

**Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam:
A Study of Dhubri and Nagaon Districts**

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To

Sikkim University



In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Master of Philosophy

By

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February, 2018

DECLARATION

Date: _____

I, **Prakash Dutta**, do hereby declare that the subject matter of this dissertation is the record of work done by me, that the contents of this dissertation did not form basis of the award of any previous degree to me or to the best of my knowledge to anybody else, and the dissertation has not been submitted by me for any research degree in any other university/institute.

This is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of **Master in Philosophy** in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, Sikkim University.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam: A Study of Dhubri and Nagaon Districts**” submitted to Sikkim University in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **Master of Philosophy** in Political Science is the result of bonafide research work carried out by **Mr. Prakash Dutta** under my guidance and supervision. No part of the dissertation has been submitted for any other degree, diploma, associateship and fellowship.

All the assistance and help received during the course of the investigation have been duly acknowledged by her.

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“Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam: A Study of Dhubri and Nagaon Districts”

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I dedicate my work

To

My mother (Maa) and Father (Baba),

My sisters Jhuma and Ruma

And

My teachers, advisers as well as well-wishers.

Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>List of Tables and Figures</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>vi</i>
Chapter 1: Introduction: Framework of the study	2-15
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Review of Literature	8
1.3 Scope of the study	12
1.4 Objectives	13
1.5 Research Questions	13
1.6 Methodology	13
1.7 Chapterisations	14
Chapter 2: Migration: Definitions and Discourses	17-36
2.1 Migration: Definition	17
2.2 Theories of Migration	22
2.3 Migration Policy	25
2.4 Socio-economic Status: Concept and Definition	34
Chapter 3: Bangladeshi Migration in Assam:	
Historical Background and State Responses	38 - 53
3.1 Introduction	38
3.2 Historical Background of the Migration in Assam	38
3.3 Factors of the Bangladeshi Migration into Assam	42
3.4 Migration Policy of India	49
3.5 National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam	52
3.6 Assam Accord	53

Chapter 4: Socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi Migrants in	
Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam	55- 95
4.1 Introduction	55
4.2 Part I- Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi Migrants	58
4.3Part II- Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Members of Student Union and Government Officials	86
Chapter 5: Conclusion	97- 105
5.1 Summary	97
5.2 Major Findings	100
5.3 Suggestions and Recommendations	103
<i>References</i>	<i>106-117</i>
<i>Appendix I</i>	<i>119-126</i>
<i>Appendix II</i>	<i>127-130</i>

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- **Prakash Dutta**

List of Abbreviations

AAGSP	:	All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad
AASU	:	All Assam Student's Union
ABSU	:	All Bodo Student Union
ACAPS	:	Assessment Capacities Project
AGP	:	AsomGanaParishad
AJYCP	:	AsomJatiyatabadiYuvaChatraParishad
BBS	:	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BJP	:	Bharatiya Janata Party
BOP	:	Border Out Post
BSF	:	Border Security Force
BTAD	:	Bodoland Territorial Area Districts
CEAS	:	Common European Asylum System
CHT	:	Chittagong Hill Tracts
EU	:	European Union
GCIM	:	Global Commission on International Migration
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GOI	:	Government of India
HRC	:	Human Right Council
IBP	:	International Border Post
ICC	:	Indian Citizenship Certificate
IFRC	:	International Red Cross
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
IMDT	:	Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act of 1993
IOM	:	International Organisation for Migration
KM	:	Kilometre
MP	:	Member of Parliament
NDA	:	National Democratic Alliance

NDFB	:	National Democratic Front of Boroland
NRC	:	National Register of Citizenship
ONCD	:	Order National des ChirugiensDentistes
PIL	:	Public Interest Litigation
PP	:	Patrolling Post
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
TEFU	:	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UDHR	:	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
ULFA	:	United Liberation Front of Assam
UN	:	United Nations
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	:	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICE0F	:	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNRC	:	United Nations Resident Coordinator
US	:	United States
WFP	:	World Food Programme

List of Table and Figures

Tables

Table 4.1: Sample of the study

Table 4.2: Age group of Household Members

Table 4.3: Income of the households

Table 4.4: Facilities available in the area

Table 4.5: Personal Information

Figures

Figure 2.1: Schematic representation of a sociological life-cycle.

Figure 3.1: Factors of Land Degradation

Figure 4.1: Distance from nearest town to the residing area of Bangladeshi migrants

Figure 4.2: Period of migration

Figure 4.3: Types of Residence

Figure 4.4: Types of ownership

Figure 4.5: Types of Identity Cards of the Households

Figure 4.6: Percentage of arrested family members of household

Figure 4.7: Feeling of security in Assam

Figure 4.8: On return to the country of origin

Figure 4.9: Educational qualification of the male children

Figure 4.10: Educational qualification of the female children

Figure 4.11: Educational qualification of the male adults

Figure 4.12: Educational qualification of the female adults

Figure 4.13: Educational qualification of the family members of the households

Figure 4.14: Health condition of the age group bellow 5 years

Figure 4.15: Health condition of the age group between 5-14 years

Figure 4.16: Health condition of the age group between 14-18 years

Figure 4.17: Health condition of the age group between 18-30 years

Figure 4.18: Health condition of the age group between 30-50 years

Figure 4.19: Health condition of the age group between 50-65 years

Figure 4.20: Health condition of the all age group

Figure 4.21: Health centre/ dispensary in the villages of Bangladeshi migrants

Figure 4.22: Percentage of satisfaction of the health care facilities

Figure 4.23: Family status of households in society

Figure 4.24: Family Occupations of the Households

Figure 4.25: Size of Agricultural land holding of the Households

Figure 4.26: Nature of lands of the respondents

Figure 4.27: Livestock and poultry

Figure 4.28: Agricultural Implements and Machinery

Figure 4.29: Household items

Figure 4.30: Impact of migration on the state of Assam

Figure 4.31: Factors for the emergence of the Bangladeshi migration in Assam

Figure 4.32: Responsibility to solve the problem of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam

Figure 4.33: Satisfaction with the arrangement and policy of government to deal with the migrants in Assam

Figure 4.34: Knowledge on existence of NRC in Assam

Figure 4.35: On grant of citizenship to the migrants from Bangladesh

Preface

Migration is a constant but dynamic phenomenon. History of the human migration from one part of the world to another is as old as mankind itself. Migration is the movement of people from one place to another place. Assam has witnessed wave after wave of migration like any other part of the world. Bangladeshi migration is also one of them. The Bangladeshi migrants are settled in Assam lack adequate infrastructure in education, healthcare, transport, communication and so others. This study was explored the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migration in Assam with special reference to Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam.

First chapter of this study provided introduction and synopsis of the study. Second chapter defined the term migration and types of migration such as immigration, emigration, population transfer, impelled migration, forced migration, chain migration, return migration and seasonal migration. Three basic factors were also examined like- environmental, forced and economic migration. Apart from this three, another two factors- political and social causes of migration was discussed in this chapter. Three theories such as- labour market and push/pull theory, forced migration and developmental theory of migration was devoted in this chapter. This chapter explored discourses of migration, where parliamentary debate was analysed. Migration policy was also explored in this chapter. Firstly, it talked about the three-migration policy domain in the South Asian region such as- 1) National Migration policy and Border regimes, 2) Migrants Rights and the treatment of Migrants and 3) Migration and Development. Secondly, United Nation arrangement on migration was devoted. There are five legal instrument of United Nation are dealing with the international migration, such as: (a) the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, (b) the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, (c) the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families, (d) the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (e) the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Thirdly, ILO and UNHRC arrangement on migration was analysed. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted three Convention which are directly link with the protection of migrants' workers- the Migration for Employment Convention 1949, the Convention concerning

Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers 1975, and the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers 2011. Fifthly, European Union and SAARC's arrangement on migration was examined. Lastly this chapter was defined the term "Socio-economic Status" and its importance. Socioeconomic status is measurement of variables including education, income, occupation, wealth, and place of residence.

Chapter three of this study analysed the pattern of migration in Assam from 'Karbi' migration to Bangladeshi migration. Then the chapter devoted various factors behind the Bangladeshi migration into Assam such as- - the partition of India 1947 and forced migration, atrocities in 1964-65, India-Pakistan war 1965, India-Pakistan war 1971 and liberation of Bangladesh, poorer border, deforestation in Bangladesh, Natural Disasters- flood in Bangladesh, land degradation and river bank erosion, cyclone and migration, natural disaster and migration, economic factors- poverty, economic factors- unemployment, Bangladesh agriculture, development and displacement in Bangladesh, socio-political factor, porous border and so others. After that, chapter focuses on various migration policy in India, such as- migration policy during the British period 1826-1947, migration policy 1947-1953, the Foreigner Act 1946, the Immigration (Expulsion from Assam) Act 195, the Passport Act, Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact 1950, India Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty 1950, Foreigners Tribunal Order 1964 and IMDT Act of 1983. Lastly, this chapter is analyses NRC in Assam and Assam Accord.

Fourth chapter looked at the Bangladeshi migrants by trying to know the opinion of Bangladeshi migrants in one hand and on the other hand Local Leaders, Student Union and Government Officials with two separate interview schedules on some issues. The survey was conducted in September and October 2016. Two districts namely Dhubri and Nogaon of Assam were selected on the basis of sampling. The study focuses on those migrants who came after 1971 in Assam from Bangladesh and their data will collected from the government office like- NRC office and Police department. In some cases, local people of tow sample districts are also helps for the selection of the sample. The last chapter was devoted to major findings, Suggestions, recommendations and conclusion of the proposed study.

Chapter 1:

Introduction: Framework of the Study

1.1 Introduction

Migration is a phenomenon as old as human civilisation itself (Triandafyllidou, 2016:88; Freeman and Mirilovic, 2016:137). History of the human migration from one part of the world to another is as old as mankind itself (Kaistha and Sharma, 1998:182; Attard, 2000; Hazarika and Raghavan, 2011:47). Each civilisation in its history passes through massive movement of people over great distance for better livelihood and secured home (Dutta, 2013:499). This statement is totally opposite in terms of Bangladeshi Migrants. The Bangladeshi migrants in Assam are settled lack adequate infrastructure in education, healthcare, transport and communication (Sarma, 2015:178). It is evident that the access of basic healthcare facilities is lacking, access of educational institutions is also poor and majority of Bangladeshi migrants are illiterate and the roads are poorly developed in their area where the Bangladeshi migrants are settled. By this background, this study is focuses on the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migration in Assam with special reference to Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam.

1.1.1 Migration: Definition and Concept

In general, migration is the movement of people from one place to another place. Migration is also defined as the movement of human beings from their place of origin in order to reside in a new location, either temporarily or permanently (Deshingkar, 2006). According to Shaw's (1975) definition, migration is "the relatively permanent movement of persons over a significant distance".

International Organisation for Migration (IOM, 2004) was devoted, migration can be defined as "a process of moving, either across on international border, or within a state, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification".

Lee (1966) defines migration, "As a permanent or semi- permanent change of residence. No restriction is placed upon the voluntary and involuntary nature of the act, and no distinction is made between external and internal migration."

Census of India (2001) stated migration as, “a person is considered a migrant, if birth place or place of last residence is different from place of enumeration”. The National Sample Survey Organisation of the Government of India defines a migrant as “a member of the sample household who had stayed continuously for at least six months or more in a place other than the place of enumeration”.

In short, a migrant is defined as a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one politically defined area to another similar area. Thus, the concept of migration involves implicitly imposition of boundary lines which must be crossed before a movement is counted as migration.

1.1.2 Types of Migration

There are various types of migration, such as, (i) Internal Migration, which is moving to a new home within a state, country or continent, (ii) External Migration, which means migrating or moving to a new home in a deferent state, country or continent, (iii) Immigration, which means moving or migrating into a new country, (iv) Emigration, which means leaving one country and move to another country, (v) Population Transfer, which is basically government forces a large group of people out of a region usually based on ethnicity or religion. This is also known as forced migration also. (vi) Impelled Migration, in which people are not forced to out of the country but leave for the reasons of warfare, political problems or religious persecution, (vii) Chain Migration, which is a series of migrations within a family or defined group of people, (viii) Return Migration, which is the voluntary movement of immigrants back to their place of origin, and, (ix) Seasonal Migration, which can be defined as moving for a certain period of time in response to labour or climate change.

Lama (2003), migratory movement in South Asia divided in two phenomena, i.e. internal and external. But these phenomena have three basic factors, which are environmental, forced and economic factors. Environmental factors of South Asia are divided into two types. First one is exodus variety, which is primarily caused by large development projects or unprecedented natural disasters (Chari & Gupta, 2003:132). Secondly, trickle variety, which is slow but steady displacement, caused by environmental reasons(ibid).

Forced migration of South Asia is divided into three categories. First, the state is the main actor in forcing emigration to achieve cultural homogeneity or asserting the domestic of one ethnic community over another in the socio-economic and political areas. Second, governments have forced emigration to deal with political dissident's hostile to the regime and its class enemies. And third, forced migration has been used as part of the strategy to achieve foreign policy objective (ibid).

Economic migration is primarily displacements for the reason of poverty in their countries of origin. Economic causes of migration include poor economic condition, overpopulation, poor climate conditions and natural disasters.

Other causes of migration include political and social causes of migration. Political causes of migration are war, invasion, military takeover, enslavement; escape from persecution on ethnic, political, religious or other grounds, escape from persecution for crime committed, punishment from crime, political agreement. Social causes of migration are reuniting with family, friends who have previously migrated, spreading a religion, political movement or philosophy, seeking more personal freedom, not necessarily as the result of persecution.

1.1.3 Theoretical Discourse

There are various theories of migration research, such as- labour market and push/pull theory, demographic theory, political theory, geographical/ecological/ developmental theories, feminist/ gendered theories, social/ cultural theories, forced migration theory and so others. Labour market and push/pull theory talked about three-layer labour market in any state. In the first layer state sector is primarily reserved for native born worker and the wages and facilities are the best in this sector (Ghosh, 2016). Second layer is irregular employment. Third layer is the tertiary, marginal and the ghetto economy. If we connect them with migration than less developed national economies push people out while those with higher wages and standards of living pull them in and this ruled is valid on particularly in third sector. This labour market approach is also known disequilibrium approach. Similarly, forced migration theory commonly refers to the movements of refugees and internally displaced people. Forced migration of South Asia categorised into three types (Chari & Gupta, 2003:135), such as, firstly, the state has been the main actor in forcing emigration, secondly, government have

forced emigration to deal with political differences, and lastly forced migration has been used to achieve foreign policy objectives. Further, in the developmental theory of migration, examined how dam, firing ranges, bridge and resettlement scheme have direct connection with displacements that often lead to permanent human movement in search of livelihood (Ghosh, 2016). These three theories such as labour market and push/pull theory, forced migration theory and developmental theory will be used for this proposed study.

1.1.4 Socio-economic Status: Concept and Definition

Socio economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of an individual's or family s economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation (Saila & Chamundeswari, 2014:80). According to the new dictionary of cultural literacy, socioeconomic status depends on a combination of variables, including occupation, education, income, wealth and place of residence. Dictionary of Sociology define as any measure which attempts to classify individual, families, or households in terms of indicators such as occupation, income, and education (ibid).

Otis Dudley Duncan (1967) concerned with the process of social stratification and developed a paradigm for the socio-economic life cycle. In the socio-economic life cycle models relate distributed social products (schooling, occupation, income, consumption, health, social participation) of individuals, the corresponding estimated parameters represent analytical indicators of the functioning of the various social institutions indexed by the variables of the models (Lengyel, 1975).

1.1.5 Migration in Assam in Post 1971

The partition of the country on August 15, 1947 was followed by communal riots against the Hindus in West Pakistan as well as East Pakistan. As a result, millions of Hindus migrated from the East Pakistan to Assam and West Bengal. During that period about 35 million people were involved in cross border movement (Ghosh, 2001). In the long run, Assam had to face serious upheavals on the economic, political, social and the cultural front (Bhattacharyya, 2001). The increase of the Muslim population during 1951 to 1961 was 27.50 per cent against the natural

increase of 22.40 per cent (Harlalka, 2008). Further in 1965, after the war or during the war period a large number of refugees migrated to India from East Pakistan and they mainly settled in Assam and West Bengal state of India for their cultural and linguistic similarities. In 1965 war, one million people came illegally to India, (Hazarika, 2000). After 1965 war Pakistan enforced the Enemy Property Act, now known as Vested Property Act in Bangladesh. Implementation of this act was shown that numbers of Hindus are affected by this Act and this effected Hindus are immigrated to India (Sarma, 2015).

During the liberation of Bangladesh in 1970 to 1971 had sent about 10 million refugees to India (Samaddar & Reifeld, 2001). Some of them are gone back to Bangladesh after the liberation of Bangladesh but some of them are settled in India mostly in Assam and Tripura(ibid). Bangladesh census records indicate a reduction of 39 lakhs Hindus between 1971 and 1981 and another 36 lakhs between 1981 and 1998 (Harlalka, 2008). These 75 lakhs Hindus have obviously come to India (ibid). Majority of them were settled in Assam (ibid).

In 1974, Bangladesh faced problems in regards of the famine and for this reason a large scale of people was migrated to India from Bangladesh (Sharma, 2015). The Farakka Barrage was constructed in 1975 at Farakka to enhance inland water transport. This barrage was affected on the Fishing Industries and the Agriculture Sectors (ibid). As a result, whose livelihood is depending on the Agriculture Sectors and Fishing Industries were lost their livelihood and for this Farakka Barrage, an estimated 2 million people are migrated to India (Roy, 1997).

The migration in of Bangladeshi migration to Assam can be categorised into two factors- 1) Push factor: The key elements under push factor of Bangladeshi migration-political instability, environment, over population and civil war. 2) Pull Factor Reasons included economic reasons and so on (Deka, 2011:08).

1.1.6 Immigration Policies of India

Refugee and immigrants in India is protected through the expedience of Article 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution but they are not entitled to the Article 19. Foreigners of India are governed by the Foreigners Act 1946, together with the following

regulation: The Foreigners Order, 1948, The Foreigners (Restriction on Movements) Order, 1960, The Foreigners (Restriction on Activates) Order, 1962, The Foreigners (Restriction on Residence) Order, 1968, The Foreigners (Proof of Identity) Order, 1986, The Foreigners (Report to Police) Order, 1971 and other regularities (Ghosh, 2016). Apart from the above Act and regularities there are some other initiatives are taken by the Government of India like- The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950, The Passport Act 1950, The Nehru-Liaqat Ali Pact 1950, Rehabilitation of Migrants, India-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty, Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964, Flight of Chakma People to India, Migrants Rehabilitation in Various projects- Permanent Liability Category, Dandyakarnya Project etc., Regularization of the Migrants, Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act of 1993 (IMDT), Issues of National Identity Card, Implementation of the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam, Assam Accord and so others.

1.1.7 Statement of the Problem

National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam mentions that for inclusion in the NRC one's name or one's ancestor's name must be in the 1951 NRC or in any voter list up to the midnight of March 24, 1971 the cut-off date agreed upon in the Assam Accord. If the applicants name is not on any of these lists, he/she can produce any of the 12 other documents dated up to March 24, 1971, like land or tenancy record, citizenship certificate or permanent residential certificate or passport or court records or refugee. Hence, those were come after 24 March, 1971 and whose ancestors name was not listed in the NRC are regarded as illegal migrants or immigrants or migrants. Secondly, the other social processes such as assimilation with the indigenous population takes either longer time or become problematic (Misra, 1981).

The Bangladeshi migrants are settled in Assam lack adequate infrastructure in education, healthcare, transport and communication. It is evident that access of basic healthcare facilities is lacking in the most of the area where the Bangladesh migrants are settled. Similarly, the access to educational institutions is also poor and majority of the Bangladeshi migrants are the illiterate. The roads of their areas are poorly developed and it becomes very acute problems in summer when flood is common. For the reason of their illiteracy, majority of them are engaged with the agricultural institution, fishing industries, manual labour and small small business. To increase

their standard of living, they purchase other properties, such as bicycle, thellas (Push Cart), rickshaws, cars, trucks, tractors and boats for fishing among others.

The proposed study is to examine the socio-economic status of Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon Districts of Assam. Dhubri district is selected for the purpose of the study as according to the NRC (2016), just in Dhubri there may be as many as 12,000 Bangladeshi migrants who are living as Indian citizens with fake paper. Similarly, Nagaon district is also selected for the purpose of the study as in 2001, population of Nagaon was 23, 14, 629 in which 55.36 per cent are Muslim and 26131 are migrants including 24,258 from Bangladeshi, 6 from Bhutan, 114 from Nepal and 328 from others (Census of India, 2001). Further, more than 2000 fake documents have been detected by the NRC officials in 2016, including 1175 in Nagaon district. According to the government figure, in Nagaon district of Assam, 2016, around 6,576 bighas of land have been encroached upon by the migrants.

1.2 Review of Literature

Baruah in his work *India against itself*, argues that loosely organized federations are not only less prone to violent conflict but they also make better democracies. He traces the conflicts in Assam and tensions between pan-Indianism and Assamese sub-nationalist concerns ever since the province became a part of British India and one of the world's leading tea-producing regions in the nineteenth century. He argues human rights abuses by security forces and insurgents, ethnic violence, and the steady slide towards illiberal democracy are largely due to India's formally federal but actually centralized government structure. Here, chapter six of this book *Baruah* talks about the protest against immigration, ethnic rifts, and crisis of governability in context of Assam. He also explores about the Assam movement and this movement is basically give emphasis on the illegal immigration. This book was not emphasising on the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam as well as government responses to immigrants.

Bhattacharyya in his book *The Silent Invasion*, written about the legendary Assam movement. Here he says tons of water has flown down the Brahmaputra since the Assam Accord was signed; but the problem of illegal migration from Bangladesh to Assam has not advanced an inch towards a permanent solution, rather it has assumed

a menacing proportion over the years. So, he developed what is happening in future in the context of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam in his book. This book was not emphasising on the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam as well as government responses to immigrants.

Chari & Gupta in their books *Human Security in South Asia: Energy, Gender, Migration and Globalisation*, there is an article in the name of *Poverty, Migration and Conflict: Challenges to Human Security in South Asia* by *Mahendra P. Lama* explore about the linkages between the poverty, migration and conflict and how these are led to challenges the human security South Asia. This book was also not emphasising on the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and implementation of NRC as well.

Coast in his study, *Maasai Socio-economic Condition: Cross Border Comparison*, explored about the socio-economic condition of the Maasai ethnic groups in Kenya and Tanzania. Survey was conducted between October 1997 and May 1998. Information was collected on 1545 Maasai households in Kenya and Tanzania using a slandered questionnaire. These data represent the first large scale cross border comparable survey of socio-economic indicators for the Maasai. This study not devoted about the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam rather it will help to explore about the socio-economic condition of the people in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon district in Assam.

Ghosh in his work *Migrants, Refugees and the Stateless in South Asia*, explore about the economic, social and cultural impacts of migrants within South Asia. This book addressed the concept of migration with the aim of building theory as well as drawing from existing theories to understand South Asian realities. Similarly, like the above books this book is also not discussed about the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and their socio-economic condition.

Harlalka in his work *Bangladeshi Invasion* highlighted the history of migration and focused on how foreigners are silently on their way to become the majority in Assam. The demographic change in Assam is of course a threat to the security of India. This book was not emphasising on the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam as well as government responses to immigrants.

Hugo in his work *Migration and Climate Change*, brings together a number of papers addressing the complexity of the migration-environment change relationship. This literature is a rapidly developing one but the papers included here provide a snapshot in what is a rapidly growing moving picture of our understanding of migration and environment and how this relates to predictions of climate change impacts. At the outset, however, it is worth identifying some of the dimensions of the complexity of the relationship. There is an article *Displacing the Conflict: Environmental Destruction in Bangladesh and Ethnic Conflict in India* by *Ashok Swain* analyses about how environmental destruction of the Bangladesh is led ethnic conflict in India. Book is giving more importance to the climate change and its relation with the migration. This book was not explored about the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and government responses to immigrants as well.

Mahanta in his book *Confronting the State: ULFA's Quest for Sovereignty*, analyse about the ULFA and the Assam movement. The author claims that the ideological and identity issues between India and Assam have remained unsolved, and ULFA is a manifestation of that unresolved crisis. The book tries to go beyond the ULFA-centric solution and dwells upon the issue of illegal migration human development and the need for the protection of a composite society in Assam. This book is mostly focused on the ULFA rather than the migrants. Lastly this book is touched about the migration in Assam. Similarly, book is also not analysed about the socio-economic condition of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

Mukherji in his work *Migration in India*, explore about the migration and urbanization in India. Book has analysed many aspects of migration-urbanization at six levels. It also emphasises human dimensions of migration problems. Part three of this examine about the massive migration from Bangladesh to India. Similarly, book is also not covered about the socio-economic condition Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and responses of the government to immigrant's issue as well.

