegal migrants has caused an identity crisis among Assamese, with negative effects in terms of cultural survival, political and economic control, and employment prospects. The political sensitivity to the issue has been widely reflected, and it is probably noteworthy that all players, including student unions, civil society organisations, state and federal governments have embraced the difficulties with enthusiasm. One of the main causes of ethnic violence in Assam is illegal migration. As a result, the ongoing silent demographic invasion by illegal migrants should be completely stopped. In 1985, the Assam Accord was signed. It was a tripartite agreement signed by the Indian government, the Assam state administration, and the leaders of the Assam movement. The Assam Accord's clause 6 envisions constitutional, legislative, and administrative measures to maintain, protect, preserve, and develop the Assamese people's cultural, social, and linguistic identity and history. (Doley, 2020)

Assam's social, economic, and political climate has been negatively impacted by illegal migration. It has been one of the leading causes of social and ethnic conflict in Assam in recent years. This challenge has been properly met by successive central and

state governments. The presence of a high number of illegal migrants could allow external actors such as Pakistan and China to exert influence on events in Assam and the wider North-East. The basic objective of this paper is to evaluate the economic and political impact of migration in Assam.

In Assam, the tea industry was created by the British. The Assamese people, who largely lived in Upper Assam and only grew one crop per year, were not interested in working in the tea gardens as labourers. As a result, the British encouraged Bengali Muslim peasants from present-day Bangladesh to go to Lower Assam in order to cultivate virgin land. This set in action a movement pattern that has continued to this day, despite changing conditions.

OBJECTIVES:

The basic objective of this paper is to analyze the economic and political impact of migration in Assam.

METHODOLOGY:

This paper is based on secondary data and the information is collected from different sources such as journals, newspapers, internet, books etc. The study is analytical and descriptive in nature.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Nath and Nath (2011) in their article discussed about the causes and consequences of illegal migration into Assam. It analysed that high income opportunities, land acquisition, increase in population the main causes of illegal migration from Bangladesh to Assam. This paper discussed about how the illegal migrants are helping in increasing productivity by different techniques and multiple cropping. The supply of cheap labour is also beneficial for the consumers. This paper also included the negative impacts about heavy pressure on land, creating socio-economic and environmental problems.

Sarma (2015) by giving a clear meaning of migration and migrants in her thesis, analysed the history of illegal migration from Bangladesh to Assam. She in her study made a comparative analysis how the population of Assam is increasing in a very heavy pace due to the flow of migrants. She broadly discussed about different climate forces that creates migration from Bangladesh to Assam. She also discussed about the various issues related to migration in Assam.

Bharali (2020) in his article discussed about the problem of migration from a political perspective. It analysed the history of migration and what kind of demographic changes it is causing in Assam. He also through his article give a political understanding

why the problems of migration is still not solved and what kind of politics is related to the issue. He also discussed whether Bangladesh will accept those migrants or not.

Das and Talukdar (2016) in their study discussed about the concept of migration, different types of migration, historical background and positive contributions of migration into Assam. Moreover, the paper elaborately analysed different social, political and economic consequences of migration and the paper also included some suggestions to solve the migration problem.

Doley (2020) in his article discussed about migration into Assam and its relation with Assam Accord 1985. He, in his study talked about various impacts of migration into Assam.

DISCUSSION:

Illegal migration results from many factors. One reason is Bangladesh is facing increasing land pressures and rising unemployment as a result of an unchecked population growth and high population density (964 people per square kilometre, according to 2011 estimates). The large-scale migration from Bangladesh to India has been made possible in part by the 4,096-kilometer porous India-Bangladesh border, which has yet to be fenced. Furthermore, better economic prospects across the border, competitive vote-bank and patronage politics, and the presence of a strong pro-Bangladesh lobby in India frequently create myths and mislead Indians about the severity of the problem. Moreover, floods and cyclones in Bangladesh uprooted large swaths of the population.

The British and the Burmese signed the Yandaboo Treaty in 1826. As a result, British colonial control was established in Assam. Large-scale immigration into Assam was supported by the British government. In Assam, the tea industry was created by the British. To work in the tea gardens, they imported labour from Bihar and other districts. The Assamese people, who largely lived in upper Assam and only grew one crop per year, were not interested in working as labourers in the tea gardens, nor in growing or expanding land cultivation to fulfil the increased demand for food from the tea garden's vast labour population. East Pakistan seceded from Pakistan in 1971 and declared independence as Bangladesh. **(Talukdar & Das, 2016)**

During the Bangladesh conflict, ten million people crossed the border into India. After the country gained independence, the influx of immigrants continued unabated. Bangladeshi immigrants are also known as Bangladeshi immigrants.