Olayinka in his work *Cross-Border Migrants Integration in Rural Border Communities of South West Nigeria*, examined cross border migrant's integration in rural border communities of Ogun and Oyo states, South West Nigeria. Multistage sampling techniques were used for the survey. This study concluded that the identified socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the migrants are relevant

factors for consideration in planning for integration of migrants in rural border communities of South West Nigeria. By employing of the methods and techniques of this study for which they concluded the socio-economic characteristics of cross border migrants in rural border communities of Nigeria will also helpful to examine the socio-economic conditions of the Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon district of Assam.

Prabhakara in his work *Looking Back into the Future*, talk about the identity and insurgency in Northeast India. This book is examining questions of identity, ethnicity, sovereignty and insurgency in northeast India, especially in Assam and its neighbourhood. This book is also giving more importance to the identity. Similarly, this book is not fully explored about the Bangladeshi immigrants. Further book is also not examined about the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

Rajan (2011) in his book *India Migration Report 2011: Migration, Identity and Conflict* provide a district-level analysis of the various facets of migration with a focus on employment networks, gender dimensions and migration-development linkages, with concrete policy suggestions to improve living and working conditions of the vulnerable migrant workers. This book was neither examined about the socio-economic condition of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam nor government responses to immigrant's issues.

Roy, et al. in their work *Northeast India: Development, Communalism and Insurgency*, represent a pioneer effort in understanding the linkage among the phenomena of development, communalism and insurgency of Northeast India. Here this book is analyses insurgency has been viewed as pathology of body politic, breakdown the law and order and challenge the centralized political authority. Here, chapter six of this book author display the demographic changes of Assam means how and where onwards the population of Assam increases for the reason of illegal immigrants. Similarly, this book is also not explored about the socio-economic condition of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and implementation of the NRC as well.

Saikiya, et al. in their work *Population Growth in Assam 1951-1991 with Focus on Migration*, explores the volume of migration to Assam during 1951-1991 by applying

sound demographic tools. It splits the estimated migrants into inter-state and international and legal and illegal and also assesses the total effects of migration on the growth of population of the same during the study period by taking into account both the migrants and their offspring. Similarly, book is also not emphasising on the socio-economic condition of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

Sengupta & Singh in their works *Insurgency in North-East India: The Role of Bangladesh*, explain about the terrorism and armed rebellion in India's North East, which in some place is at least half a century old. They also examine the role of Bangladesh and Pakistan, which are currently busy in forming trouble in this region. Their contribution points out that there exist commonalities as well as differences in the insurgencies that affect different part of the northeast. So, their work was given emphasise on the Bangladeshi immigrants and how it become a root cause of emergence of insurgency in Assam along with the India's North East. But they never examined about the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and government responses to immigrants as well.

Sharma in his book *Migration and Assimilation Society Economic Politics of Assam*, examined about the history behind the migration in Assam from the Ahom to Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam. Further book is also explored about Assam movement, which was known as anti-foreigner movement also. Likewise, the previous book this book is also not described about the socio-economic condition of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

Above from the review of literature, it was cleared that all the book is having some sort of drawback like if one book was explored about the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam than that book was not analyses about the government responses to the immigrant's issues. Most of the above books did not explore the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This proposed study explores the socio-economic status of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam with special reference to Dhubri and Nagaon district of Assam. Social indicators such as education, health, family status, religion and economic indicators

such as property, poverty, earning sources, and family income will be studied. This study also explores the reasons behind the Bangladeshi migration in Assam. Further, Study is also devoted to how Bangladeshi migration impacted on the politics of Assam and what types of issues came out for the reason of Bangladeshi migration. Study focuses on those migrants who came after 1971 in Assam from Bangladesh and their data will be collected from the government office like- NRC office, Police department and so others department dealing with the migration issue.

1.4 Objectives

The primary objectives of the study are

1. To find out the reasons for the Bangladeshi migration in Assam after 1971
2. To explore about the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam
3. To examine the state responses to the Bangladeshi immigration in Assam

1.5 Research Questions

The primary research questions are

1. What are the causes behind the Bangladeshi migration in Assam?
2. What is the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon districts in Assam?
3. What are the government responses to the Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam?

1.6 Methodology

The research study was initiated by identification of research problems followed by a literature review. The nature of the proposed research is descriptive and will be substantiated by both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data was collected from the secondary sources like- books, journal, newspapers, and other existing literatures. For quantitative, primary data was collected from the field by employing purposive sampling and snowball sampling methods. The area selected for this research is the affected area of Dhubri and Nagaon districts in Assam by the Bangladeshi immigrants.

The total sample size was 160. The sample population was sought to be divided into four parts; the first was the Bangladeshi migrants with the sample of size 80 for which 40 samples was taken from Dhubri and 40 samples from Nagaon districts. Both structured and unstructured interview schedule was used. The second part includes local leaders with the sample size of 20 in which 10 samples from Dhubri district and 10 samples from Nagaon district was collected. Third part includes leaders or members of the student's union with the sample size of 20 in which 10 samples from Dhubri district and 10 from Nagaon district was taken. Fourth part was the government officials with the sample size 40 in which 20 samples from Dhubri district and 20 from Nagaon district was taken. Both structured and unstructured interview schedule was used for the study purpose. Separate schedule was used to collect information.

1.7 Chapterisations

This research work is divided in five chapters –

Chapter 1: Introduction: Framework of the Study

This chapter provided introduction and also analyses synopsis of the proposed study.

Chapter 2: Migration: Definitions and Discourses

This chapter defines the term migration. It briefly discusses the various discourses of migration and migration policies which are prevalent and popular and particular relevant theories such as labour market and push/pull theory, forced migration theory and developmental theory.

Chapter 3: Bangladeshi Migration in Assam: Historical Background and State Responses

This chapter discusses the pattern of migration in Assam. This chapter examines the Bangladeshi migration in Assam from post independent period, i.e. 1947 in general and post 1971 in particular and the reasons behind this migration. Similarly, this chapter deals with the responses of the government to the migration issues. Here chapter discusses various Acts related to Bangladeshi migration in India and Assam.

Lastly, it also looks into the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam and Assam Accord.

Chapter 4: Socio-economic Status of the Bangladeshi Migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam

This chapter is discussed results of the field study to know the socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam.

Chapter 5: Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

The last chapter is devoted to major findings, Suggestions, recommendations and conclusion of the proposed study.

Chapter 2:

Migration: Definitions and Discourses

2.1 Migration: Definition

Migration is a universal phenomenon and it is not of recent origin (Gill, 1998; Chand *et al.*, 1998; Naik *et al.*, 2009; Chakraborty and Kuri, 2008; Awasthi, 2010). People are moved one place to another in search of good environment and settlement from first day of human civilization or from when human civilization was started. Migration makes the human beings to think and lead a normal and problem free life, depending upon the previous experiences of human living in different parts (Singh and Kaur, 2007, Halemani and Shashikala, 2009, Naik *et al.*, 2009, Lamani, 2009). Migration is also one of the initial components of the population change.

In general, migration is the movement of people from one place to another place. Dictionaries refer to migration as a change of residence from one place to another (Kaur, 2008). According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of English, migration means "move from one place to another (to live there)". Migration is also defined as the movement of human beings from their place of origin in order to reside in a new location, either temporarily or permanently (Deshingkar, 2006). According to Shaw's (1975) conventional definition, migration is "the relatively permanent movement of persons over a significant distance".

According to International Organisation for Migration (IOM, 2004), migration can be defined as "a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a state, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification".

The UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants (1990) defined a migrant worker as "a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national."

According to Weinberg (1975), "Human migration is the changing of the place of abode permanently or, when temporarily, for an appreciable duration as in the case of seasonal workers, it is used symbolically in the transition from one surrounding to another in the course of human life."

Lee (1966) defines migration, “As a permanent or semi- permanent change of residence. No restriction is placed upon the voluntary and involuntary nature of the act, and no distinction is made between external and internal migration.”

According to Indian Census (2001), “a person is considered a migrant, if birth place or place of last residence is different from place of enumeration”. The National Sample Survey Organisation of the Government of India defines a migrant as “a member of the sample household who had stayed continuously for at least six months or more in a place other than the place of enumeration”.

Labour migration may be defined as a phenomenon of the flow of the people over shorter or longer distances from one origin to a destination either for temporary or permanent settlement (Tripathy, 1997, Halemani and Shashikala, 2009).

In short, a migrant is defined as a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one politically defined area to another similar area. Thus, the concept of migration involves implicitly imposition of boundary lines which must be crossed before a movement is counted as migration.

2.1.1 Types of Migration

Basically, migration is divided into two categories such as internal and external or international migration. Internal migration indicates migration from one place to another place within a country or moving to a new home within a state, country or continent, on the other hand international or external migration refers migration from one country to another, it means migrating or moving to a new home in a deferent state, country or continent. According to International Development report (2007), the number of international migrants was estimated 214 million in 2010 and it could reach 405 million by 2050. Apart from internal and external, there are some other types of migration also which are examine in bellow (Ultimate visa corporation, 2017).

1. Immigration: Immigration means movement of people into a new country and they are come to foreign country to live permanently(ibid). According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2011), ‘immigration’ is the act of someone to live in a

different country. Similarly, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary (2013), 'immigration' is a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence. Further, according to the English Oxford Living Dictionaries (2011), 'immigration' is the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country. Immigration is the international movements of the people into a foreign country and where they do not get permanent citizenship as well as they also work as migrant worker. For example- Bangladeshi immigration into Assam.

2. Emigration: Leaving one country and move to another country. Before emigration you have to live your own country and live permanently in another country (ibid). According to the English Oxford living Dictionaries (ibid) 'emigration' is the act of leaving one's country to settle permanently in another; moving abroad. Similarly, according to the Farlex dictionary (2014), 'emigration' is the act of moving from one country to another with intention not to return. Investopedia (n.d), define as emigration is the relocation of people from one country to reside another. Emigration is the relocation of people from one country to reside in another. People emigrate for many reasons, include increasing one's chance of employment or improving quality of life. The people who are emigrating are called as emigrants. For example- Pilgrims emigrated from England.

3. Population Transfer: It basically government forces a large group of people out of a region usually based on ethnicity or religion. This is also known as forced migration also (ibid). According to the Sociology 'population transfer' is the movement of a large group of people from one region to another by state policy or international authority, most frequently on the basis of ethnicity or religion.

4. Impelled Migration: Here people are not forced to out of the country but leave for the reasons of warfare, political problems or religious persecution and caused by nature (ibid). Impelled migration is also called reluctant imposed migration. No one is forced to migrate but due to some push factors such as war, hunger and other difficult conditions, people decide to leave. War and religious persecution are common reasons for impelled migration. When people strongly oppose the political views of their government they may also reluctantly migrate elsewhere. This could be either on a permanent or temporary basis.

5. Forced Migration: People are forced live the country and migrate into other country (Chari & Gupta, 2003). A forced migration is literally forcing a group or entire nation of people to relocate. According to the International Organization for Migration ‘Forced migration’ is a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects). The term ‘forced migration’ was used by social scientist and covered many kinds of displacement or involuntary movements of both across international border and inside a country. The term has been used to refer the people who have been displaced for the reason of environmental disaster, conflict, famine or large-scale developmental project.

6. Chain Migration: A series of migrations within a family or defined group of people (Ultimate visa corporation, 2017). In social sciences, a chain migration is one in which a population migrates (or immigrates) from one location to the next, then continually brings people from their home to this new place. In theory, chain migration is the chain of people constantly moving from place to place and supported by the people who migrated before them.

7. Return Migration: The voluntary movement of immigrants back to their place of origin (ibid). It means people are voluntarily migrated to one place not permanently. Return migration is the voluntary return of the migrants to original place after they outlive the reasons for which they left. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and development (2008) returning migrants are persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short-term or long- term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least a year.

6. Seasonal Migration: Moving for a certain period of time in response to labour or climate change (ibid). It is usually people’s work that is responsible for the bulk of seasonal migration. Workers who provide labor on farms often migrate each season to where they can find work. Return migration is usually followed by seasonal migration when people return home after the working season is complete.

2.1.2 Factors of Migration

Migratory movement in South Asia categorised in two phenomena by *Lama* (2013), in his work *Poverty, Migration and Conflict*, are- internal and external. These phenomena have three basic factors- environmental, forced and economics.

1. Environmental: Environment of a country or region is also one of the reasons for the people migration from place to place. Environmental causes of migration are given below- natural disaster- hurricanes, earthquakes, excessive droughts; climate change etc. Environmental factors of South Asia are divided into two types-

(i) Exodus variety: primarily caused by large development projects or unprecedented natural disasters. The Kaptai Dam Project (1957-62) located in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in which 100,000 tribal people lost their land as it submerged over 54,000 acres of agriculture land is an example of the exodus variety (Chari & Gupta, 2003:132).

(ii) Trickle variety: it is slow but steady displacement, caused by environmental reasons. Farakka Dam project is one of the examples of trickle variety. A study done by Mahfuzullah, Bhowmick and Bari (2001) shows that over one million Bangladeshis are annually affected by river bank erosion and that 19 percent of slum dwellers in Bangladesh are victims of this tragedy (ibid).

2. Forced Migration: Forced migration of South Asia is divided into three categories (ibid)- First, the state is the main actor in forcing emigration to achieve cultural homogeneity or asserting the dominance of one ethnic community over another in the socio-economic and political areas. Second, governments have forced emigration to deal with political dissidents hostile to the regime and its class enemies. And third, forced migration has been used as part of the strategy to achieve foreign policy objective. These types of forced migration have generated millions of refugees including the Lhotsampas from Bhutan in Nepal, Afghans in Pakistan, Rohingyas in Bangladesh, Tibetans and Sri Lankan Tamils in India.

3. Economic Migration: Economic migrants are primarily displacements for the reason of poverty in their countries of origin. Economy is one of the reasons for the people migration from one place to another. Economic causes of migration are- poor economic condition, overpopulation, poor climate conditions and natural disasters

Above from the three factors there are another two factors for which migration took place such as- political and social causes of migration.

4. Political causes of migration: Political facts are playing a crucial role for the people migration from one place of the world to another. Political causes of migration are- war, invasion, military takeover etc.; enslavement; escape from persecution on ethnic, political, religious or other grounds; escape from persecution for crime committed; punishment from crime; political agreement.

5. Social causes of migration: Likewise, the political facts, social facts are also play prominent role for people migration from place to place. Social causes of migration are- reuniting with family, friends etc. who have previously migrated; spreading a religion, political movement or philosophy; seeking more personal freedom, not necessarily as the result of persecution.

2.2 Theories of Migration

There are various theories of migration research, such as- labour market and push/pull theory, demographic theory, political theory, geographical/ecological/ developmental theories, feminist/ gendered theories, social/ cultural theories, forced migration theory and so others. Three theories such as labour market and push/pull theory, forced migration theory and developmental theory was used for this proposed study.

2.2.1 Labour Market and Push/Pull Theory

Lee analyses about the push and pull theory and factors which are associated with this theory. He relates push factors with developing or least developing countries and pull factors with the advanced or developed countries. People of a country are pushed for the fact of repeated droughts and those people are pulled by the region or nation for the development as well as industrialization and urbanization. As regard the 'push' factors, migrants may be motivated to leave a place for reasons ranging from the economic and demographic (poverty, unemployment, low wages, lack of basic health and education), to the political (conflict, insecurity, violence, poor governance, corruption and human rights abuses), the social and cultural (discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, gender or caste), and the environmental (harvest failure, resource depletion, and natural and/or manmade disaster) (Lee, 1966: 49-51).

Labour market and push/pull theory talked about three-layer labour market in any state. In the first layer state sector is primarily reserved for native born worker and the wages and facilities are the best in this sector (Ghosh, 2016). Second layer is irregular employment. Third layer is the tertiary, marginal and the ghetto economy. If we connect them with migration than less developed national economies push people out while those with higher wages and standards of living pull them in and this ruled is valid on particularly in third sector. This labour market approach is also known disequilibrium approach. Both economist and political scientist differently explore about the disequilibrium theory. When economist explaining about the cross-border migrants, they argued there is disequilibrium between the sending and receiving countries. If we compare sending countries with receiving countries then the wages in the sending countries are very low, employments opportunities are also less and uses of agriculture land is poorer as compare with receiving countries. As result of it, so called push factor is in operation, resulting in outmigration from the sending countries (ibid). On the other hand, political scientist emphasising only on the sending countries or disequilibrium within sending countries rather than the disequilibrium between sending and receiving countries. There are some sorts of problems or disadvantages within the sending countries for which people are migrated to other countries to escape from their miseries. Likewise, economist and political scientist, sociologist also contributed to this theory and their contribution was also important one. The familial and community networks have played a major role in the migration. The migrants leave their counter in search of better livelihood, better employment opportunity, better wages etc in the receiving countries and receiving countries are welcome them for the cheaper services they provide as compared with the local workers. Local labours and labour unions are opposed and protest against this cheap labour, which is general. Sometimes migration is also projected as a racial, communal or ethnic threat (ibid). This type of migration also leads to racial, communal or ethnic threat (ibid).

2.2.2 Forced Migration Theory

Forced migration includes refugees, asylum seekers, internal displacement, trafficking, development-induced displacement, and exile (Castles, 2003). In the forced migration, individual and groups are forced migrate for the reason of

persecution, to flee war, to escape famine and also for the developmental project. They can be displaced by natural, environmental, chemical, or nuclear disaster (Rutter 2006: 24). Forced migration includes exiles, slaves, and mass expulsions (Richmond 1993). Forced migration theory commonly refers to the movements of refugees and internally displaced people. Forced migration of South Asia is categorised into three types (Chari & Gupta, 2003:135), such as, firstly, the state has been the main actor in forcing emigration, secondly, governments have forced emigration to deal with political differences or imbalance, and lastly forced migration has been used to achieve foreign policy objectives. The causes of displacement in post-cold war were basically for conflict and war. These kinds of forced migrations led millions of displacements, such as Afghans in Pakistan, Lhotsampas from Bhutan in Nepal, Rohingyas in Bangladesh, Tibetans and Sri Lankan Tamils in India (ibid). During the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 about 35 million people have been involved in cross border movement in search of security of life, honour and property, or in search of protection from religious and other kinds of persecution, or to avoid strife and wars, or just by drives towards ethnic, racial, ideological or religious homogenisation (Samaddar & Reifeld, 2003).

2.2.3 Developmental Theory of Migration

Developmental theory of migration, examined how dam, firing ranges, bridge and resettlement schemes have direct connection with displacements that often lead to permanent human movement in search of livelihood (Ghosh, 2016). The construction of the Kaptai/ Karnaphuli dam in the Chittagong, East Pakistan at present Bangladesh, led massive migration of Chakmas, Marmas along with the other tribes to India. Majority of them settled in Arunachal Pradesh and became Indian citizens. Countries are giving importance to investment as well as infrastructure expansion or development. There is need of new land for increasing investment and infrastructure expansion for new industrial state, for services, commercial estates, communication, road networks and for transportation. So, land is necessary for development. Much of land is already populated as result displacement. According to the Koenig (2009), the density in urban areas means that even small projects displace many. Development projects led population displacement and it affects very badly on the displaced households both socially and economically. This is because many people who are

displaced are not resettled. According to Cernea (2003) the most vulnerable households are mainly affected and they lose both natural and man-made physical capital as well as human and social capital, by destructing the patterns of social organization and mutual help networks. The most widespread effect of involuntary displacement is the impoverishment of considerable numbers of people (Fernandes, 199; Mahapatra, 1999).

Larger percentages of displaced persons of the South Asia are not regarded as refugees by the host governments of South Asia. They are treated as illegal immigrants and undesirable aliens. Acharya and Bose in their work "*The new search for a durable solution for refugees: South Asia*" stated this is indicative of a disturbing global trend of forced movements of population, known variously as 'refugees', 'displaced persons', 'expellees', 'returners', 'asylum seekers' or 'economic migrants', and of the reluctance of governments to provide them shelter and protection (Samaddar & Reifeld, 2001: 137).

The discourse on environmental refugee or forced migration is highly controversial (Jayaram, 2016). In the country like India "environmental refugee" is non-recognised status in international law. Bangladeshi migration into India is also because of climate change but in Indian perspective it was taken as the socio-economic and political problems in Bangladesh rather than the climate change. So, the reasons for migration are most often complex and overlapping (ibid).

2.3 Migration Policy

2.3.1 Migration Policy Domain in South Asian Region

The policies of migration are the better livelihood of the migrants and shaping the condition of the work and livelihoods of the migrants as well as regulate their mobility. Generally, there are three migration policy domains in the South Asian region (Hickey, et al., 2013). Firstly, National Migration policy and Border regimes: these kinds of politics and laws are controlling the inflows and outflow of the migrants. These politics are related with the international migration and crossing state boundaries. Secondly, Migrants Rights and the treatment of Migrants: these laws and policies are for the protection of the rights of the migrants. Such policies are also

focused on the international migration. These laws and policies are also delivering the social services like- access to health care, education and advocacy services in both sending and receiving countries. Thirdly, Migration and Development: these policies are concern with the larger context of the migrant development. These policies are also explored about the rural development, internal population movements, development and resettlement project, poverty alleviation and national development. Migration policy can be defined as any states policy that deals with the transit of persons across its border (Deka, 2011). Migration policy is closely associated with the other policies such as- tax, tariff and trade rules. If there is a population movement agreement then migration allow to work within the region. For example- European Union has population movement agreement between the member countries for which people are to work anywhere within the EU (Koikkalainen, 2011).

2.3.2 United Nations Arrangement on Migration

There are five legal instrument of United Nation are dealing with the international migration, such as: (a) the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, (b) the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, (c) the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families, (d) the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (e) the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (International Migration Report, 2013:20; UN, 2005).

2.3.2.1 The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

The convention related to the status of the refugee also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention International Migration Report, 2013:20). The Convention came into forced in 22 April 1954 (Refworld, 2001). This Convention was amended in 1967 by the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and removed the geographical temporal limits of the 1951 Convention. This convention grant rights to asylum and it was responsibility of every nations to protect and grant some rights to the refugees. Convention also allow to visa free travel for holders who issued travel documents under the convention. This convention is based on the Article 14 of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which grant the rights of asylum. Article 1(A) 1951 Convention as amended defines a refugee as (ibid)

“A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

Provisions of the 1951 Convention define the legal status, rights and the duties of the refugee. Chapter one is related with general provision like- general obligation (Article 2), non-discrimination (Article 3), religion (Article 4), rights granted apart from this convention (Article 5), the term “in the same circumstances” (Article 6), exemption from reciprocity (Article 7), exemption from exceptional measure (Article 8), provisional measure (Article 9), continuity of residence (Article 10) and refugee seamen (Article 11) (ibid). Chapter two talked about judicial status of the refugees, such as- personal status (Article 12), movable and immovable property (Article 13), artistic rights and industrial property (Article 14), right of association (Article 15) and access to court (Article 16) (ibid). Chapter three of the 1951 Convention all about gainful employment, where talked about- wage-earning employment (Article 17), self-employment (Article 18) and liberal professions (Article 19) (ibid). Similarly, chapter four is analyses about the welfare of the refugee, such as- rationing (Article 20), housing (Article 21), public education (Article 22), public relief (Article 23) and labour legislation and social security (Article 24) (ibid). Chapter five this convention is related with the administrative measures like- administrative assistance (Article 25), freedom of movement (Article 26), identity papers (Article 27), travel documents (Article 28), fiscal charge (Article 29), transfer of assets (Article 30), refugees unlawfully in the country of refugee (Article 31), expulsion (Article 32), prohibition of expulsion or return (Article 33) and naturalization (Article 34) (ibid). Chapter six is examined about executory and transitory provisions like- co-operation of the national authorities with the UN (Article 35), information on national legislation (Article 36) and relation to previous conventions (ibid). Chapter seven is about the final clauses of

the convention- settlement of disputes (Article 38), signature, ratification and accession (Article 39), territorial application clause (article 40), federal clause (Article 41), reservations (Article 42), entry into force (Article 43), denunciation (Article 44), revision (Article 45) and lastly the secretary- general of the UN (Article 46) (ibid).

2.3.2.2 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees

The Convention came into force on 4 October 1967 and 146 countries are parties to the Protocol (Refworld, 1967). The 1951 Convention relating to the status of the refugee was amended in 1967 by the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees and removed the geographical temporal limits of the 1951 Convention. The Protocol is basically talked about (ibid)-

- i. Refugees should not be face persecution or any threat of persecution (principle of *non-refoulement*);
- ii. Protection must be given to the all refugees without discrimination;
- iii. The problem of refugees is social and humanitarian in nature and, therefore, should not become a cause of tension between States;
- iv. Asylum are heavy burdens on certain countries. So, the solution of the problem of refugees can only be achieved through international co-operation;
- v. Refugees cannot be forced to live their country and entered to another country. Further, should not punished for being illegally entered in the country where they seek asylum.
- vi. The cooperation among the States with the High Commissioner for Refugees is essential to deal with the problem of refugee.

2.3.2.3 The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families

More than 150 million immigrants are work and sheltered in other countries. Today, the no of international migration is go high which is between 185 and 192 million and this constitute three percent of the world population (UNESCO, 2005). International migration has become main feature of globalization. The convention of UN provides a comprehensive treaty for the protection of the rights of migrants. This convention

focuses on the linkages between migration and their rights, which crucial topic in the international arena. So, the aim of the convention is to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families and focuses on the promotion of the migrant's rights in each country. The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families come into force 1st July 2003 and this convention has been ratified by 34 countries except US. The primary objective of this convention is to respect the migrant's human rights. Migrants are not only workers, they are human being. This convention not talked about the new rights but it ensures equality of treatment and the same working conditions for migrants and nationals. Article 10-11, 25, 54 this 1990 convention preventing inhumane living and working condition, physical and sexual abuse and degrading treatment (Refworld, 1990). Article 12-13, ensuring migrants rights to freedom of thought, expression and religion (ibid). Article 33, 37, of this convention also ensuring migrants access to information about their rights (ibid) and Article 27-28, 30, 43-45, 54, ensuring education and social services (ibid). Article 26, 40, also granting that migrants have right to participate in trade union (ibid). According to the Article 8, 31, 38, if a migrant like return to his country means where from he came than he has the rights to return back to the country of origin (ibid). Article 41-42, guaranteeing migrants political participation in the country of origin (ibid). Article 32, 46-48, ensuring migrants right to transfer their earnings to their home country (ibid).

2.3.2.4 The 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children was adopted by United Nations General Assembly in November 2000 and it came into force in December 2003, had been ratified by 167 United Nations member State (Refworld, 2000). It talks about the taking of effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in person, especially women and children and required measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and protect the victims (ibid). This convention also defined the crime of trafficking "Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force and other forms of: coercion, abduction, deception, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability and giving or receiving of payments or

benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purposes of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices like slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (ibid).” Protocol talk some relevant laws and by the passing of this laws countries protect their people from the trafficking- protect their privacy and identity, enable them to participate in legal proceedings, assist their physical, psychological and social recovery, provide for their physical safety, provide avenues for them to seek compensation and make safety a key consideration in deciding whether victims should remain in the country of destination or return to their country of origin (ibid). Lastly, this convention focuses on the prevention and co-operation of the all nations to prevent human trafficking (ibid).

2.3.2.5 The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

The 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air came into force on 28 January 2004 and had been ratified by 140 United Nations Member States as of 6 October 2015. It focuses on the illegal migration taking place through sea, land or air. The aim of this convention is to prevent illegal migration and punish the procurers. This convention does not aim to limiting the free movement of people and regulate the legal entry of people. Protocol is divided in three main parts. Part one is general provisions Article 1-6, analyses about the relation with the Convention on organised Crime (Article 1), purpose (Article 2), terminology and definition (Article 3), scope of application (Article 4), criminal liability of migrants (Article 5) and criminalisation (Article 6) (Refworld, 2000). Similarly, part three is smuggling of migrants by sea (Articles 7-9) included co-operation (Article 7), measures against the smuggling of migrants by sea (Article 8) and safeguard clauses (Article 9) (ibid). Further, third part is prevention, co-operation and other measures (Articles 10-18) explore about information (Article 10), border measures (Article 11), security and control of documents (Article 12), legitimacy and validity of documents (Article 13), training and technical co-operation (Article 14), other prevention measures (Article 15), protection and assistance measures (Article 16), agreements and arrangements

(Article 17) and return of smuggled migrants (Article 18) (ibid). The last part Article 19-25 of the 2000 Protocol deals with the technicalities of the document (ibid).

2.3.3 International Labour Organization (ILO) and Migration

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted three Conventions which are directly linked with the protection of migrants' workers- the Migration for Employment Convention 1949, the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers 1975, and the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers 2011. The 1949 Convention came into force 22 January, 1952 and dealing with the slandered of the migrant's workers (Refworld, 1949). It also concerned with the equal treatment of migrant's worker and national with regards to employment taxes, social security, access to justice, laws, regulation, living and working condition and so others (ibid). The 1975 Convention came into force 9 December, 1978 and it was a multilateral attempt to address the irregular migration and deals with the prevention of human trafficking and against the human traffickers (Refworld, 1975). It also concerned with the respect of basic human rights of the all migrants' worker by the member states and dealing with not only about equal treatment of migrants' workers but also equal opportunity like equal access to employment, right to join trade unions, cultural rights and individual and collective freedom (ibid). The 2011 Convention was come into force in 2013, dealing with global labour standards for domestic workers and provide them same basic rights as other workers (Refworld, 2011). The convention devoted that domestic workers have the same basic labour rights as other workers, including reasonable hours of work, a limit on payment and clear information about the terms and conditions of employment (ibid).

2.3.4 United Nations Human Rights Council and Migration

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body of the UN system. It was established in 2006 by replacing the Commission of Human Rights. The HRC is basically dealing with protection and promotion of the human rights around the world. It is addressing the situation of the human rights violation and concerned with the rights of migrants. HRC also dealing with the UN Special Procedures established by the former commission on Human Rights (Ghosh, 2016).

2.3.5 Regional Cooperation and Migration Policy

2.3.5.1 European Union's Arrangements on Migration

The European Union have common immigration policy to managed the migrants of the member country. EU cooperation on migration traced back to the signing of the Schengen Convention in 1985 (Gelatt, 2005). This convention is deals with the common external border, short time visa policy and external border management between the member country. The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 is intergovernmental cooperation dealing with Justice and Home Affairs (Monar, 2012). Further, The Treaty of Amsterdam of 1999 was the turning point of the migration policy in EU, moving competence for asylum, migrants and civil law from member states (Giuffre, 2011). The EU Common European Asylum System (CEAS) in constituted of EU law came into being in 2005 (European Asylum Support Office, 2016). It ensures that all the member state of EU protect the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. The 2010 Treaty of Lisbon concerned with the basic principle for the development of the common asylum and migration policy such as solidarity and respect for human rights (ibid). According to Article 79 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU): '(measures on migration taken at the European level) do not affect the right of Member States to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming from third countries to their territory to seek work, whether employed or self-employed'. European Union also has population movement agreement between the member countries for which people are to work anywhere within the EU (Koikkalainen, 2011).

2.3.5.2 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC) Arrangements on Migration

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was founded in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 8th December 1985. The Secretariat of SAARC is in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of the nation's South Asia. SAARC consist eight members nation – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The 18th SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal is give importance to the migration. The member's countries are agreed to collaborate and cooperate on safe, orderly and

responsible management of labour migration from South Asia to ensure safety, security and wellbeing of their migrant workers in the destination countries outside the region. Labour Ministers of the eight SAARC countries were attended a two days' workshop in 2016 and emphasising on the standard of labour migrants. Here they basically give importance to the information regarding working conditions, working hours, leave and vacation time and social security of workers to ensure their rights and protection. Further, they also talked about rising of common voice between the SAARC countries on salary and facilities given to the migrant workers abroad. Similarly, SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002 provides a unique trafficking in women and children for prostitution and to move forwards or repatriation issues in South Asia (Tamas, 2016). This convention was one of good initiatives taken by the SAARC for the protection women and children in region and this convention is also benefited the immigrants especially the women and their children because it was seen that most of women happen with migrant's women and their children. They also talk about the institutional mechanism to monitor or review and to ensure that the needs of the victims are really being met. Apart from the SAARC arrangement, there are some other initiatives are also taken by region to protect the rights of the migrants and refugees like The South Asia Declaration on Refugees, 2004, is talked about the protection of the refugees in the region. Further, A large scale integration programme taken under the supervision of the UNHCR with UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Action Centre La Faim, Bridge Asia Japan and other NGOs on skill development, health care, education, rural infrastructure and food for work have been undertaken (Kanitkar, 2000).

Apart from SAARC, a meeting was held in Kathmandu on 18-22 November 1996 by the South Asian Forum for Human Rights consider about South Asian protocol or charter on refugee, migrants, internally displaced and stateless person (Khanna, 2017). The Forum also look into the earlier protocols on refugee and talking about the protection of refugee, migrants, internally displaced and stateless persons. The forum believed that it is responsibility of every state to protect the rights of each citizen, when a displaced seek person refuge in another state than the host country should respect the principle of non-refoulment (ibid).

2.4 Socio-economic Status: Concept and Definition

There is no agreed definition of Socio economic status. Socio economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family s economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation (Saila & Chamundeswari, 2014). According to the new dictionary of cultural literacy (2005), socioeconomic status depends on a combination of variables, including occupation, education, income, wealth and place of residence. Dictionary of Sociology define as any measure which attempts to classify individual, families, or households in terms of indicators such as occupation, income, and education (Scott & Marshall, 2015). Socio economic status as equivalent to simple, measurable things such as annual income, race or ethnicity, health status etc. The term cast is also under the Socio-economic status because cast tends to convey one's social classes, status or position. In pre-modern era Socio economic status was based on physical strength, intelligence, and choice of parents. But in the modern era, indicators of Socio economic status included- wealth, income, educational attainment, health and occupational prestige. So above from the analyses it was cleared that socioeconomic status is measurement of variables including education, income, occupation, wealth, and place of residence (UNESCO, 1975).

1. Income: Income is one of the simple indicators of the Socio-economic status and aim is to capture one's ability to literally purchase desired resources. Income included wages, salaries, profits, rents any flow of earning receive. Annual income is easy to measure. The researchers may often categories for the respondent, request an exact amount or perhaps even consider using tax or other administrative records to collect such data.

2. Wealth: Wealth represents a stock of resources. Wealth tied up in bank accounts, stocks and bonds, real state, business ownership and so forth.

3. Educational Attainment: Education plays a crucial role in income. Earning of the individual increases with each level of education. Educational attainment is an excellent proxy measure of Socio economic status. Respondents are often willing to answer question truthfully. Researcher tend to measure educational attainment by

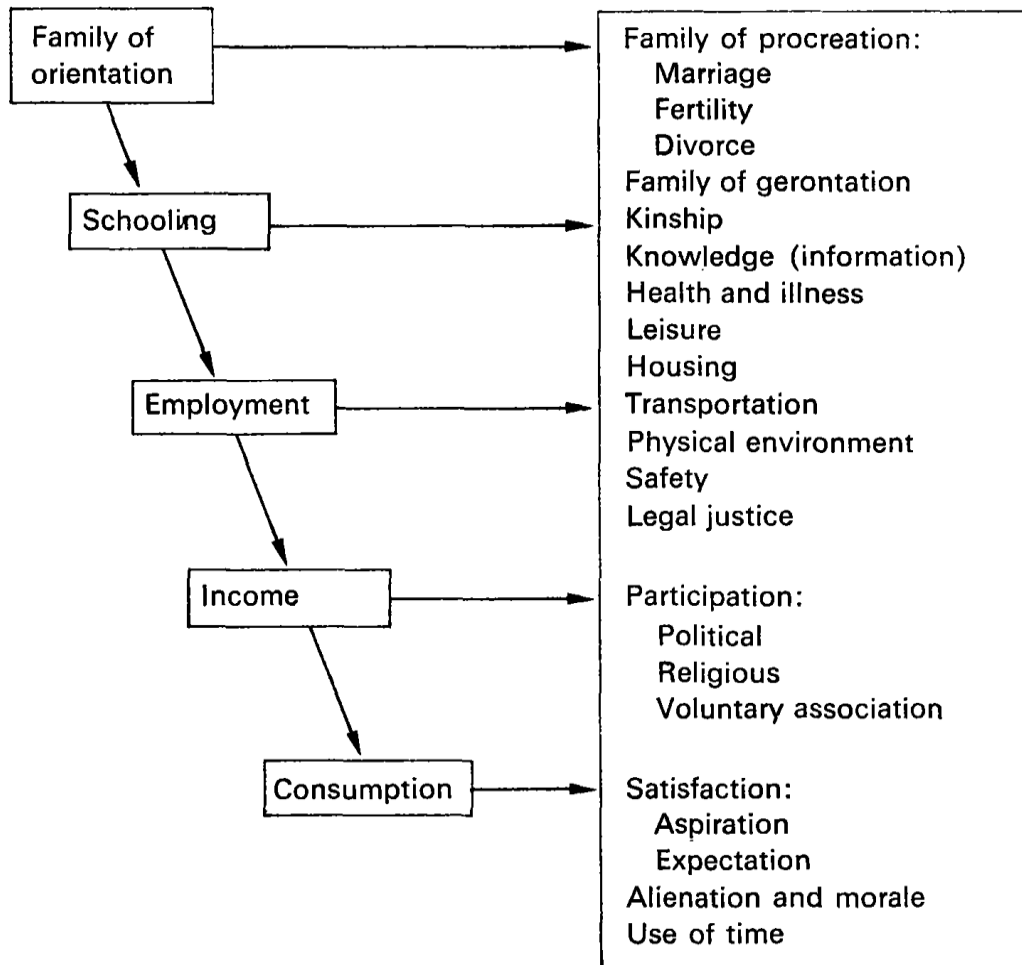
either highest degree earned (Example- High School, College) or years of education (Example-1-30).

4. Occupation: Occupation is also one of the important indicators of socioeconomic status. Occupation encompasses both income and educational attainment. Occupations are given in the basis of the level of educational attainments of the individual and income level of the individual is different by rank of occupation.

5. Poverty: Poverty is also one of the important indicators of Socio economic status. Methodologically, poverty thresholds are typically determined as a function of annual earned income and therefore all problem associated with annual income are applicable to the poverty measure.

6. Health: Likewise, the other indicators health is also one of the important indicators of socioeconomic status. Socioeconomic status is an important source of health inequality.

Otis Dudley Duncan (1967), concerned with the process of social stratification and developed a paradigm for the socio-economic life cycle. Figure 2.1 give analyses of the schematic representation of a sociological life-cycle. Left side of the figure gives a rough ordering of socio-economic status variables, where the right side gives a list of social indicators. Specific life-cycle models relate distributed social product such as- schooling, occupation, income, consumption, health, social participation etc. of individuals (UNESCO, 1975).



Source- UNESCO (1975). Socio-economic indicators: theories and applications. *International Social Science Journal*.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0001/000131/013186eo.pdf>

Figure 2.1: Schematic representation of a sociological life-cycle

2.4.1 Importance of Socio-economic Status

Importance of Socio-economic Status as explained by UNESCO (1975) are measure of socioeconomic status are necessary to understand the inequality in societies and without help of socioeconomic status measurements, it is impossible to explore about the changes structure of a society. Similarly, without help of Socio-economic status measure, it is impossible to examine about the change of social status over time. Measurement of Socio-economic status is also help to explore about the relationship between the other important variables such as race or sex. Further, Socio-economic status is important because it is related to the health and life outcome for as long as social group existed.

Chapter 3:

**Bangladeshi Migration in Assam: Historical Background
and State Responses**

3.1 Introduction

Assam is one of the states of India with an area of 78,438 sq km and a population of 31205576 (2011 census)¹ for which 159,39,443 males (51.07 percent) and 152,66,133 females (48.93 percent). 'Assam' is the anglicized form of the word 'Asom'² which means 'uneven' or 'unparalleled'. According to another interpretation, the word 'Assam' is derived from the word 'Ahom', the Tai Mongoloid race who ruled most of the Brahmaputra valley for over 600 years till the coming of the British in 1826 (Goswami, 2008).

3.2 Historical Background of the Migration in Assam

Few tribes like 'Karbi' were earlier settlers of Assam (Baruah, 1966). Likewise, the 'Karbi', 'Khasi' are also the earlier settlers of the state, who migrated from the South-East Asia and settled down in the Brahmaputra Valley and later moved up to the hills of Meghalaya. The Tibeto-Burmese speakers, who are racially mongoloid were migrated to Assam from the north, north-east and east. These Tibeto-Burmese are known as Mishings and Deuris in Upper Assam and also Bodo-Kacharis of the Assam. Bodos are called as sons of soil (ibid).

Then Indo-Aryans were migrated from Northern part of India into the Brahmaputra Valley after 500 B.C. After the Hindu Indo-Aryans, Islamic Indo-Aryans are settled at Hajo area in the present Kamrup District. That the Tai-Ahoms had migrated to Assam in the third decades of thirteenth century (1228). During the Ahom rule Sanskritised people move into the region, which led to Sanskritised movement of 15th and 16th centuries. In 1826, Assam came under the British rule with the signing of the treaty of Yandaboo (Goswami, 2012).

In 1835, British started the tea plantation, which required of cheap labours triggered migration of East Bengalis into Assam. Need of cheap labours led to hiring or importing of labours from the states of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh with only 400 persons in 1858 increased in 1931 to 14 lakhs (Sinha Chib, 1984). This imported

¹Data collected from the web site- <http://www.assam.gov.in>

² Asom is Assamese word, which means Assam

people are mostly settled in the districts of Assam like- Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Cachar, Sibsagar and Darang. This tea labours called as 'tea tribes' in Assam.

Likewise, the 'tea tribes' or 'tea labours', Nepalese were also migrated to Assam. Nepalese are known for their loyalty, honesty, faithfulness and their hard work. So, they are brought as solders, gatemen and watchmen by the British. This is the reason and the Indo-Nepalese ties of friendship led influx Nepalese immigration in to Assam. Instead of supplying milk and fuel wood to urban settlements the Nepalese have served the cause of guarding the frontiers of the region especially through the recently adopted schemes of Assam Rifles (Singh, 1984). Similarly, Marwari's are also migrated from Marwar region of Rajasthan into Assam as a Business purpose. They came in Assam to hold the commerce and industrial establishment. The numbers of Marwari's migration were 1891 in 1901 increased to 70 thousand in 1971 (Singh Chib, 1984).

The origin of the influx Muslims from undivided Bengal can be traced with the introduction of railways into Assam in the year 1882 and discovery of wild tee bushes by Robert Bruce in the year 1823 (Harlalka, 2008). After the British took over the complete administration of Assam in 1826, it was seen that they imported large numbers of Bengali officials in to Assam by the British rule. They came from Sylhet. Similarly, large numbers of Bengali peasants migrated from the Mymensingh districts into Assam. They came during the period of 1920 to 1940 with the clear intention to settling down in Assam. These immigrants are never go back rather they settled in Assam. Between 1930 to 1950, these migrants had occupied 4297800 bighas (1508000 acres) of land (Bhattacharyya, 2001). Large numbers of influx of immigration between 1942 and 1945 assumed a serious of problems to the government.

The partition of India on August 15, 1947 was followed by communal riots in West Pakistan as well as East Pakistan. As a result, millions of people migrated from the East Pakistan to Assam and West Bengal. During that period about 35 million people were involved in cross border movement. Tremendous tension was generated in Assam by this large-scale influx of refugees (Bhattacharyya, 2001). As per the relevant census report the numbers of illegal migrants during that period was 2,13,739 (The Statement March 12, 1970).

Census superintendent of Assam 1951, R P Vaghaiwalla stated that the biggest influx migration took place during the 1940s when Hindu refugees were migrated from Pakistan. Further Noakhali riots in East Pakistan in October 1946 resulted large scale Hindu migration from East Pakistan to Assam. Most of these migrants from Bangladesh were settled or sheltered in the Cachar district of Assam and number was 93,177 (Census of India, 1951), 44,967 migrants came to Goalpara, followed by Kamrup (42,871), Nowgong (38,599), Darrang (18,853), Lakhimpur (13,965) and Sibsagar (7,514) (Sharma, 2015). According to the census of 1951, there were 24,600 families (114,500 persons) of displaced persons in Assam (Census of India, 1951). According to the R P Vaghaiwalla, more than half of the total migrants in Assam came in 1950 only. Agreement was signed in 8th April 1950 between Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan to safeguard the minorities of both countries that is India and Pakistan. This agreement was known as the “Nehru-Liaquat Pact” or “the Delhi Pact of 1950” and the numbers of migration from East Pakistan (Present Bangladesh) to India decreased. For the implementation of the “Nehru-Liaquat Pact” in 1950, 6 lakhs migrants were sent back to the East Pakistan present Bangladesh (Nandy, 2005).

Kaptai Dam was constructed on the Karnaphuli river in early 1960s for the objectives of the industrialization and power generation (Samad, 1994). Though the purpose of the construction of this dam was to benefit the local people but it negatively effects on the indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tract and approximately one lakhs people were displaced from their home, for which 70 per cent were the Chakmas (Government of Bangladesh District Gazetteers: Chittagong Hill Tract, 1975). Many displaced persons were left the country and approximately 40,000 of them were settled in the state of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura of North-East India and another 20,000 were migrated to Burma (Samad, 2005).

During 1964 to 1965, Anti-Hindu riots grow up in East Pakistan and because of which the Hindus left from the Pakistan and a large scale of people were migrated to India. These people were settled in different part of the North-East India and West Bengal (Hazarika, 2000). Further in 1965, after the war or during the war period many refugees migrated to India from East Pakistan and they mainly settled in Assam and West Bengal state of India for their cultural and linguistic similarities. After 1965 war

Pakistan enforced the Enemy Property Act, resulting in large scale migration of Hindu community to India.

During the liberation of Bangladesh in 1970 to 1971 had sent about 10 million refugees to India. Some of them are went back to Bangladesh after the liberation of Bangladesh but some of them are settled in India mostly in Assam and Tripura. Bangladesh census records indicate a reduction of 39 lakhs Hindus between 1971 and 1981 and another 36 lakhs between 1981 and 1998. These 75 lakhs (39+36=75) Hindus have come to India (Harlalka, 2008). Majority of them were settled in Assam. Analysing the demographic change in Assam during the period of 1901 to 1971, the Census of India made the observation that, taking the whole population of 3.29 million of Assam in 1901 as indigenous and applying the all India rate of increase of 129.67 percent from 1901 to 1971, her population in 1971 could be 7.56 million instead of 34.36 million. Although the 1981 census could not be held in Assam, her population in 1981, at the rate of growth of 34.95 per cent record in 1971 can be estimated at 19.7 million. Calculated at the national average growth rate of 24.8 per cent, the 1981 Assam population should not be more than 14.6 million. The discrepancy between the above two estimates may be attributed mainly to the presence of an excess population of illegal immigrants from the Bangladesh (Census of India, 1971). The Muslim population of Assam was rise of 77.42 per cent in 1991 by 41.89 per cent in this period.

In 1974, Bangladesh faced lots of problems in regards of the Famine and for this reason a large scale of people was migrated to India from Bangladesh. The Farakka Barrage was constructed in 1975 at Farakka to enhance inland water transport (Sarma, 2015). This barrage was affected on the Fishing Industries and the Agriculture Sectors. As a result, whose livelihood is depending on the Agriculture Sectors and Fishing Industries were lost their livelihood. Most of them are migrated to the urban areas of Bangladesh. But they were unable to accommodate them for the cost of urban economy; hence they migrated to the India. And for this Farakka Barrage, an estimated 2 million people are migrated to India (Roy, 1997).

3.3 Factors of the Bangladeshi Migration into Assam

Assam has been a land of immigrants from very early times, a virtual melting pot where different ethnic groups arrived and adopted the region as their homeland (Dikshit & Dikshit, 2014). Deka (2011) in his work “Migration and Conflict: A Comparative Study of Bangladeshi and Nepali Migration in Assam” explored two factors of Bangladeshi migration to India’s Assam- push and pull factor. Apart from the push and pull factor there are some other casual factors are exist for which also Bangladeshis migrated in to Assam like- the partition of India 1947 and forced migration, atrocities in 1964-65, India-Pakistan war 1965, India-Pakistan war 1971 and liberation of Bangladesh, poorer border, deforestation in Bangladesh, Natural Disasters- flood in Bangladesh, land degradation and river bank erosion, cyclone and migration, natural disaster and migration, economic factors- poverty, economic factors- unemployment, Bangladesh agriculture, development and displacement in Bangladesh, socio-political factor, porous border and so others.

3.3.1 Porous Border

According to a UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs report (2009), projected rank of India was ninth in terms of number of international migrants in 2010 and it accounts 2.5 per cent of the total international migrants. India shares 4,097-km border with six out of seven Bangladesh divisions (Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet) along the states of Assam (262 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km), Tripura (853 km), and West Bengal (2,216.7 km). Only around 1,500 km is fenced, leaving a major portion of the border porous and easy for illegal migration. Bangladeshi migrants are therefore mostly concentrated in Assam and West Bengal for their cultural similarities. The border between India and Bangladesh include- agricultural lands, jungle terrain, large estuaries, mountain, national park, plains, reserve forest, rivers, sanctuaries, wetlands and so others, resulted the boundary in many places cuts and emerged the cross-border migration from Bangladesh to India. So, the lack of fencing and boundary pillars on the border area is creates the patrolling problems resulted influx cross border migration from Bangladesh to India.