After his death in 1978, a re-election was scheduled in the Mangoldoi Lok Sabha constituency to fill Hiralal patwari's seat. Voting officials noticed a sudden and dramatic increase in the number of registered voters during the election process. AASU (All Assam Students Union) demanded that the election be postponed till the names of foreign

nationals were deleted from the electoral rolls and they demanded permanent sealing of the Indo-Bangladesh border.

From there, the Assam agitation or movement began. In 1985, the Rajiv Gandhi government began discussions with the AASU and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, and the Assam accord was signed. Illegal migrants are people who arrived in Assam after December 24, 1971, according to the Assam Accord. The stream that broke the law between January 1, 1966, and December 24, 1971, however, was not to be deported and was to be granted Indian citizenship after a ten-year period.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACTS OF MIGRATION

Immigrants were employed as a vote bank by Indian political parties. Migrants were welcomed by political parties in their respective states. The political parties claimed that the migrants should be provided with government services. They were utilised by political parties to acquire votes in elections. Such a group of individuals votes for political leaders who provide them with protection, government amenities, and other benefits. The All Assam Students Union (AASU) claimed that the BJP-led government in Assam passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 in order to play vote bank politics. Illegal migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan are granted Indian citizenship under this act. The indigenous people of Assam face a major identity threat as a result of the large-scale immigration. The Assamese culture would be insecure, and illegal migrants will reduce local people's employment opportunities. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a list of Indian citizens that was created in 1951 based on the 1951 census. Assam began the process of updating the NRC in 2013 in response to a Supreme Court ruling. NRC Updating was carried out under the Citizenship Act of 1955 and in accordance with the Assam Accord in order to wean out cases of illegal migration from Bangladesh and other neighbouring territories. In the case of Assam, there was a cut-off date of March 25, 1971, after which all foreigners were to be found, erased, and ejected in line with the law, as per the Assam accord. Assam has seen an increase in communal violence as a result of large-scale immigration. In Assam, there has been a huge influx of Bengali-speaking Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh. As a result, in Assam politics, two sorts of communalism have emerged: Hindu politics and Muslim politics.

Large-scale immigration has exacerbated ethnic tensions between the state's indigenous people and Bengali migrants. Muslim migrants in Kokrajhar were attacked by Bodo separatists. In 1993, a raid on Bansbari, a makeshift camp for displaced Muslims, resulted in the deaths of over 100 migrants. (BBC, July 26, 2012, What lies behind Assam unrest.) Communal violence broke out in July 2012 between indigenous Bodos and Bengali-speaking Muslims.

The flood of immigrants triggered an identity problem among Assamese natives. Their cultural existence will be jeopardised, their political power compromised, and their

career chances harmed as a result of illegal migration. Although the immigrants had arrived in Assam, the Assamese discovered that the majority of them did not identify with the mainstream. Illegal migration is at the foundation of the latest Bodo-Muslim conflict in the BTAD.

There is a fear that immigrants would take employment that might otherwise be taken by locals, especially during a recession; there can be competition and conflict in certain places and circumstances. Every year, illegal immigrants bring a large number of individuals into Assam. It is one of the primary causes of population growth. As a result, there is a chance that salary levels will fall.

CONCLUSION:

A problem with such profound historical origins cannot be remedied in a single day. The dangers of large-scale illegal migration from Bangladesh, both for Assamese people and for the nation as a whole, must be emphasised strongly. No erroneous and erroneous concepts of secularism should be permitted to stand in the way. Illegal migration from Bangladesh is no longer merely a regional issue that can be ignored. These migrants are now dispersed over various states and far-flung locations, including Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and other states. The government should take strict measures to identify unlawful migration with the assistance of local people and repatriate illegal migrants to Bangladesh. Border fencing with Bangladesh should be finished as soon as possible. In Assam, the implementation of the Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal (IMDT) Act of 1983 resulted in a complex scenario. As a result, the IMDT Act needs to be abolished.

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