3.3.2 Environmental Factors of Migration

Environmental factors play a crucial role in the movement and displacement of the people from their place of settlement. Environmental hazards forced people to move from their place of settlement. The most common natural hazards in Bangladesh are floods followed by cyclones in the southern part of the country. Flood damaged the crops; displace thousands of people every year. It is estimated that flood affect 18 per cent of the total land area in Bangladesh. Some others environmental factors that have led to migration from Bangladesh are related with Kaptai Dam, Farakka Barrage and the Famine in 1974 (Sharma, 2015). Kaptai dam was constructed on the Karnaphuli River in early 1960s. But construction of this dam effect on the indigenous people of Chittagong Hill Tract. Resulted 100,000 people were displaced from their home of which 70 per cent were Chakmas (Char and Gupta, 2013). Many displace persons left from their country; an estimated 40,000 were migrated to Mizoram, Tripura, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh of North East India. Similarly, The Farakka Barrage was constructed in 1975 at Farakka to enhance inland water transport (Sharma, 2015). This barrage was affected on the Fishing Industries and the Agriculture Sectors. As a result, whose livelihood is depending on the Agriculture Sectors and Fishing Industries were lost their livelihood. Most of them are migrated to the urban areas of Bangladesh. But they were unable to accommodate them for the cost of urban economy; hence they migrated to the India. And for this Farakka Barrage, an estimated 2 million people are migrated to India (Roy, 1997). Further, famine in 1974 resulted influx migration from Bangladesh to India. Over a million of people died in the famine from July 1974 to January 1975, although governments estimates is only about 26,000 (Pilger, 2009). After the famine in Bangladesh, both Hindu and Muslim started migrating to India in large number.

3.3.3 Deforestation in Bangladesh

Deforestation is emerged for the scarcity of land and natural resources. Bangladesh constituted 6 percent of forest land located in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Apart from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), forest lands are also available in Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh, Sunderbans and Tangail districts. In terms of per capita forestland, Bangladesh ranks amongst the lowest in the world, with about 0.02 hector per person (Deka, 2011:94). The forest land of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) had decreased from

30,000 hectares in 1985 to 20,000 hectares in 1992. Similarly, the natural forest in Cox's Bazaar was also decreased from 31,300 hectares in 1985 to 24,300 hectares in 1992 (UNEP, 2001). The rate of deforestation between 2000 and 2005 was 0.3 percent. The development activities such as, construction of dam, roads and highways and other infrastructure developments lead deforestation of a country. This deforestation also impacts on the socio-economic and ecological contexts. Deforestation generates, particularly the indigenous forests people as their livelihood is affected intensely (Baraclough & Ghimire, 1995).

3.3.4 Natural Disasters and Floods in Bangladesh

Environmental crisis like natural disaster, floods etc force Bangladeshis to leave their home and migrated to another place (Quencez, 2011). Bangladesh is having three big rivers, such as- the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. Floods in Bangladesh emerged for these three rivers and their tributaries cover 80 per cent area of the Bangladesh. Bangladesh has receiving 92 per cent water through these or their river systems (Deka, 2011). Likewise, the flood, Bangladesh is also faced river bank erosion and it hampered the agricultural land and productivity. Climate changed in Bangladesh due to the huge population resulted floods and floods destroying agricultural crops for which farmers facing lots of financial issues.

So, these above problems climate change, flood, high population growth, natural disaster and river bank erosion are displaced huge numbers of population and also contributed to the cross-border migration. There are three types of floods in Bangladesh, such as- flash flood- in the eastern and northern rivers, local floods- due to high rainfall, river floods- from three rivers, and the floods due to tidal storm (Deka, 2011). Further, landslides also happened in Bangladesh. In 2007, 130 people were died in Chittagong for landslides. About 12 to 17 million people migrated to India from Bangladesh for the reason of Environmental disaster for which population of Assam boosted by 7 million (Dixon, 1994). The border districts of Bangladesh with India- Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat are disaster prone are also generating international migration. In 2011, 10 people were died by floods in Bangladesh (Reliefweb, 2012). In June 2012, 139 people were killed by the floods and landslide in Bangladesh (ibid). By 2013, 9 people were killed and about 28,000 families were affected by floods. Since 13 August 2014, more than 800,000 people have been

affected, including 500,000 displaced. The number of affected people had increased to 2.8 million by 1 September. Among these, more than 57,000 families (275,000 people) are displaced, including more than 31,000 families (150,000 people) whose homes have been totally inundated and destroyed. Since 19 Sep, additional flooding has hit several districts in the country affecting 400,000 more people. In June 2015, the floods effects on hundreds of villages in Bangladesh and killed 19 people, according to the situation report published by the government’s Disaster Management Information Centre on June 28 (IFRC, 3 Jul 2015). In August 2016, 42 people were killed for which 38 officially confirmed and 250,000 houses were destroyed or damaged (ACAPS, 03 Aug 2016). In June 2017, 98 people killed in Rangamati district, 30 in Chittagong district and 7 in Bandarban district by floods in Bangladesh (UN RC, 14 Jun 2017).

3.3.5 Land Degradation and River Bank Erosion

Land degradation is one of the big problems of the Bangladesh (Deka, 2011). Land is closely associated with the economy of a country. Degradation of land effects on the agricultural production of a country. Land degrades in Bangladesh due to the natural processes and human activities. Infrastructure development is core reason of the losses of land. Natural processes such as cyclones, floods and landslide are the basic for the land losses and also deterioration of soil in Bangladesh (ibid).

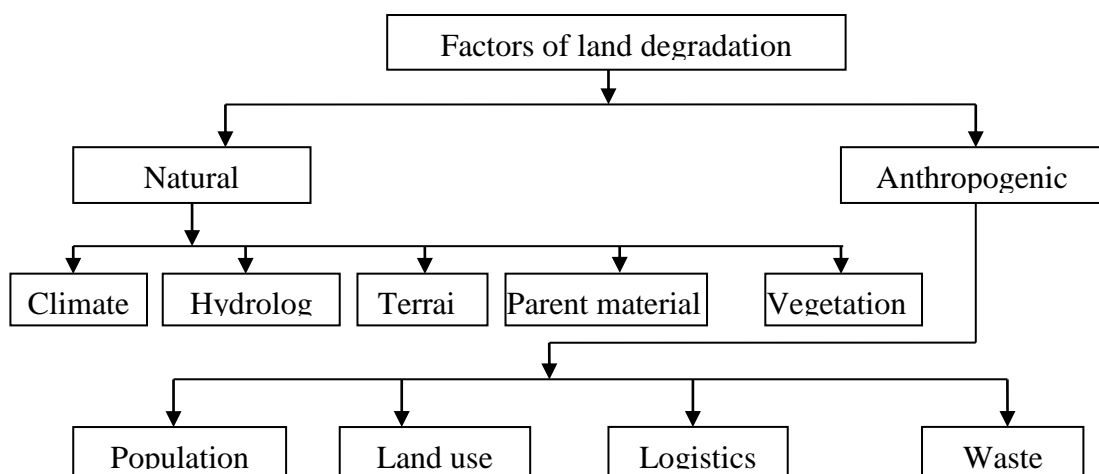


Figure 3.1: Factors of Land Degradation

It is estimated about 65 per cent of lands in Bangladesh affected by the land degradation. So, it affected on the economy of the country, poverty increases, employment crises emerged and also affected on the day to day livelihood of the people resulted people migration to others country from Bangladesh for better livelihood and employment also. Riverbank erosion is another form of land degradation. The floods of the Ganges, Brahmaputra- Yamuna, Teesta and Meghna rivers resulted riverbank erosion in Bangladesh. During 1982 and 1992 the Ganges-Brahmaputra- Middle Meghna Rivers lost 106300 hectares because of erosion (Deka, 2011). The net loss is 8700 hectares annually, most of which agriculture land (ibid). About 728439 people were displaced due to the river bank erosion in Bangladesh during 1981-93 (Deka, 2011). Thousands of people displaced due to the river bank erosion resulted migration of people from Bangladesh to India. More than a million people are displaced annually in Bangladesh for the reason of land degradation and river bank erosion (Sharma, 2014). The sifting river roots, soil erosion or frequent floods also cause illegal migration on the border between India and Bangladesh (Bhardwaj, 2014).

3.3.6 Cyclone and Migration

Bangladesh faced lots of problems in regards cyclone during pre-monsoon that is April-May and post-monsoon that is October-November. The Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal, 1942 was loss enormous life in Bangladesh. The cyclone which hit on the night 29th and 30th April, 1991 killed 138,882 people. An average of 1-3 cyclones hit Bangladesh every year (Deka, 2011). Bangladesh had witnessed of severe cyclone in 1954, 1876, 1919, 1942, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1970, 1985, 1988 and 1991 (Lama, 1997). So, the cyclones affected the livelihood of people in Bangladesh also roots the migration into India. In 2005, 3363 people were died for the reason of cyclone (Deka, 2011). Similarly, in 2007, 190 people (ibid) and in May 2017, 6 people (Reliefworld, 2017) were died.

3.3.7 Economic Factors and Poverty in Bangladesh

Poverty and migration, both internal and cross border, tend to have a very strong positive co-relationship (Chari and Gupta, 2013). Poverty of Bangladesh was high as 57 percent in 1990s, had decreases to 49 percent in 2000. Further it was decreased to

40 percent in 2005. In 2010, poverty of Bangladesh was 31.5 percent which was also high between the South Asian countries. The rural poverty of Bangladesh is 31.2 percent and urban poverty is 21.5 percent. According to the (UNDP) Human Development Report 2016, the Human Development Index for Bangladesh is 0.579 and country rank is 139 among the 182 countries. So, the high rates of poverty are also contributed to influx people migration from Bangladesh to India.

3.3.8 Economic Factors and Unemployment in Bangladesh

The unemployment problems in Bangladesh is also one of the crucial reason of migration into India. The growth of Bangladeshi migration into Assam was fuelled by the economic underdevelopment, poverty and unemployment in the Bangladesh (Bhardwaj, 2014). Half of the population of Bangladesh is unemployed due to the least development and other economic activities (Deka, 2011). Other causes of unemployment in Bangladesh are- rapid population growth, limited land, fragmentation of land, backward or unscientific methods of agriculture, decline of cottage industries, defective or poorer education and inadequate employment planning. The unemployment rate between 1995 to 1996 was 2.5 percent, 1999 to 2000 was 4.3 percent, 2002-2003 was 4.3 percent and 2005-2006 was 4.2 percent. In 2007, unemployment rate of Bangladesh was 4 percent. Similarly, in 2008, 3 percent; in 2009, 5 percent; in 2010, 4.5 percent; in 2011 4.5 percent; in 2012, 4.5 percent; in 2013, 4.3 percent; in 2014, 4.2 percent; in 2015, 4.1 percent and lastly in 2016, 4.1 percent was seen as unemployment in Bangladesh (Trade Economics, 2016).

3.3.9 Agriculture sector in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, 47.5 percent of the population depend on the agriculture and around 70 percent depend on agriculture for their livelihood. During 1971, agriculture sector contributed more than 60 percent to GDP, which was fall to 20 percent in the year 2010. According to the World Fact Book 2016, agriculture of the Bangladesh contributed 16 percent to GDP. So, the decline of GDP in agricultural sector is also impact on the livelihood of the people because 70 percent of the people depends on agriculture for their livelihood. High population growth in Bangladesh is also effects on the agriculture sector for various reasons. Weak agricultural development and natural disaster in Bangladesh is reasons of emergence of food crisis and shortages.

During 1998-2008 there were 14 reported food shortages in Bangladesh, and 13 of these were caused by flooding and its subsequent effects (Deka, 2011). These agricultural crises are also contributed influx migration from Bangladesh to India for the searching of better livelihood. Agriculture of Bangladesh, value added (% of GDP) in 1995, 8.016 percent; in 1996, 7.908 percent; in 1997, 6.002 percent; in 1998, 5.862 percent; in 1999, 5.598 percent; in 2000, 5.203 percent, in 2001, 5.125 percent; in 2002, 5.007 percent; in 2003, 4.873 percent; in 2004, 4.776 percent, in 2005, 4.382 percent; in 2006, 4.132 percent; in 2007, 4.023 percent; in 2008, 4 percent; in 2009, 3.94 percent; in 2010, 3.925 percent; in 2011, 3.965 percent; in 2012, 3.884 percent; in 2013, 3.955 percent; in 2014, 3.882 percent and in 2015 3.791 percent was seen.

3.3.10 Socio-Political Factors

Social and political factors such as state repression, communalism, religious persecution and political instability are led large number of Bangladeshi migration into outside of the country (Lama, 2000). The minorities in Bangladesh, especially Hindus are targeted by the Muslims and the victims of communalism and state repression. State police in Bangladesh also not providing security to the minorities Hindus rather they forced them to cross international border. After 1965 war Pakistan enforced the Enemy Property Act, now known as Vested Property Act in Bangladesh. Implementation of this act was shown that numbers of Hindus are badly affected by this Act and this effected Hindus are immigrated to India. After the liberation of Bangladesh, Bangladesh adopted secular constitution. The four pillars of the Bangladesh constitution were nationalism, democracy, socialism and secularity. After the assassination of the first Prime Minister the Fundamental Principles of State Policy was changed by the 5th amendment. Removal of the secularism from the permeable of the constitution and June 1988, Islam was declared as the state religion leaded the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh. As a result, large scale Hindus were migrated into India from Bangladesh. The Hindu population in Bangladesh was declined after the partition. During the partition, 23 percent people are Hindus among the total population of Bangladesh, which was decreases to 13.5 percent in 1972 and 12.1 percent in 1981 (Deka, 2011). The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) said that total population of Bangladesh constituted 15.89 crore by the end of 2015 for which 1.70 (10.7 percent of the total population) crore are Hindus. Fear of communal

violence induced the migration of Hindus from Bangladesh (Dutta, 2003 and Barkat, 2000).

3.4 Migration Policy of India

There are many laws and policies in India to care the migrants but these are poorly enforced and few migrants are only aware about them. Likewise, there are numerous labour- protection acts and policies, none of them address the vulnerabilities which faced by the cross-border migrants. The main law relevant to migrants is The Foreigners Act of 1946, which concerned or deals with the entry, stay and exists of foreigners of the country. This Act is giving the power to the government- (1) order control over the foreigners. (2) restricted their movement, activity, and residence and require their proof of identity and regular appearance before the police and (3) deport them. Similarly, for the reasons of influx migrants from Bangladesh to Assam government of India established the Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act (1983) and this Act is applicable in Assam only. If the Bangladeshi migrants have undocumented then they have not access the benefit from the any law and policies. The Ministry of Expatriate and Overseas Employment in Bangladesh is entrusted with the protecting the rights and interests of Bangladesh migrants, but these services are only provided to documented migrants. The key Bangladesh law to regulate the migrants is the Emigration Ordinance 1982, allowing people with valid travel documents to emigrate. This Ordinance is also grant the individual and companies to recruit emigrants for employment. In Bangladesh, unskilled and semiskilled women are not allowed to migrate alone; they can only migrate with a male partner (Sharma, et all, 2015).

3.4.1 Migration Policies during the British Period (1826-1947)

During the British period migration policy were formulated to serve the British rule and exploitation. The educated Bengalis were recruited in administrative work and the Nepalese were recruited for the defence purposes. They were brought as solders, gatemen and watchman by the British. In 1935 British started tea plantation in Assam and it required cheap labour for more benefits (Deka, 2011). The need for cheap labour led to importing of labour from the state of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. So, the policies during the British period were basically serving the colonial role.

Muslim league also encouraged the East Bengalis to migrate in to Assam through several policies to create vote bank. The policies of British is also encouraged the thousands of people migrated from other part of India into Assam as labour. The Britishes recruited labours in systematic way. Their recruiting agency recruited both skilled and unskilled labours. In terms of skilled labours recruitment, they focused some sort problems. So, some time they higher the labours from the outside of the province (ibid).

During 1860s, 22800 people were recruited by the administration in which 11,633 were employed in tea plantation as labours (ibid). During 1860 to 1872, the number of total imported labours was 40,000 (ibid). In 1881, the numbers of imported migrants are increased to 3 lakhs in a population of 1.8 million (ibid). Muslim League, leader Syed Sadullah encouraged the East Bengalis to migrate in to Assam through his policy of Grow More food. In the Brahmaputra Valley, the number of Muslim peasants increased from 9 percent in 1881 to 19 percent in 1931 and gradually increased to 23 percent by 1941 and name till 1951 (ibid).

The line system was introduced by the British to protect the identity and ethnicity of the Assamese people. This system is firstly imposed in the Nowgong along with the Kamrup to occupy the forcible occupation of land and grazing reserve. In 1936, 59 grazing reserves were opened for the settlement of the migrant peasants in the district of Nowgong alone (ibid). The Muslim League was not happy with this proposed system. From 1930 to 1950, some total of 150800 acres were settled by the migrants. When Sadullah came into power, this resolution was not executed. He thought that most of the migrants are land less and the only solution was to provide them land (ibid).

3.4.2 The Foreigners Act 1946

The Foreigners Act was passed in the year 1946. Purpose of this Act was to detect and determine illegal migrants or foreigners. This Act provides certain power to the Central Government in respect of foreigners as well as entry of foreigners. In this Act- 3 (a) 'foreigners' means a person who is not citizens of India, (b) 'prescribed' means prescribed by order made under this Act, (c) 'specified' means specified by direction of a prescribed authority. The Foreigners Act, 1946, also provides more power to the

police to detect and deport illegal migrants or a foreigner (Deka, 2011). This act was amended in 2004. This amended Act was called as the Foreigners (Amendment) Act 2004. A new section was introduced section 14, which is dealing with the penalty for contravention of provisions of this Act.

3.4.3 The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950

The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, came in to being in 1 March 1950 (Deka, 2011). This Act is extended to the whole of India which empowered the central government that if any person or class of person ordinarily leaving in any place of India, then direct such person class of persons remove himself or themselves from India or Assam and also give directions in regard to his or their removal from India or Assam.

3.4.4 The Nehru-Liaquet Ali Pact, 1950

This was a bilateral treaty between the two- Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru and Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquet Ali Khan on April 8, 1950. In this Pact, both government, India and Pakistan agreed to protect the minorities throughout its territory Pact ensured the complete equality of citizenship, irrespective of religion, a full sense of security in respect of life, culture, property and personal honour, freedom of movement within each country and freedom of occupation, speech and worship, subject to law and morality. This Pact was given more importance to the resettlement of the minorities of the both country. Agreement was also provided bill of rights to the minorities of the both Pakistan and India Government of the both Pakistan and India. Government of the both Pakistan and India also look into the problems of the minorities and redress of their grievances. This Pact is also provided fundamental human rights to the minorities of the both countries. This agreement provides life to the displaced people (Gupta, 1984).

3.4.5 India Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty 1950

Government of India and Nepal signed a treaty, which was known as India Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty, 1950 (Deka, 2011). During the British period, Nepali people were recruited from Nepal basically for the security purposes. As a result of it

Nepalese were migrated into India and India's North-Eastern state in search of employment. This treaty provides the citizens' rights of residence, ownership or property, participation in trade etc in each other's country.

3.4.6 The Passport Act, 1951

This passport Act was passed in 1951 by the government of India. The Government of India decreed by letter no. F9/7/60-I, dated July 21, 1960, ordered that those East Pakistan who have been staying in Assam without travel documents for a long time shouldn't normally be disturbed except those that were found to be at security risk (Das 1982).

3.4.7 Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964

Government of India introduces Foreigners Tribunal Order to check illegal entry and determination of foreigner, union government introduced this order, is exercise of the power conferred by section 3 of the Foreigners Act 1946. This tribunal order was constituted to check a person is a foreigner or not. This tribunal included numbers of persons who having judicial experience (Deka, 2011).

3.4.8 Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act of 1983 (IMDT)

The migrants, who entered Assam after 25th March 1971 continued to be dealt by the Act of Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act (IMDT) of 1983 (Deka, 2011). This Act was passed by the parliament of India to detect and deport the Bangladeshi migrants from Assam. The main objective of the IMDT Act is detecting determination and deporting of an illegal migrant through a proper way or mechanism. The need of speedy detection and deportation of the migrants' president promulgated on the 15th October 1983, the IMDT ordinance, 1983 to provide for the establishment of tribunals (Parliament of India Debate, Lok Sabha, December 14, 1983).

3.5 National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam

National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam mentions that for inclusion in the NRC one's name or one's ancestor's name must be in the 1951 NRC or in any voter list up to the midnight of March 24, 1971 the cut-off date agreed upon in the Assam Accord.

If the applicants name is not on any of these lists, he/she can produce any of the 12 other documents dated up to March 24, 1971, like land or tenancy record, citizenship certificate or permanent residential certificate or passport or court records or refugee. If the applicant's ancestor's name is on any of these lists, the applicant will have to prove his relationship to his ancestor by producing his broad or university certificate, ration card or any other legally acceptable document. An Indian citizen from another state who moved to Assam after the specified date is not eligible for inclusion in the NRC though he can continue to vote. Hence, those were come after 24 March 1971 and those ancestors name was not listed in the above list are regarded as illegal migrants or immigrants or migrants. The provisions governing NRC updation in Assam are- the Citizenship Act 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity cards) Rules, 2003 (Official site of NRC).

3.6 Assam Accord

Assam movement was the movement against illegal immigrants in Assam. When the Assam government failed to solve the issue of illegal migrants then Assam agitation was emerged by the leadership of All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) and All Assam Student's Union (AASU). Because of this movement the Assam Accord, 1985 was signed between representative of the Governments of India and the leaders of the Assam movements in New Delhi on 15 August 1985 (Sarma, 2015). Here government agreed to find satisfactory solution to the foreigner's issues in Assam. The All Assam Student Union (AASU) and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) also gives their suggestions and recommendations regarding the solution of the foreigner's issue in Assam. AASU sent or presented a Memorandum to the Late Prime Minister dated 2nd February 1980 about influx foreigners and how they effect on the political, social, cultural and economic life of the state. Than talks were held at the Prime Ministers and Home ministers level during 1980-83. Further, several round informal talks were held during 1984. Lastly formal discussion was held in March 1985.

Chapter 4:

**Socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi Migrants in
Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam**

4.1 Introduction

The study examined the socio-economic conditions of Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon Districts of Assam. This study is an attempt to look at the Bangladeshi migrants by trying to know the opinion of Bangladeshi migrants in one hand and on the other hand Local Leaders, Student Union and Government Officials with two separate interview schedules on some issues. The survey was conducted in September and October 2016. Two districts namely Dhubri and Nagaon of Assam were selected on the basis of sampling.

Dhubri District is bounded both by inter-state and international border i.e. West Bengal and Bangladesh in the west, Goalpara and Bogaigoan district of Assam and Garo Hills district of Meghalaya in the east, Kokrajhar district in the north, Bangladesh and state of Meghalaya in the south (District Census Handbook Dhubri, 2011). Dhubri is one of the plain districts of Assam. It falls in the Brahmaputra valley. It has 9 revenue circles, which include 5 Statutory towns and 4 Census towns. Thus, the district has 1,091 villages spread over 3 subdivisions and 9 Revenue Circles (District Census Handbook Dhubri, 2011). It has 15 Community Development Blocks. The total area of the districts is 2176.00 Sq. KMs (Rural: 2144.06 Sq. KM. and Urban: 31.94 Sq. KM (District Census Handbook Dhubri, 2011). In terms of area, the district occupies the 17th rank of the total 27 districts in Assam. It has 168 Gaon Panchayats in all. The district has the largest number of Char (an area uses as residential place near to the bank of big river) villages with 480 numbers (District Census Handbook Dhubri, 2011).

Nagaon is the centrally located district of Assam. The district covers an area of 3,973 Sq. KM out of the State total areas of 78,438 Sq. KM (District Census Handbook Nagaon, 2011). The word 'Na' means new and 'Gaon' means village. At present the district Nagaon comprises three civil sub-divisions such as Kaliabor, Nagaon and Hojai. The districts consist of 10 revenue circles and it comprise a total of 1412 village (District Census Handbook Dhubri, 2011). The names of Revenue Circles are: Kaliabor, Samaguri, Rupahi, Dhing, Nagaon, Raha, Kampur, Hojai, Doboka and Lanka. The district possesses 20 Community Development Blocks. The rank of the district in term of area is 4th among the districts of Assam. The district has 17 towns.

According to the Police Department of Dhubri, Dhubri share 99.26 km area with Bangladesh. Land border 48.758 km but in reality, about 2.25 km have been washed away and at present 46.508 km under fencing. Total unfenced area is 50.502 km which as per BSF entire is riverine (Char and river). Out of total 2.25 km washed away portion- 1.70 km under Binnachara Border Out Post (BOP) and 0.55 km Tistapar BOP. 196 Char in bordering area of Dhubri. There are 24 Watch Post (WP) in Dhubri, for which 12 WP were damaged by storm and river Brahmaputra.

According to the International Law, an estimated 150 meter from Border fencing is called no men area or land. People are not allowed to construct any building in those border lands. But they can be allowed to go for farming through proper procedure like registration, showing their card etc. There are two types of International Border Pillars (IBP) – main pillars and sub pillars. In Dhubri border side, fencing is only seen in the side of India. But not a single fencing is seen or located in the side of Bangladesh. Hence, influx migration emerged in Assam from Bangladesh. There are numbers of bridge located in the fencing area of border. But not a single fencing is there in the bellow of bridge which is also a result of migration from Bangladesh to Assam.

4.1.1 Bridges of the Border Fencing in Dhubri:





4.1.2 Methodology

Primary data was collected from the field by employing purposive sampling and snowball sampling methods. The area selected for this research is the affected area of Dhubri and Nagaon districts in Assam by the Bangladeshi immigrants.

The total sample size was 160 which includes 80 households, 20 local leaders, 20 student union members, 40 numbers of government officials. The sample population was sought to be divided into four parts; the first was the Bangladeshi migrants with the sample of size 80 households for which 40 sample of households was taken from Dhubri and 40 samples from Nagaon districts. The study focused on those migrants who came after 1971 in Assam from Bangladesh and their data collected from the government office like- NRC office and Police department. In some cases, local people of the sample districts are also helped for the selection of the sample. Both structured and unstructured interview schedule was used. The second part includes local leaders with the sample size of 20 in which 10 samples from Dhubri district and 10 samples from Nagaon district was collected. Third part includes leaders or members of the student's union with the sample size of 20 in which 10 samples from Dhubri district and 10 from Nagaon district was taken. Fourth part was the government officials with the sample size 40 in which 20 samples from Dhubri district and 20 from Nagaon district was taken. Both structured and unstructured interview schedule was used for the study purpose. Separate schedule was used to collect information.

4.2 Part I- Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi Migrants

4.2.1 General Information of Households of Two Districts

A structured interview schedule was prepared for interview of 80 households in two districts, for which 40 from Dhubri and 40 from Nagaon district were selected. Total household family member were 448 out of which 236 (111 male and 125 female) from Dhubri and 212 (105 male and 107 female) from Nagaon.

Table 4.1: Sample of the study

	Dhubri District	Nagaon District
Total Household	40	40
Total Household members	236	212
Male	111	105
Female	125	107
Joint	22	24
Nuclear	19	15

Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

4.2.2 Age group of Household Members

The majority of the family members of household belong to the age group of 18 to below 30 years which comprises 54 males and 54 females, the age group 0 to below 5 years comprising 40 males and 36 females, the age group 5 to 14 comprising 36 males and 52 females, the age group 14 to below 18 years comprising 10 males and 32 females, the age group 30 to below 50 years comprising 50 male and 42 female, the age group 50 to below 65 years comprising 22 males and 16 females lastly the age group above 65 years comprising 4.

Table 4.2: Age group of Household Members

Age group of Household members		
Age	Male (nos.)	Female (nos.)
0 to below 5 years	40	36
5 to below 14 years	36	52
14 to below 18 years	10	32
18 to below 30 years	54	54
30 to below 50 years	50	42
50 to below 65 years	22	16
65 and above years	4	0

Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

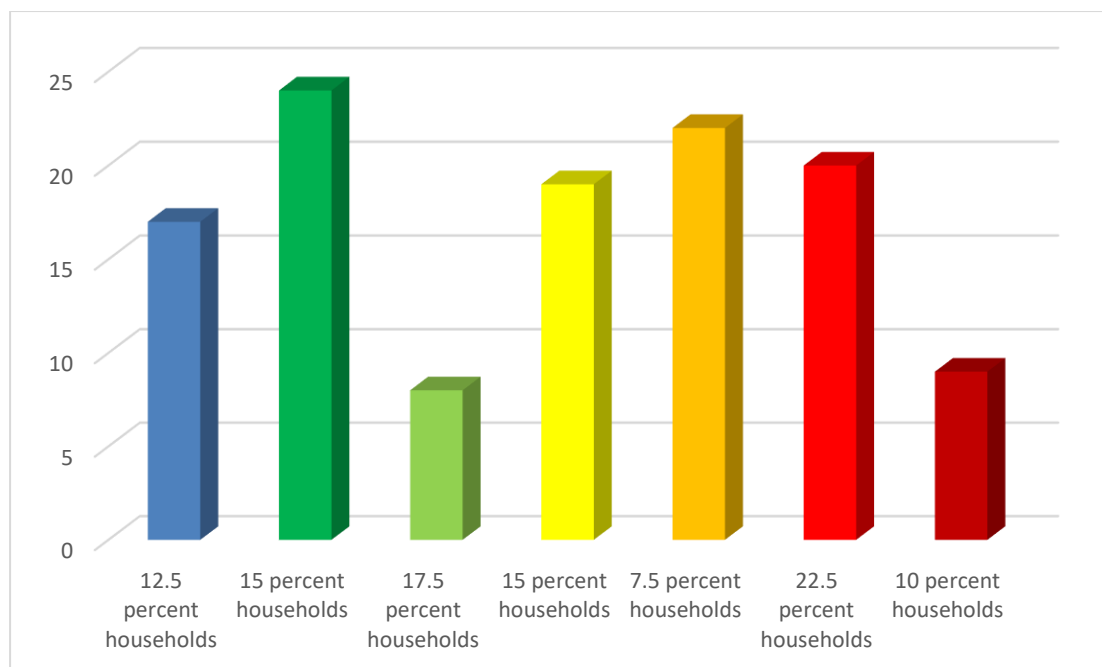
4.2.3 Mother Tongue of the Households

Majority of the people of Assam speak Assamese language. But the mother tongue of the household is Bangla language. They basically speak Bangla language rather than Assamese language.

4.2.4 Distance from Nearest Town

Bangladeshi migrants are sheltered in the char area, river bank, forest land, gazing land etc. They are living in such areas which are far away from the nearest town. Figure 1 analyses about distance from their residing area to nearest town. 12.5 percent of household are residing 17 km away from the nearest town, 15 percent of household are residing 24 km away from the nearest town, 17.5 percent of household are residing 8 km away from the nearest town, 15 percent of household are residing 19 km away from the nearest town, 7.5 percent of household are residing 22 km away from the nearest town, 22.5 percent of household are residing 20 km away from the

nearest town and lastly 10 percent of household are residing 9 km away from the nearest town. So, it was cleared that they are living in isolated and those areas are far away from the nearest town.



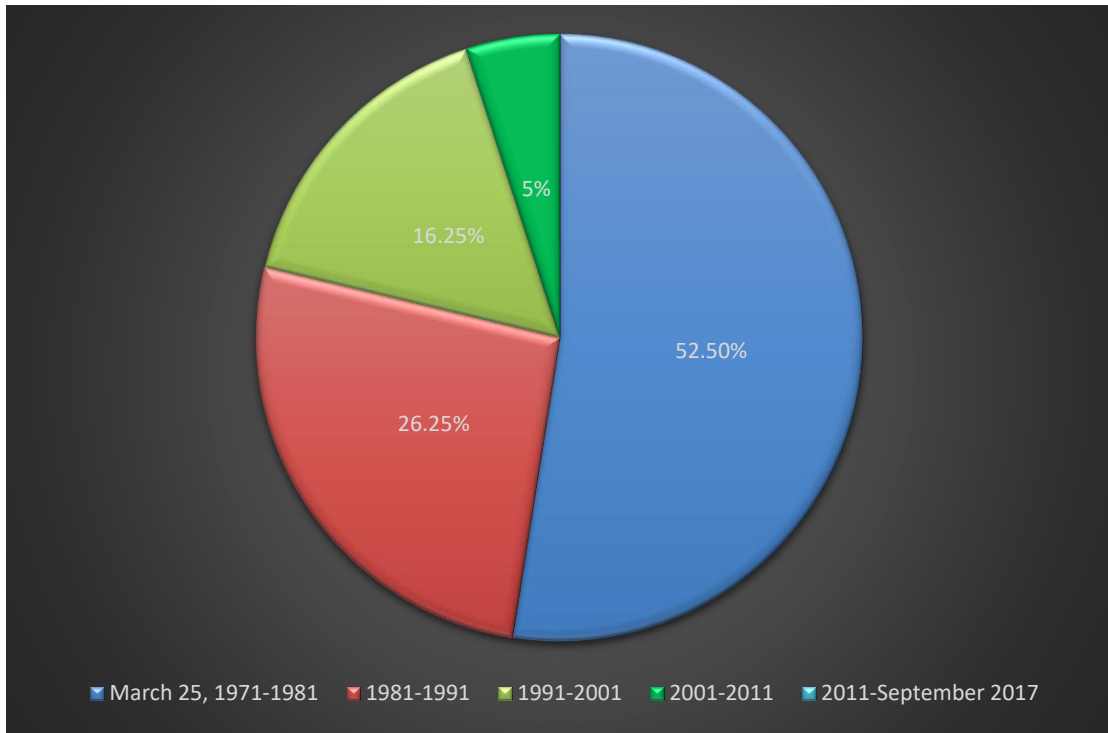
Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.1: Distance from nearest town to the residing area of Bangladeshi migrants

4.2.5 Period of migration

During the liberation of Bangladesh in 1970 to 71 about 10 million refugees went to India. Most of them went back after the liberation of the Bangladesh. About 20 million Bangladeshi had illegally entered India after 1971 (Samaddar & Reifeld, 2003). Figure 2, examine from when Bangladeshi households are residing in Dhubri and Nagaon districts of Assam. 52.50 percent Bangladeshi migrants have been residing between March 25, 1971-1981, 26.25 percent Bangladeshi migrants have been residing between 1981-1991, 16.25 percent Bangladeshi migrants are residing between 1991-2001 and 5 percent Bangladeshi migrants have been residing between 2001-2011. To apply for inclusion in the NRC one's name or one's ancestor's name must be in the 1951 NRC or in any voter list up to the midnight of March 24, 1971 the

cut-off date agreed upon in the Assam Accord. But they are migrated in Assam after midnight of 24 March 1971. Hence, they are not eligible for the applying NRC in Assam.

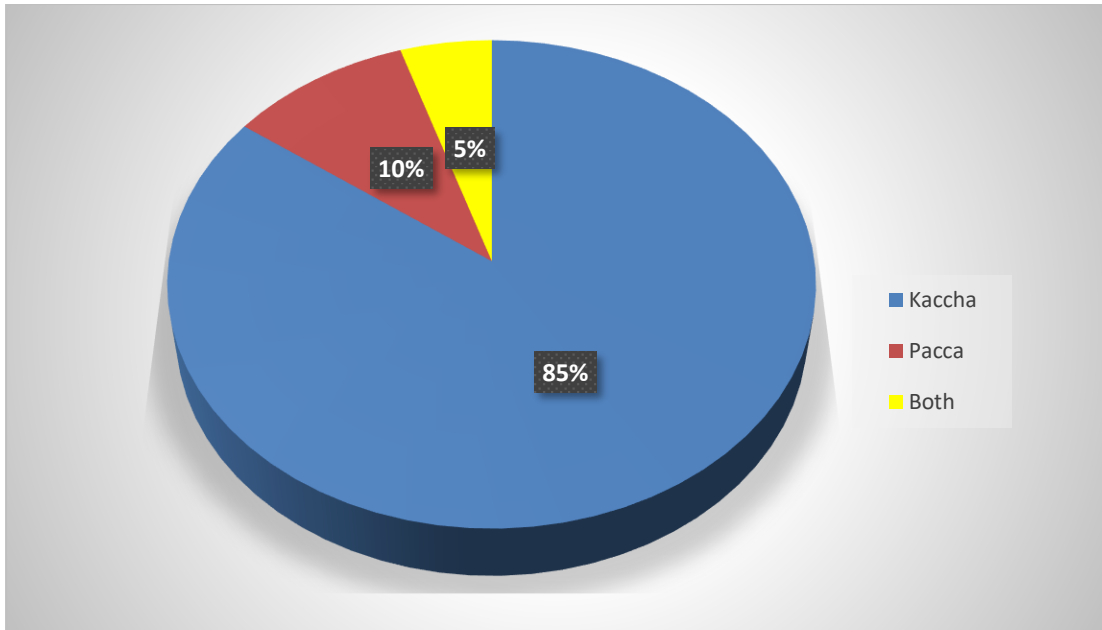


Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.2: Period of migration

4.2.6 Type of Residence

Figure 3, has explored about the types of household of the Bangladeshi migrants. 85 percent of the total households are having Kaccha houses, 10 percent are having pacca houses and 5 percent are having both kaccha and pacca houses. So, majority of them are having kaccha houses. Their answers are given bellow in the pie chart.

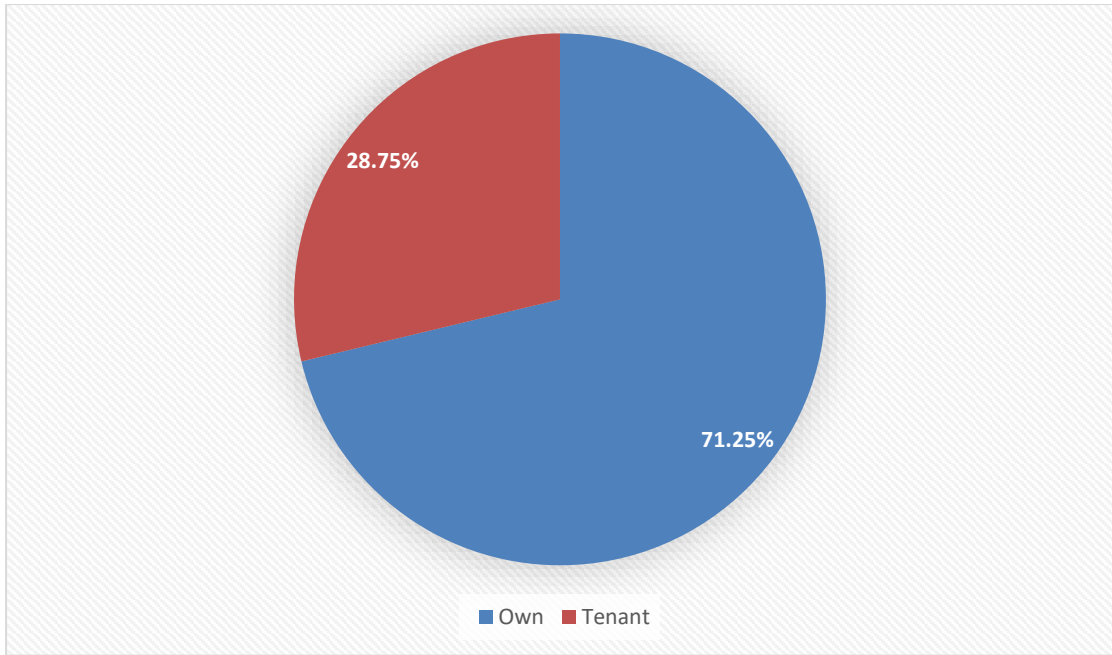


Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.3: Types of Residence

4.2.7 Types of Ownership

Figure 4, is devoted about the types of ownership of household of the Bangladeshi migrants. 71.25 percent of the total households have their own houses and 28.75 percent are in tenant houses. Here, tenant is confusion one because most of them who are actually saying that they are living in rented land but in reality, when I asked the local people surrounded by their house then the local people said that they are living in the river bank area, gazing land, forest land, char area etc. Similarly, same problems occurred with the own house also.

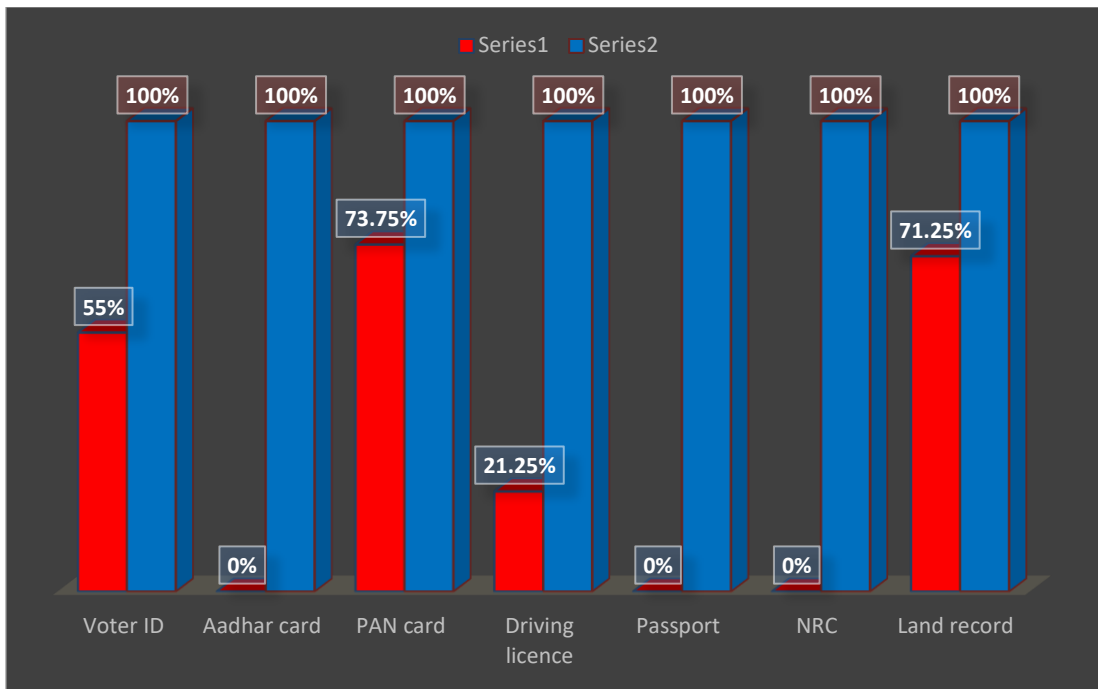


Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.4: Types of ownership

4.2.8 Types of Identity Cards of the Households

Based on the field survey it was found that 55 percent of total household are holding voter ID, 73.75 percent of the total households are holding PAN card, 21.25 percent of the total households are holding driving licence, 71.25 percent of total household have land record, no one is holding Aadhar card and passport and lastly, they don't have NRC also. Their answers are given bellow in the diagram-



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.5: Types of Identity Cards of the Households

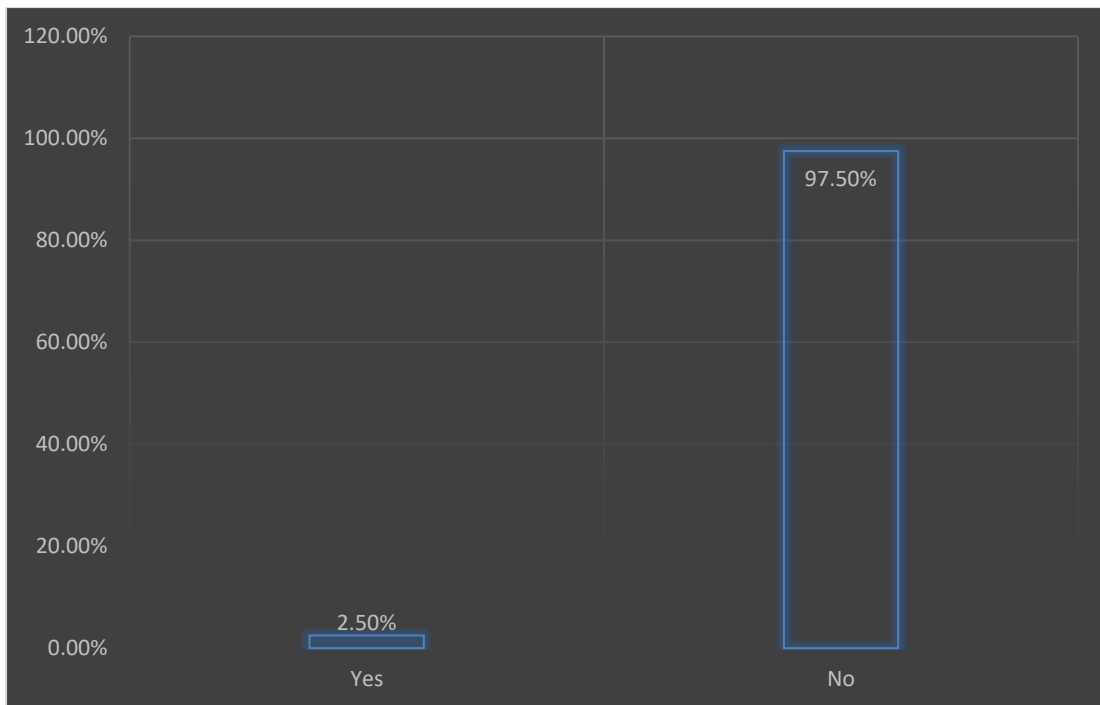
According to the NRC officials, majority of them are holding fake documents or ID. Just in Dhubri there may be as many as 12,000 Bangladeshi migrants who are living as Indian citizens with fake paper. Further, more than 2000 fake documents have been detected by the NRC officials in 2016, including 1175 in Nagaon district.

4.2.9 Membership in Political Party

For the development of any community membership in any political party or ruling party of that community is very essential. 100 percent of the total household replied as they do not have membership in any of the political parties.

4.2.10 Percentage of Arrested Family Members of Household

On the question on whether any of family member ever been arrested, majority of the respondents replied as no, which comprises 97.50 percent and 2.50 percent replied as yes and the reasons behind their arrest was clash between the family members. Their answers are given bellow in the diagram-

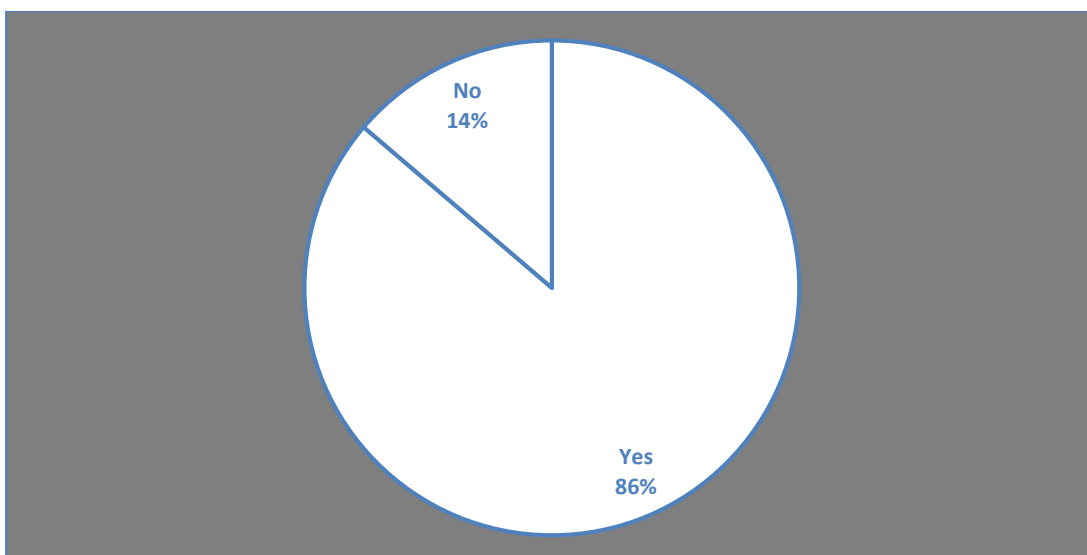


Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.6: Percentage of arrested family members of household

4.2.11 Feeling of Security in Assam

During the period 1990 to 2017 numbers of Bangladeshi immigrants, basically people from Muslim community were killed by the insurgents group as well as communal riots between Muslims and Bodos. Hence, they have no security for their life as it seems. So, the condition of the Bangladeshi immigrants is vulnerable. There are some illegal villages, which are set up in the governmental and forest lands. To free that land from the hand of the Bangladeshi immigrants in September 2016, three villages namely – Banderdubi, Deuchur nad Palkhowa nearby Kajiranga, Nagaon district of Assam, police used force to free those three illegal villages, leading to the death of two persons. Here, the question was asked whether the migrated family feels secured, majority of the respondents replied as no, which comprises 86.25 percent. Further, student’s unions were also protesting against them which could also be one of threat to the Bangladeshi migrants who are felling unsecured in Assam. 13.75 replied as yes. Their answers are given bellow in the pie-

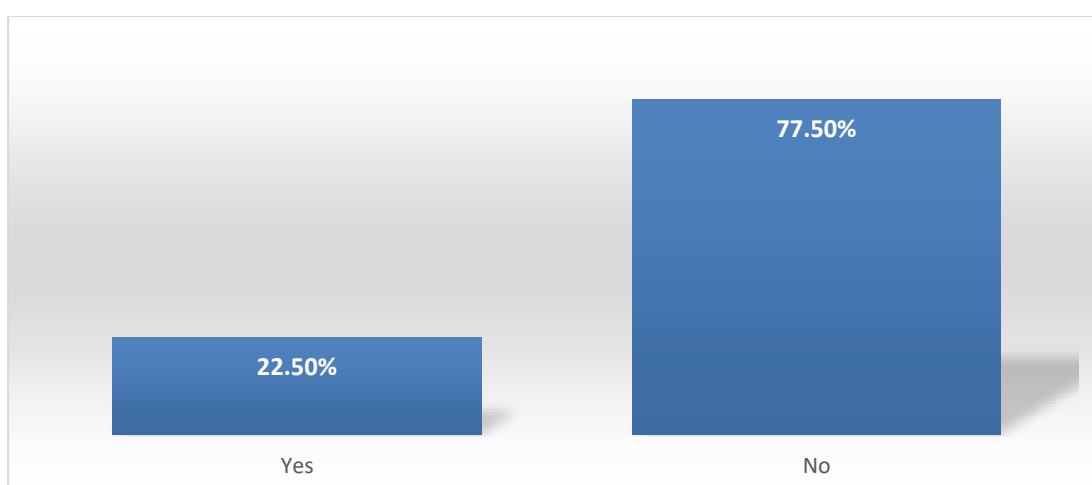


Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.7: Feeling of security in Assam

4.2.12 On return to the country of origin

Majority of the households replied as no, which comprises 77.50 percent on the question of returning to their country of origin because they enjoy better livelihood in Assam compared with Bangladesh. They are getting good wages in Assam compared to the wages in Bangladesh. But 22.50 percent replied as yes, they like to go back to Bangladesh because there is insecurity of life of the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam. The answers are given below in the diagram-



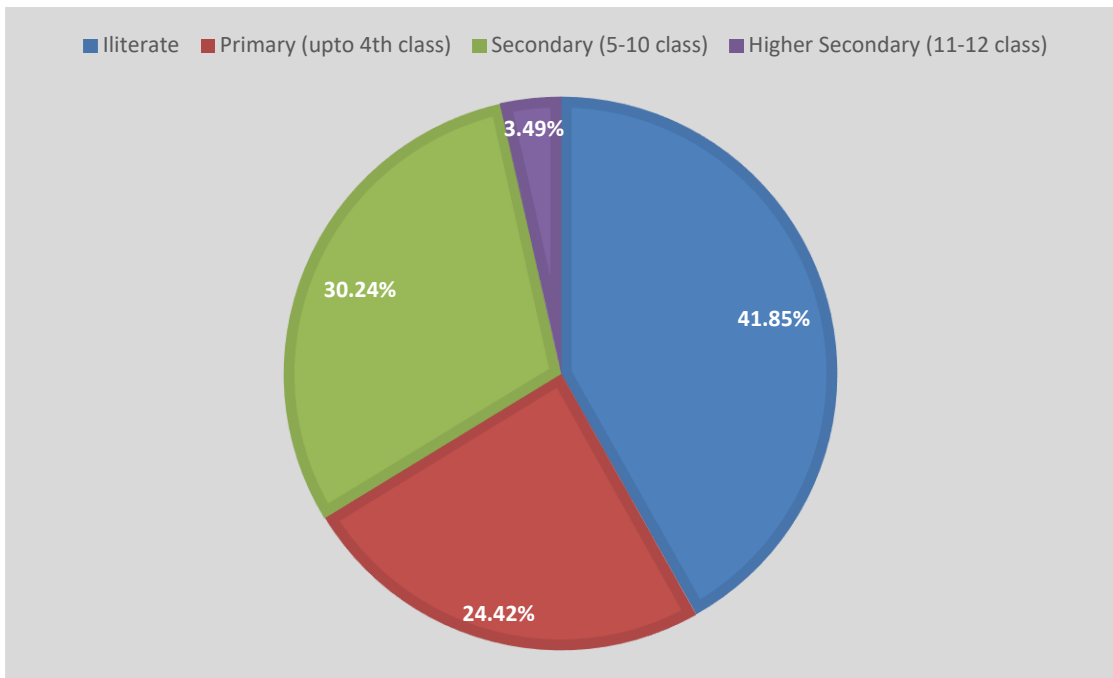
Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.8: On return to the country of origin

Further question that had been asked to the households was that “How do you see the future of (your/ family)?” Most of them replied as same. They said insurgency groups in Assam is one of the threat for their life. They also said in the name free the government forest land, gazing land etc. polices are illegally killed their people. So, they have no security for their life in Assam. Another burning issue is implementation of NRC in Assam. NRC is not implemented in Assam till now. It was said within one-year NRC will implemented in Assam. So, they think that implantation of NRC will hampered their livelihood in future.

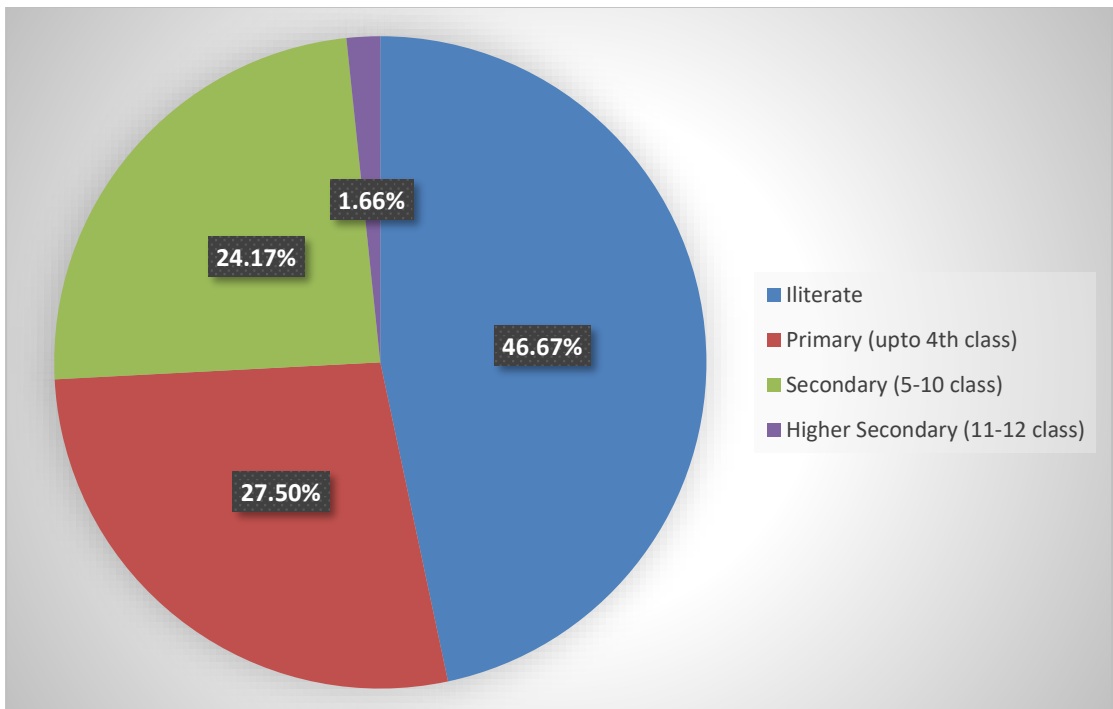
4.2.13 Education:

Among the households surveyed number of children bellow 18 years is 206 among which 86 males and 120 females. Majority of the male children are literate; 41.85 percent were illiterate. 24.42 percent of the respondents were having primary (upto 4th class), 30.24 percent were having secondary (5-10 class) and 3.49 percent were having higher secondary (11-12 class). Similarly, majority female children are literate, 46.67 percent are illiterate. Among the literate’s 27.5 percent were having primary (upto 4th class), 24.17 percent were having secondary (5-10 class) and 1.66 percent were having higher secondary (11-12 class). Their education qualification given bellow in the pie-



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

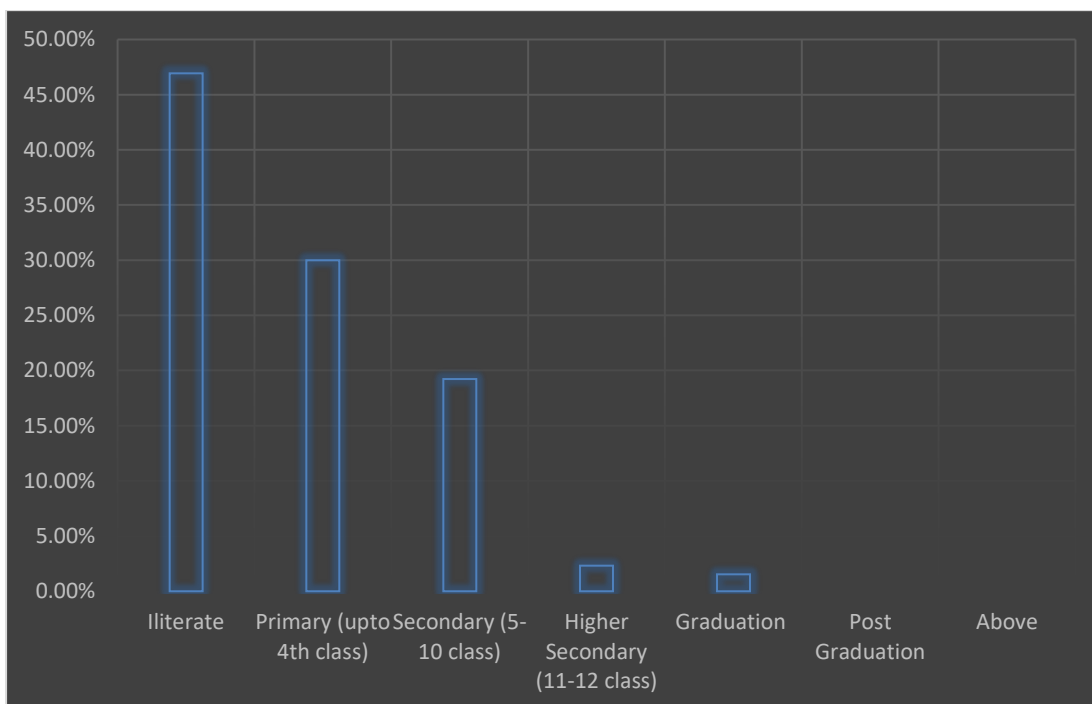
Figure 4.9: Educational qualification of the male children



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

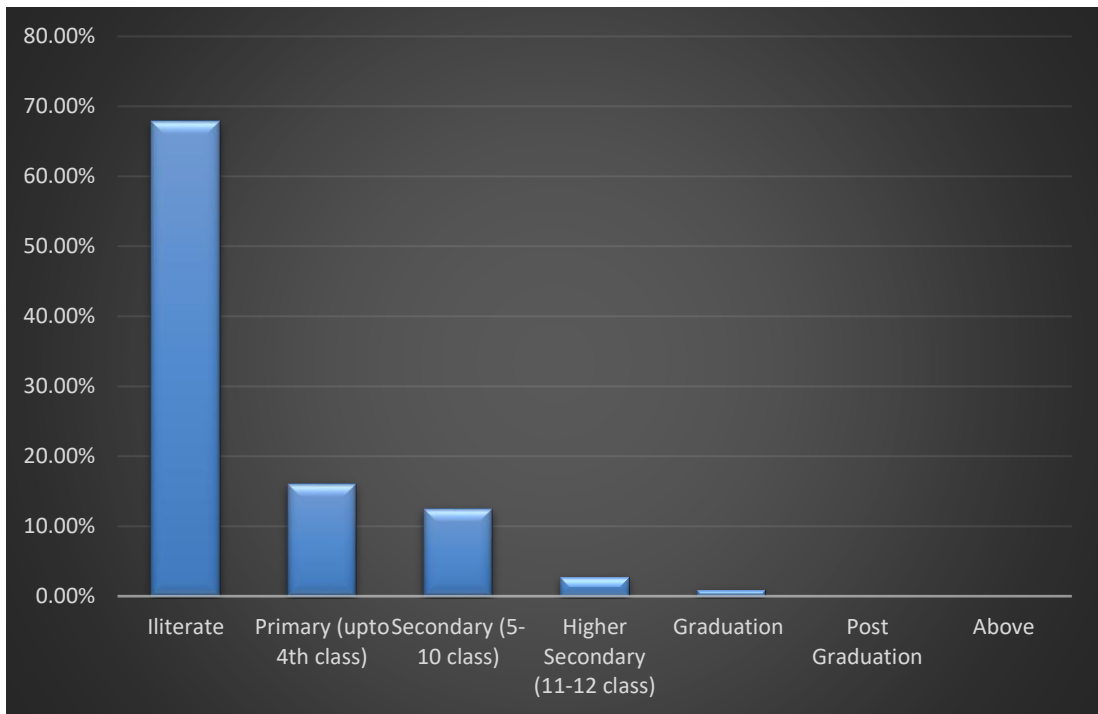
Figure 4.10: Educational qualification of the female children

Among the respondent households number of adults above 18 years of age are 242 among which 130 are males and are 112 females. Out of 130 males, majority of them are literate, and 46.93 percent are illiterate. Among the literate's 30 percent people were having primary (upto 4th class), 19.23 percent were having secondary (5-10 class), 2.31 percent were having higher secondary (11-12 class) and 1.53 percent were having graduation certificates. Similarly, out of 112 female's majority of them are illiterate which comprises 67.86 percent. Among the literate's 16.07 percent were having primary (upto 4th class), 12.50 percent were having secondary (5-10 class), 2.68 percent were having higher secondary (11-12 class) and .89 percent were having graduation. Their education qualification is given bellow in the diagram-



Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

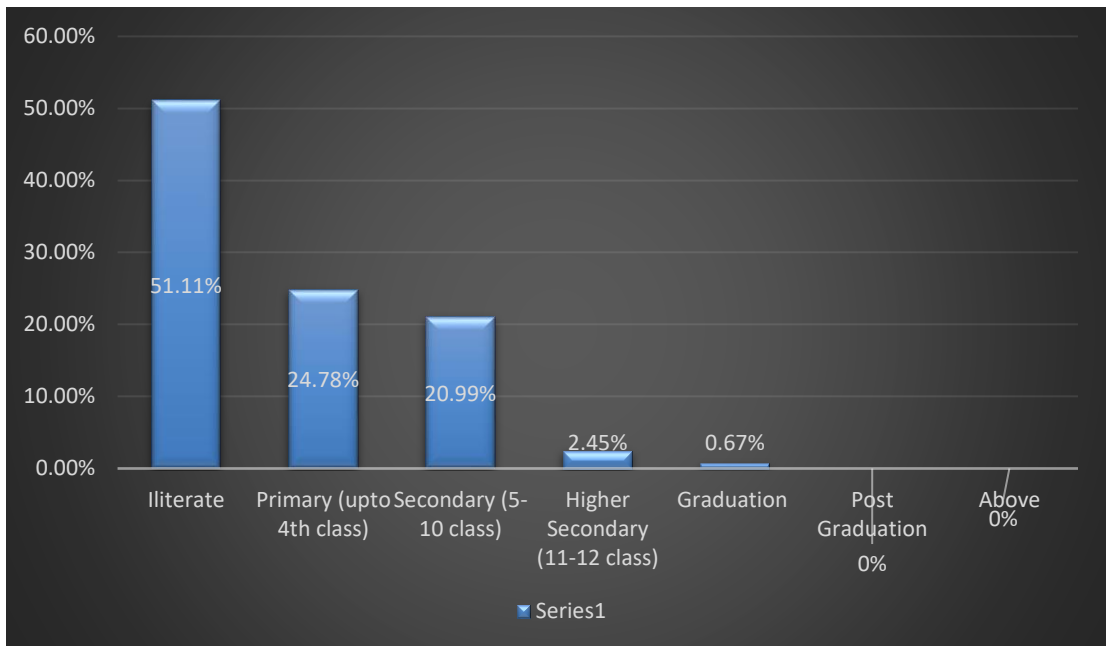
Figure 4.11: Educational qualification of the male adults



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.12: Educational qualification of the female adults

Out of total family members 448 of the households, majority of them are illiterates, which comprises 51.11 percent, 24.78 percent were having primary (upto 4th class), 20.99 percent were having secondary (5-10 class), 2.45 percent were having higher secondary (11-12 class) and .67 percent were having graduation certificates. Their education qualification is given bellow in the diagram-



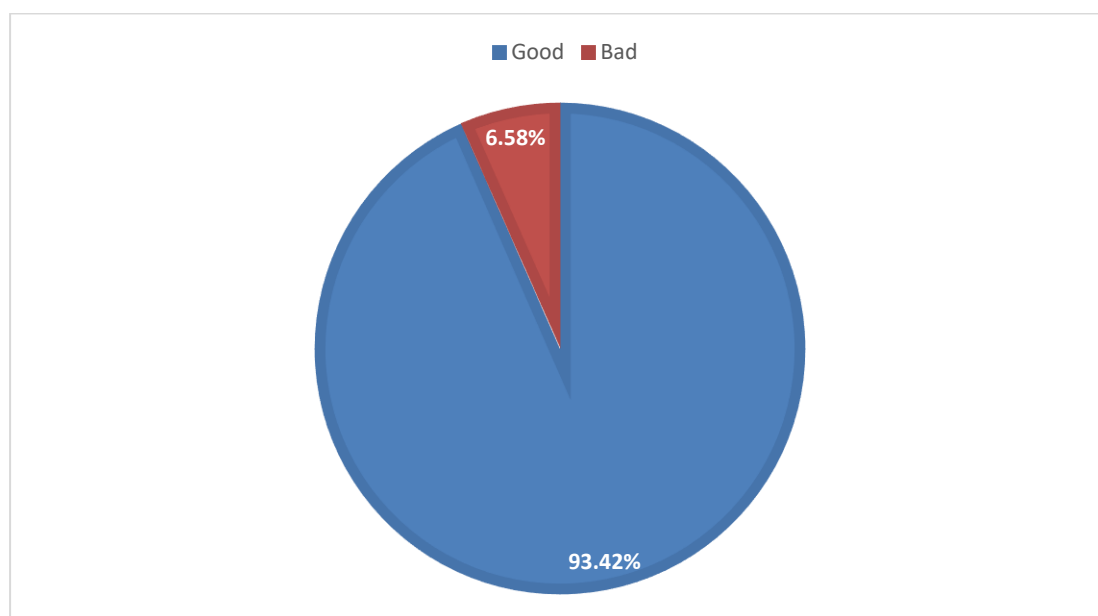
Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.13: Educational qualification of the family members of the households

The schools are government primary schools. Secondary and Higher Secondary School are absent in the area or villages where the Bangladeshi migrants are living. Only the primary Schools are there and 74 (16.52 percent) of the family members are enrolled in those primary School. 47.50 percent house hold said there is no school in their area, so their family members are, in Nagaon are going to the nearest Dhing and Tinsukia and if it was Dhubri than they are going to the Ramraikuti, Agomoni, Kherbari, Nalia and Biskhowa. Here, another questioned was asked to the households as “Where do you/ your family members go for higher studies?” The households of the Dhubri district replied as they either go to the Dhubri town or Guwahati for their higher studies. Similarly, the households of the Nagaon district replied as they have to go either to the Nagaon or Guwahati for their higher studies. But not a single person was seen who had Post Graduation degree or above in the sample area. Further, question was asked to the household that “What are the documents required to be enrolled in School/College?” They replied as- residential certificate, voter card, driving licence, birth certificate etc. 100 percent of the total respondents replied as they have those documents to enrol their children to the school/ college.

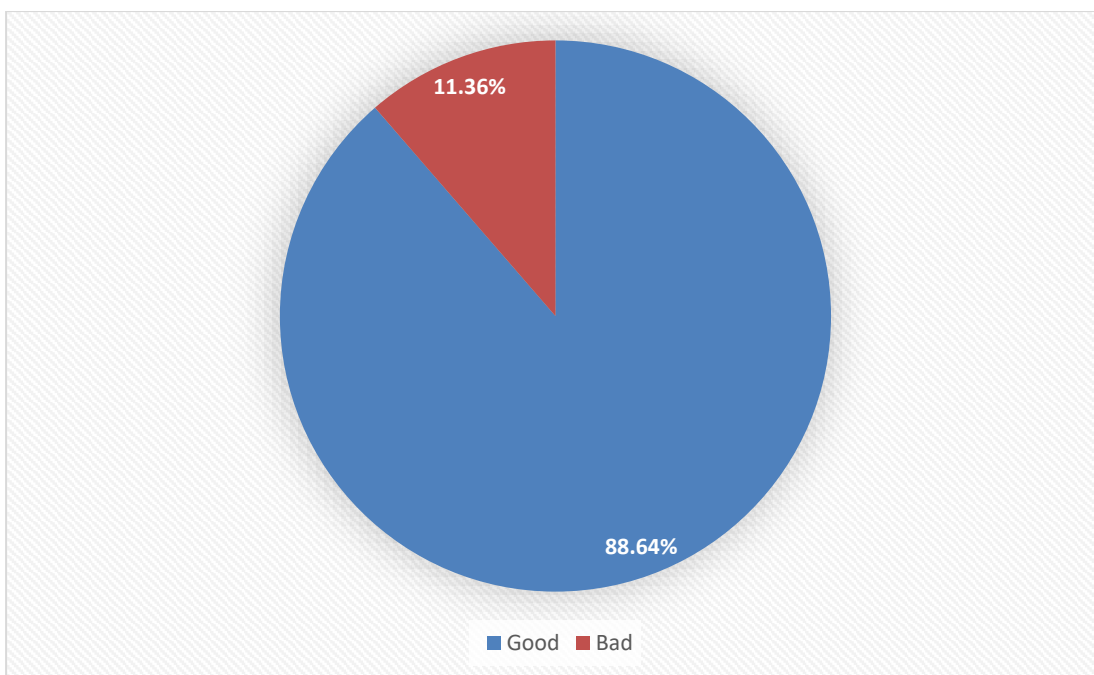
4.2.14 Health

Children below 5 years are 76 out of which 40 males and 36 females. The health condition of 93.42 percent of them are good but remaining 6.58 percent are not in a good health condition. Children between 5 to 14 years are 88, where 36 are males and 52 are females. The health conditions of the 88.64 percent of them are good. Similarly, children between 14 to 18 years were 42, where 10 are males and 32 are females. The health condition of the 78.57 percent of them is good but remaining 21.43 percent of them are not in a good health conditions. Adults between 18 to 30 years are 108, where 54 are males and 54 are females. The health conditions of the 75.93 percent of them are good. The total household family members between 30 to 50 years are 92 for which 50 males and 42 females. The health condition of the 84.78 percent of them are good, Numbers of aged persons between 50 to 65 years is 38 among them 22 are males and 16 are females. The health conditions of the 44.74 percent of them are good but remaining 55.26 percent of them are not in a good health conditions. Numbers of aged person above 65 years are 4 for which all 4 are male and 100 percent of them are not in a good health conditions. Health conditions of the all age group are given bellow in the pie-



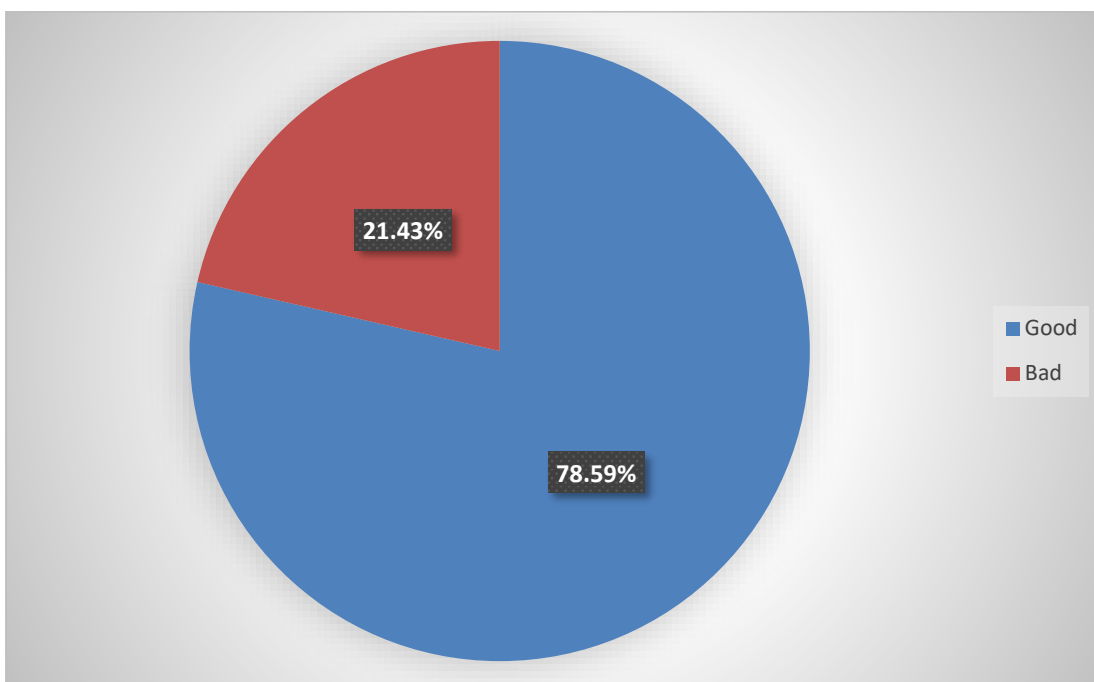
Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.14: Health condition of the age group bellow 5 years



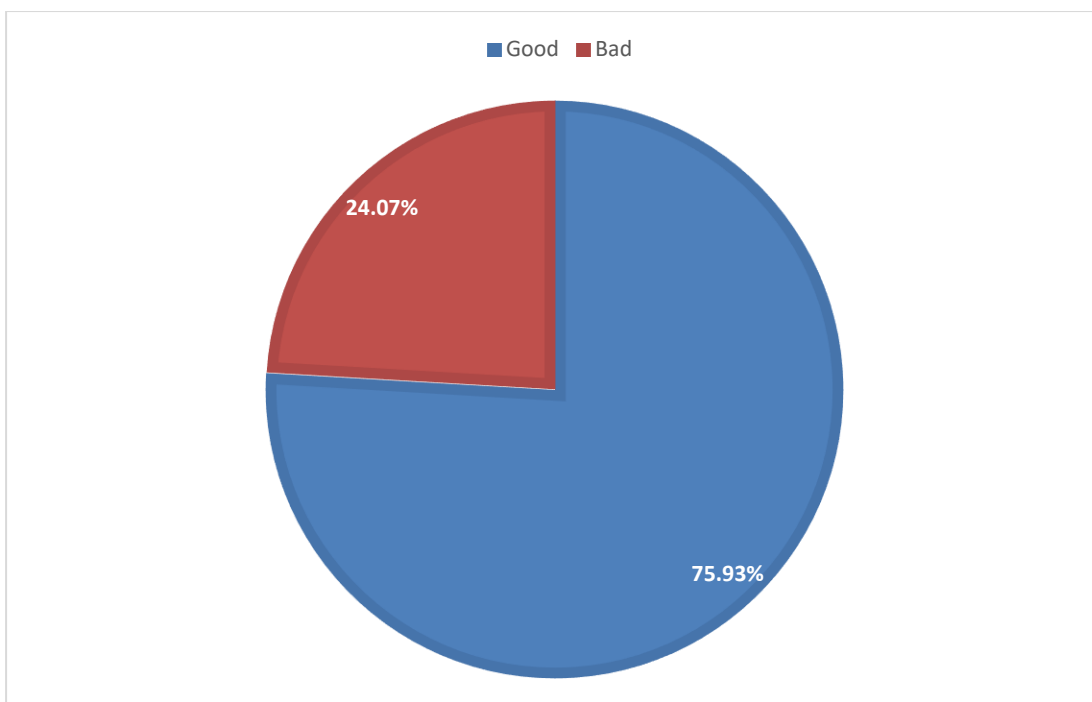
Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.15: Health condition of the age group between 5-14 years



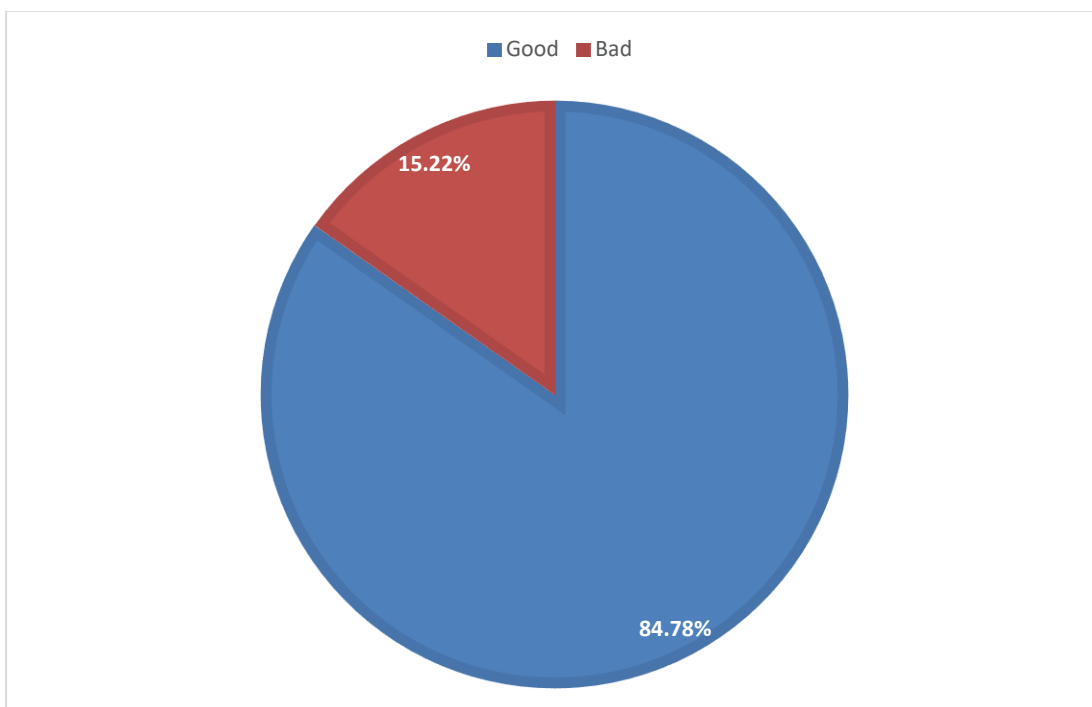
Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.16: Health condition of the age group between 14-18 years



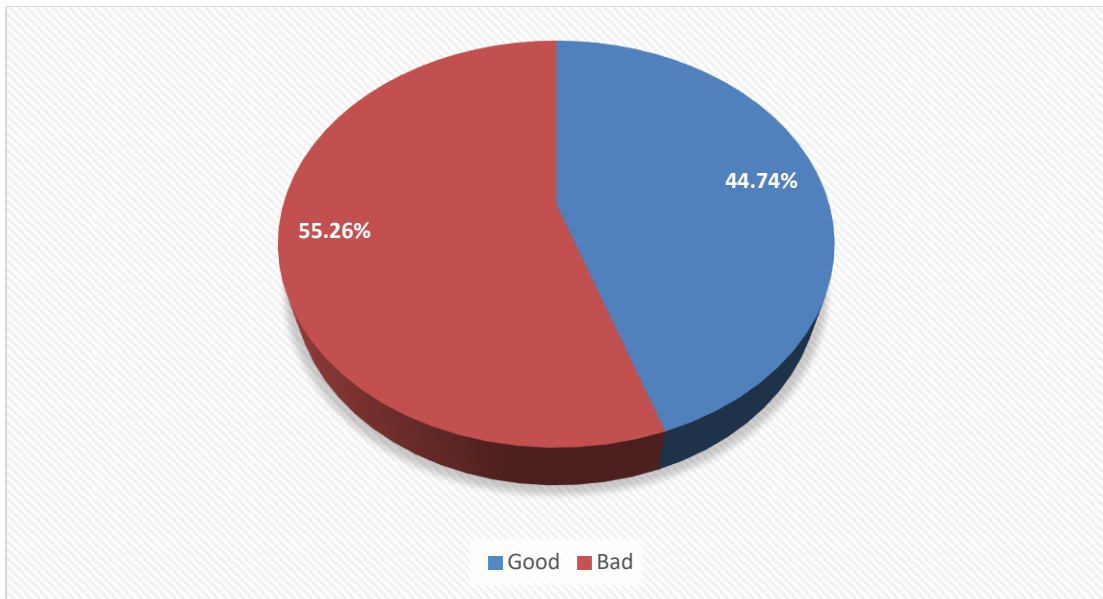
Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.17: Health condition of the age group between 18-30 years



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

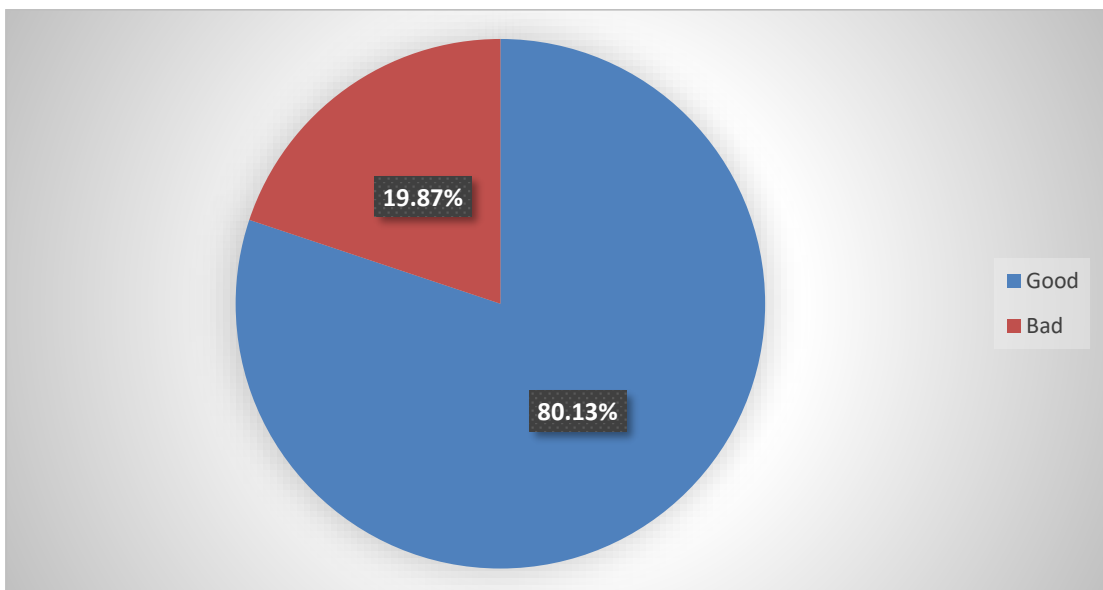
Figure 4.18: Health condition of the age group between 30-50 years



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.19: Health condition of the age group between 50-65 years

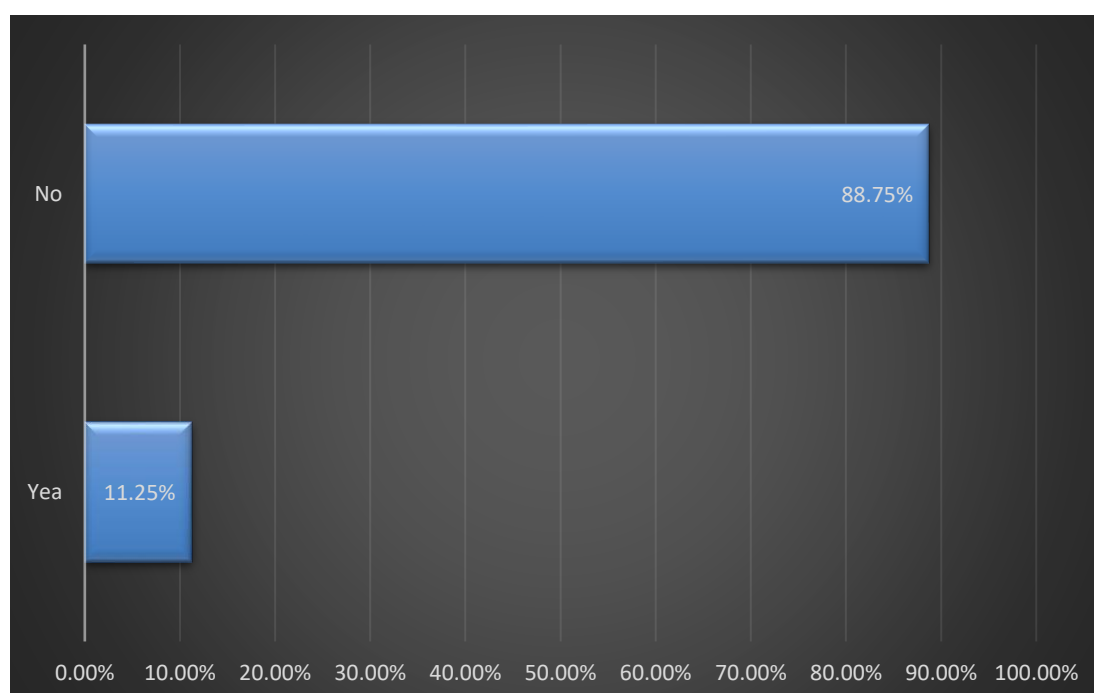
From above the analysis it is clear that the health conditions of the Bangladeshi migrants are in a good condition. Only the health conditions of the aged persons are not in a good condition. The total family members of households are 448 in which 216 males and 232 females. The health condition of the 80.13 percent of them are good but remaining 19.87 percent of them are not in a good health conditions.



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.20: Health condition of the all age group

So, the health conditions of 19.87 percent of the family members of total households were not good. The reasons behind their bad health conditions are that there is no government water supply facility, no medical or health care facility, lack of cleanliness, adequate financial support for treatment etc.

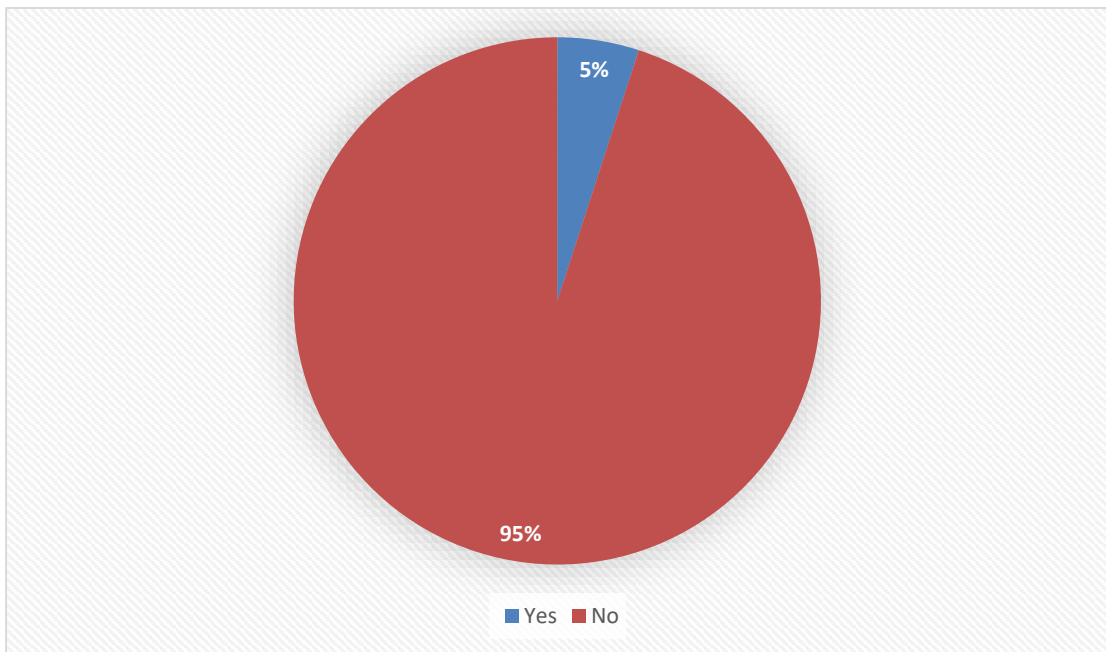


Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.21: Health centre/ dispensary in the villages of Bangladeshi migrants

On the question about the availability of health centres, 11.25 percent of total households replied as yes and those health centres are government health centres. 88.75 percent replied as no. It means there is not a single health centre located within their area or villages. Here, another question was asked to those households who says health centre are there in their villages; as “Where do you go for health check-ups? And How far from your village?” The households of Nagaon district goes to the nearest medical Dhing (12 km) or Nagaon town (20) for their health check-up.

Similarly, the households of the Dhubri district go to the nearest medical Agomoni (4 km), Ramraikuti (8 km), Nalia (5 km), Gulukanj (13 km), Biskhowa (5 km) or Dhubri (50 km) town for their health check-up. Area or village wise distance is also different to nearest health centre or medical. Further, question was asked to the households that “Are the facilities there satisfactory?” Majority of them replied as no which comprises 95 percent and only 5 percent were satisfied with those facilities related with health care. Their answers are given below in the pie-



Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.22: Percentage of satisfaction of the health care facilities

Majority of households are not satisfied with the health care facilities as the health care centres or pharmacies are far away from their houses. Also, the number of doctors are very less. In emergency cases, the doctor refers the patients they to nearest town Dhubri or Nagaon and so others. Here, another question was asked as “Have you requested concerned authorities to provide a health centre in your village?” 100 percent of them replied as no, it means they never talked with concerned authorities to solve their problem.

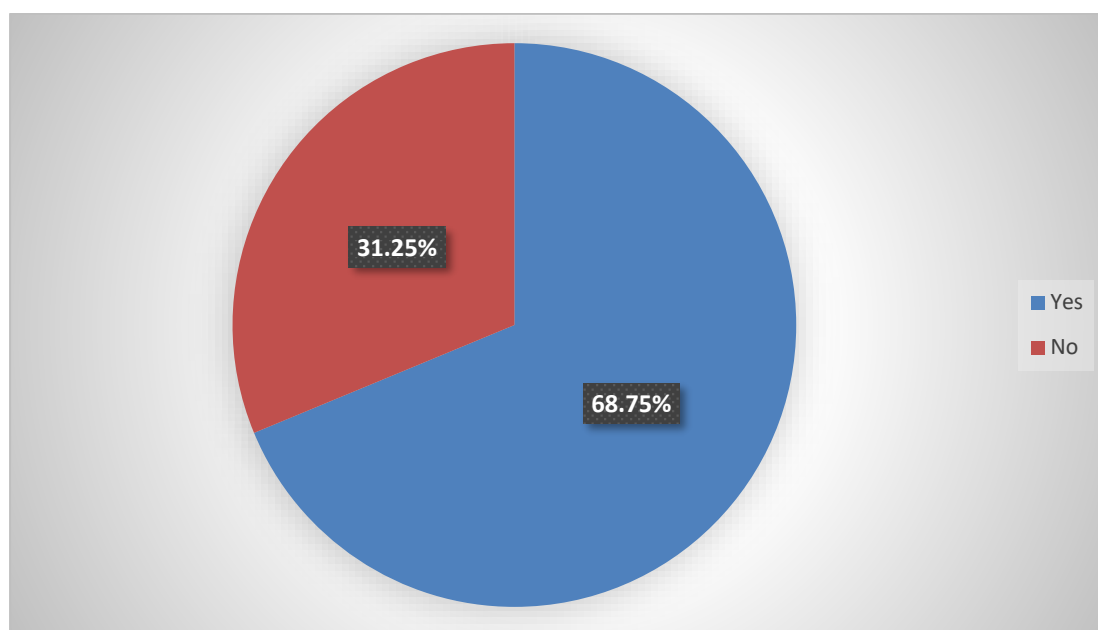
Another, question was asked that “What do you do in emergency health situations?” Few years ago, a number people died because of emergency worsening health cases. Now things have changed. As government of Assam has provided free ambulances for the emergency cases, just by dialing 108 from their phones. But, it was already analysed that the poor road condition of some villages where the migrants are live are kaccha road instead of pacca road. So, it was very difficult for the ambulances to reach those areas. Thus, a problem can be seen – the inaccessibility of the ambulance facilities. As a result, they borrow local taxi in emergency cases. Like transportation, health card is also important for emergency cases. When the question was asked as “Do your family members have health cards?” then their answer was unbelievable. 100 percent of the surveyed population didn’t have health cards.

Government of Assam September 2016, launched Atal Amrit Abhiyan, a health insurance scheme which gives coverage against five critical disease like cancer, kidney, heart surgery, burns and neuro surgery. Also, a beneficiary can avail the benefit of free treatment up to rupees of 2 lakh every year in hospitals across the country in cases of these five critical illnesses. Like Atal Amrit Abhiyan, numbers of scheme were launched by the government of Assam for the development health sector. Here, questioned was asked to the household as “Are you availing any health scheme provided by government?” 100 percent of them replied as no. This shows that they are not benefited by any government health schemes.

From above analyses it was clear that they are not only excluded from the free ambulance service but are also excluded from government-initiated health schemes. Another question was asked that “How often do you / your family members fall sick?” They said each family members of households falls sick 2/3 times a year. It also depends on season changes. Most of the diseases are seasonable one like- Malaria, Dengue etc. The provision of drinking water of the households is private. There was no public water facility in those area. Further, question was asked that “Is there any provision of sewerage facility? 100 percent of replied as no. There are no sewerage facilities in their area.

4.2.15 Family Status and Religion

Basically, migrants are exploited by the local people. Question was asked to the household as “Do you think your family status in the society is good?” Majority of them replied as yes which comprises 68.75 percent and 31.25 percent replied as no. Their answers are given bellow in the pie-



Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.23: Family status of households in society

On the enquiry about the implications of the migration on the family, the respondents replied that they are migrants and they are not citizen of India. They are not benefited from the any developmental scheme of the government. Further, they are also exploited in every step of their lives. They said they are also not getting adequate wages as compared to local people. Similarly, they have no rights to apply for a governmental job. Majority of them are illiterate. Illiteracy is one of the important factor for their exploitation. Muslim are married with Muslim only. It was very rare to see that a Muslim married to a Hindu or a Hindu married to a Muslim. They basically follow the community matrimony. So, question was asked as “How do you find an alliance for marriage?” 100 percent of them replied as community matrimony.

Another question was asked as “How difficult to find a marriage alliance?” They said they did not face any problems in regard marriage alliance. Sometime, it was also seen that the citizen or the local people basically Muslim are married with the migrants. Further, question was asked as “Do you think your religious practices are affected due to the migration?” The entire surveyed population answered no, which seems that their personal social practices were not affected.

4.2.16 Income of the Households

7.5 % of the respondents had yearly income below 5000, while 65% of the respondents have yearly income within 5000 to 30000. 15% of the respondents had yearly income within 30000 to 55000. While 7.5 % had their yearly income within 55000 to 80000. And only 5% of the respondents had their income above 105000.

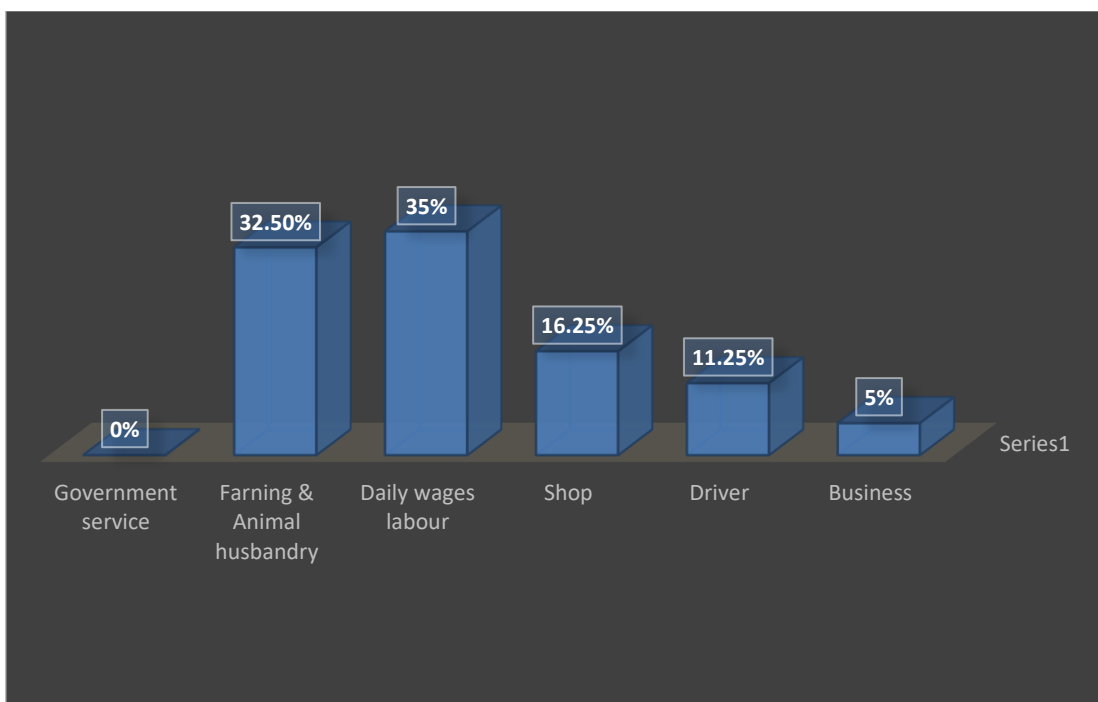
Table 4.3: Income of the households

Income of the respondents						
	Bellow 5000	5001- 30000	30001- 55000	55001- 80000	80001- 105000	Above 105000
Total respondents	6	52	12	6	0	4
Percent	7.5	65	15	7.5	0	5

Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

4.2.17 Family Occupations of the Households

Majority of the families are involved in daily wages labour. 35% of the respondents are engaged in daily wage labour. 32.50 percent household’s family occupation is Farming & Animal husbandry, while 16.25 percent household’s family owns a shop (Provisional/Pan). 11.25 percent household’s family occupation is driving and 5 percent household’s family occupation is business of the total household’s.



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.24: Family Occupations of the Households

Table 4.4: Facilities available in the area

Facilities available in the area		
No.	Facilities	Yes (√)/ No(X)
1	Drinking Water	X
2	Irrigation	X
3	Electricity Connection	√
4	Hospital	X
5	Primary Health Centre	X
6	School	X
7	College	X

8	Bank	X
9	Post Office	X
10	Co-operative Societies	X
11	Cinema Theatre	X
12	Shops	X
13	Bus Routs	X
14	Telephone	X
15	TV	√
16	Radio	√
17	Roads (Kutchha)	√
18	Roads (Pucca)	X
19	Clubs	X
20	Library	X
21	Buses	X
22	Temple	X
23	Mosque	√

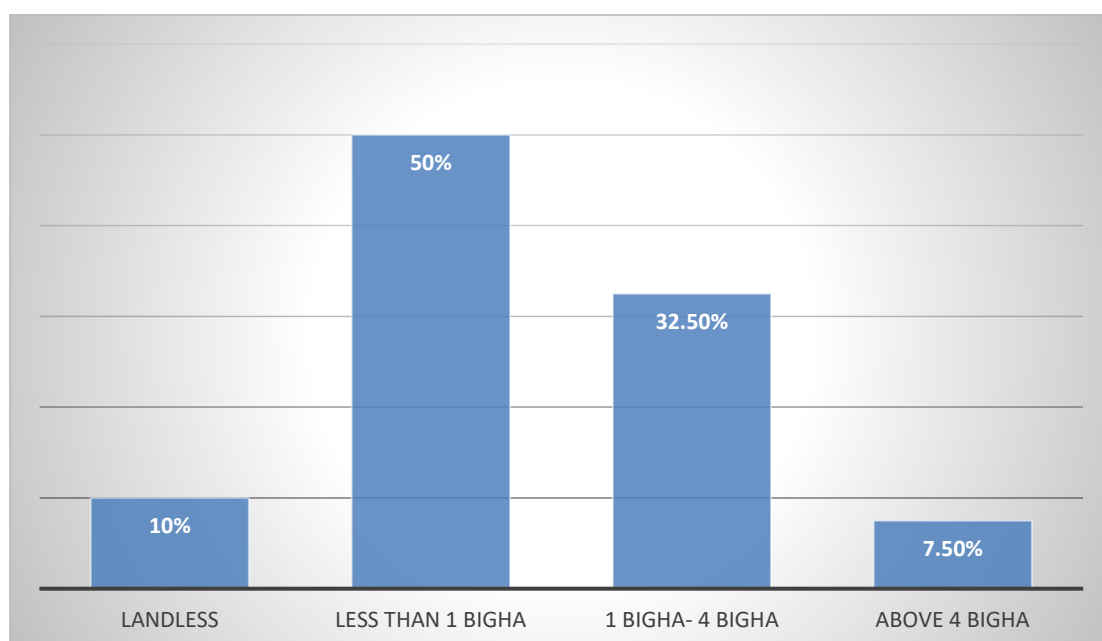
Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

There is no drinking water connections in the area where migrants are living. There is no Hospital in their area, which is a big problem of the migrants. People of those area are facing lots of problem regarding the health care. Similarly, in both the districts, where the migrants live have no Primary Health Care centre in the area. Communication problem is also there. There were no buses and no pucca roads.

People are facing lots of problems in terms of communication. Post office is also not there. Further, there was no Bank in that area, so people are also facing some financial problem. So, the basic facility which are essential for living are not in those are or villages where the Bangladeshi migrants are living.

4.2.18 Size of Agricultural Land Holding of the Households

Majority of the households are holding less than 1 Bigha land, which comprises 50 percent, 32.50 percent are holding 1 Bigha - 4 Bigha land, 7.50 percent are holding above 4 Bigha land and 10 percent are landless of the total households.

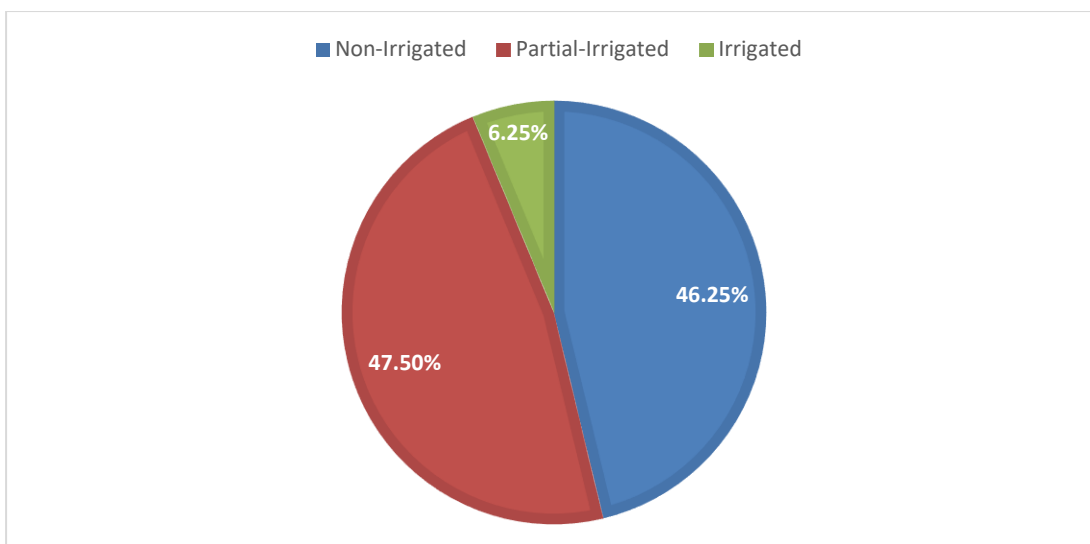


Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.25: Size of Agricultural land holding of the Households

4.2.19 Nature of Lands of the Households

46.25 percent of the household land are non- irrigated, 47.50 percent of the household's land are partial- irrigated and 6.25 percent of the household's land irrigated.

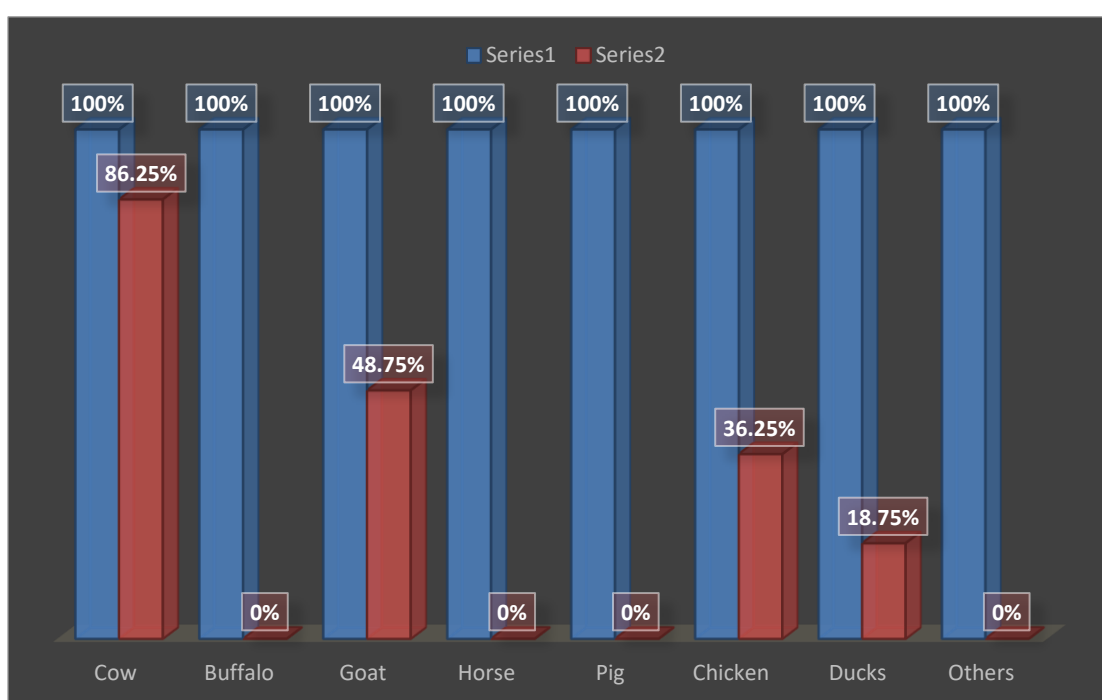


Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.26: Nature of lands of the respondents

4.2.20 Livestock and poultry

86.25 percent of total households are holding cows. Similarly, 48.75 percent are holding goat, 36.25 percent are holding chickens and 18.75 percent are holding ducks of the total households.

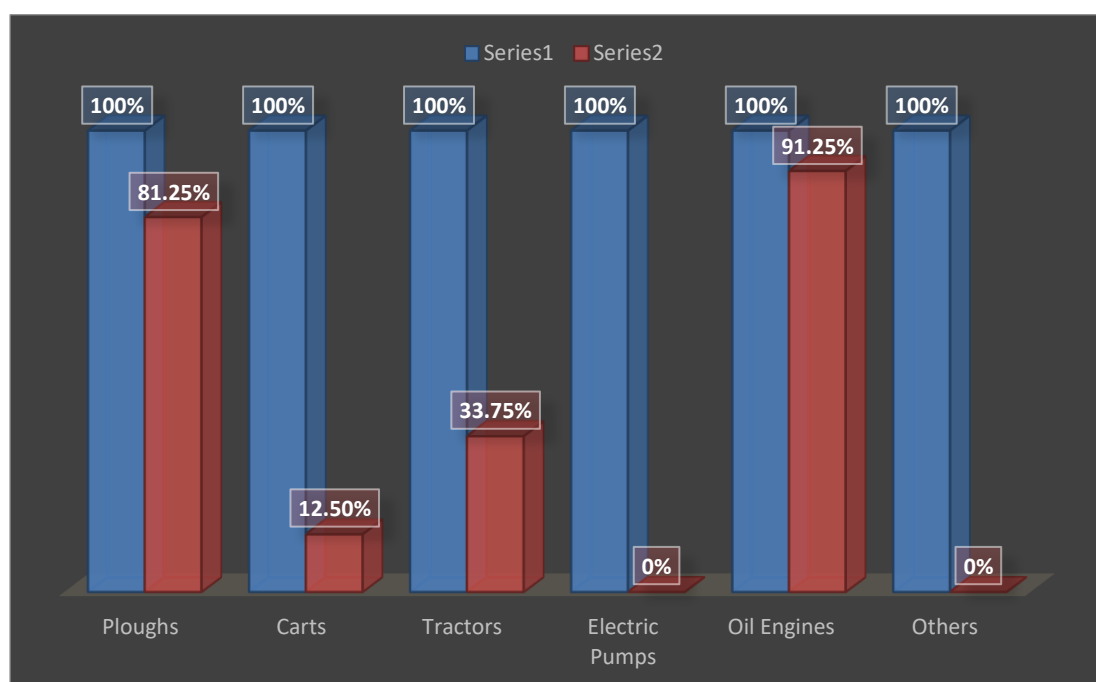


Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.27: Livestock and poultry

4.2.21 Agricultural Implements and Machinery

81.25 percent are using ploughs of the total households. Similarly, 12.50 percent are using carts, 33.75 percent are using tractors and 91.25 percent are using oil engine of the total respondents as agricultural machinery.



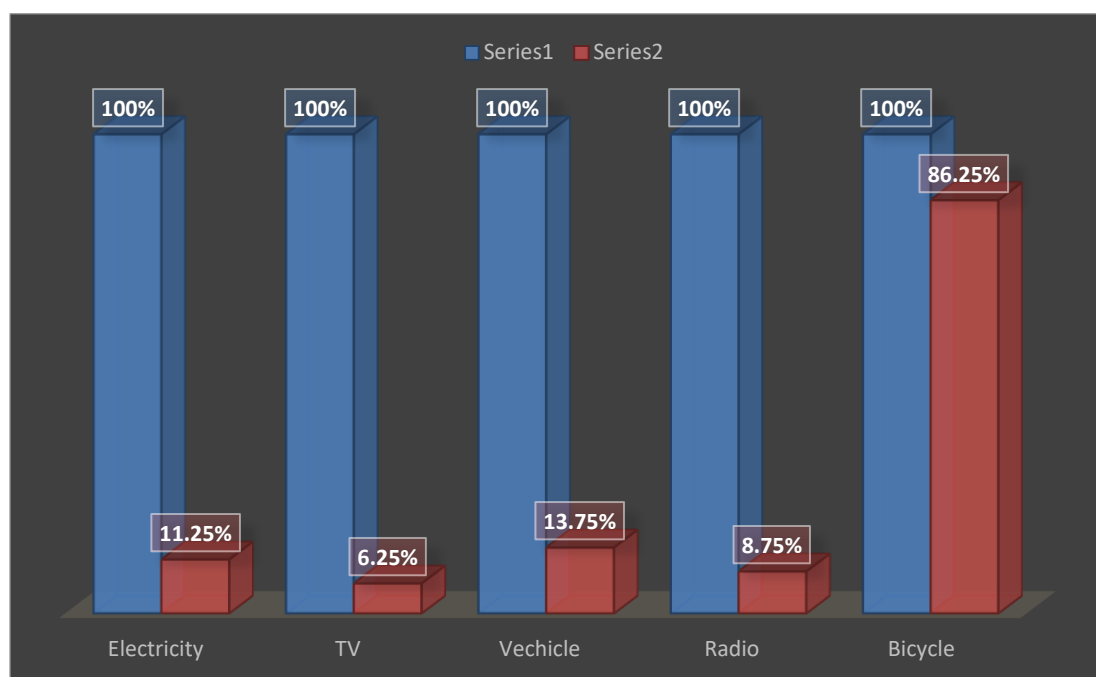
Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.

Figure 4.28: Agricultural Implements and Machinery

Question was asked to the households as “What was/is the main cultivation?” They replied as rice. Another question was asked as “What was/is the quantity of production (Per Bigha)?” They said approximately 800 kg rice is produced from the each bigha of land. But sometimes natural calamities like flood affects their land and rice production is go downs. Further, question was asked to the households as “What were/are the main source of water supply?” They used oil engine for the supply of water.

4.2.22 Household Items

Majority of them have bicycle which constituted 86.28 percent of the total households, 11.25 percent having electricity in their houses of the total households, 6.25 percent have TV in their home of the total households, 13.75 percent of the total households have vehicles and 8.75 percent have radios of the total households.



Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi migrants.*

Figure 4.29: Household items

4.3 Part II- Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Members of Student Union and Government Officials

4.3.1 General Information of Respondents of Two Districts

This study also attempted to know the Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam by trying to know the opinion of other people like local political party leaders, students and government officials comprising of sample size 80, for which 20 are local leaders (10 samples from Dhubri and 10 from Nagaon), 20 are leaders/members of student unions (10 samples from Dhubri and 10 from Nagaon) and 40 are government officials (20 samples from Dhubri and 20 from Nagaon). The

areas selected for this research are: Dhubri and Nagaon, in the state of Assam. A structured questionnaire was prepared to interview 80 respondents in both Dhubri and Nagaon district of Assam. Questionnaire was based on both open ended and close ended question. Out of the total respondents interviewed (total no. 10), 66 per cent were males and 14 per cent were females. The majority of the respondents who were interviewed belonged to the age group 31 to 40 which comprises 36.25 percent and 51 to above comprising of 10 per cent each, the age group 20 to 30 comprising of 30 per cent, and the last age group 41 to 50 comprising of 23.75 per cent of total respondents. No hard and fast criteria were adopted to choose some specific numbers of respondents from the specific community. As many as 55 per cent of the respondents were from the General, 18.75 percent are from OBC, 7.50 percent from MOBC, 8.75 percent are from SC and only 10 per cent from ST of the total respondents. Majority of the respondents were Hindus comprising of 80 per cent, while 20 per cent were Muslim. Majority of the respondents in the sample were literate, 27.50 percent were Senior Secondary, 60 percent were Graduate, 8.75 percent were Post-Graduate and 3.75 percent were others of the total respondents. Most the respondents were married which comprises 72.50 per cent and 27.50 percent were unmarried of the total respondents. Further, majority of them speak Assamese at home which comprises 86.25 percent and only 13.75 percent were speak Bengali at home.

Table 4.5: Personal Information

Personal information of respondent				
Age				
	20-30	31-40	41-50	51- Above
Total respondents	24	29	19	8
Percent	30	36.25	23.75	10
Sex/Gender				
	Male	Female	Others	

Total respondents	66	14	0				
Percent	82.50	17.50	0				
Cast							
	SC	ST	OBC	MOBC	General		
Total respondents	7	8	15	6	44		
Percent	8.75	10	18.75	7.50	55		
Education							
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Senior Secondary	Graduation	Post-Graduation	Others
Total respondents	0	0	0	22	48	7	3
Percent	0	0	0	27.50	60	8.75	3.75
Religion							
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian				
Total respondents	64	16	0				
Percent	80	20	0				
Marital Status							
	Married	Never Married	Separated	Widowed	Divorced		
Total respondents	58	22	0	0	0		

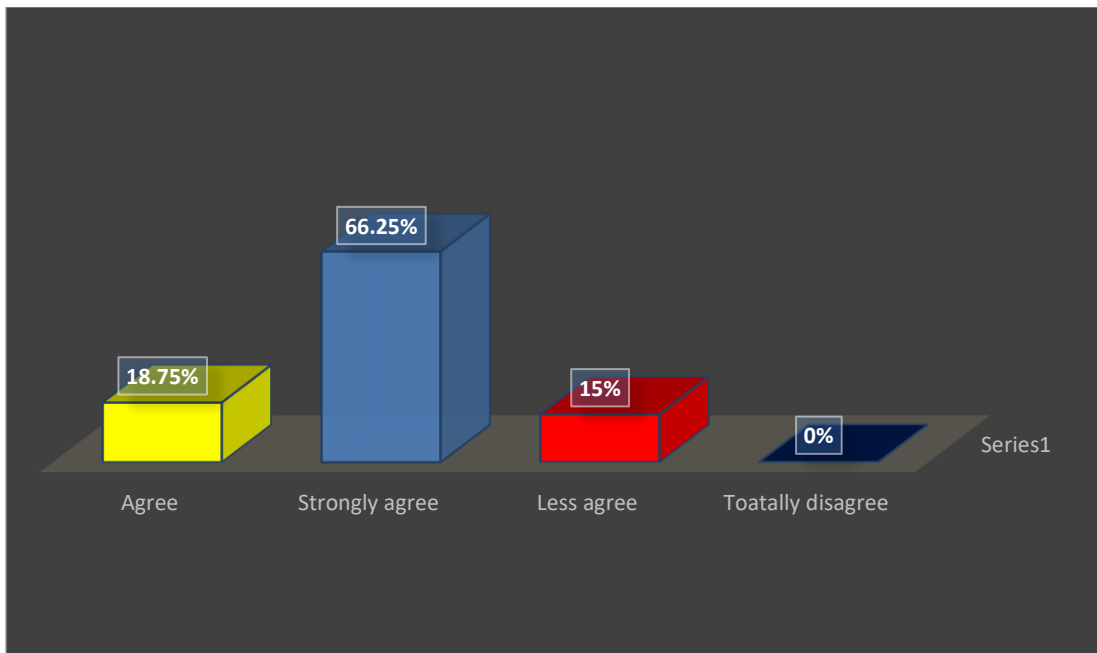
Percent	72.50	27.50	0	0	0
Family Type					
	Joint		Nuclear		
Total respondents	51		29		
Percent	63.75		36.25		
Primary language spoken at home					
	Hindi	English	Bengali	Assamese	Others
Total respondents	0	0	11	69	0
Percent	0	0	13.75	86.25	0

Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union members and Government Officials.

Migration is one of the burning issue of Assam. Question was asked to the respondent as “Are you aware about the Bangladeshi migrants in Assam?” 100 percent of them replied as yes.

4.3.2 Impact of Migration on the State of Assam

Another question whether the migration has an impact on the state of Assam, 66.25 percent were strongly agrees that the migration has an impact on the state of Assam, while 18.75 percent were just agreed while 15 percent were less agreed. Their answers are given below in the diagram-



Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union members and Government Officials.*

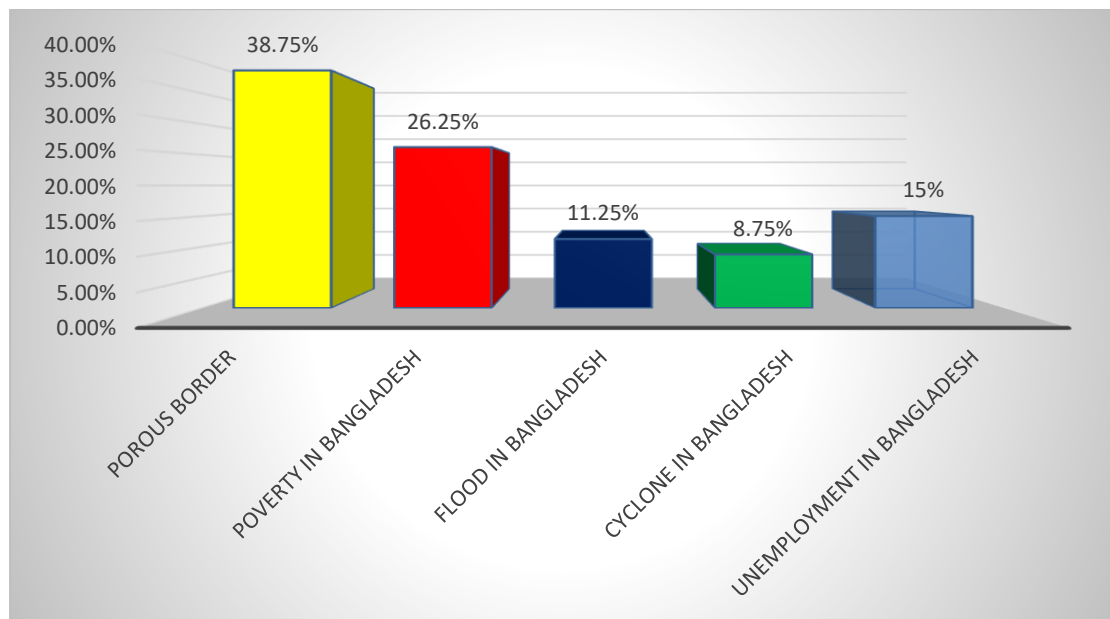
Figure 4.30: Impact of migration on the state of Assam

They agree because it was migration for which insurgent’s groups emerged in Assam. From 1992 to August 2017, 8278 people lost their lives due to various activities of the insurgent groups in Assam. Migration in Assam has also changed the demography of Assam. The Muslim population is also seen to be increasing. The Muslim population of Assam has risen from 77.41 per cent in 1991 with a growth rate of 41.89 per cent in this period. According to the Census report of 2011, the total population of Assam is 312 lakhs as compared with 146 lakhs in 1971 (Kalita 2015). Similarly, political party uses them as vote bank which was also hampered the politics of Assam. Migration is also decreases the value of wages in host country. Further, they said Bangladeshi migration is one of the core issues of the emergence of the identity crisis or movements among the indigenous people of Assam. Bodo movement is one of the example of this. Many Bodo leaders emphasise that it is migration for which communal riots are growing in Assam. In October 1993, an estimated 50 people were killed in clashes between Bodo and Muslim in Bongaigaon district of Assam. In Barpeta July 1994, about 100 people were killed in the violence between Bodo and Muslim. It was due to this clash, most of the affected Muslims have been sheltering in a relief camp in Bansbari town. More than 200 people were killed and around 200,000

people were displaced in clashes or violence between Bodos and Santhal tribals in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon district of Assam in May 1996. Likewise, May 1996, 50 people were killed and 80,000 were displaced in the riots between Bodo and Santhals in May-September 1998. Similarly, in August-October 2008 an estimated 70 people were killed and more than 100,000 were displaced by the clashes between Bodo and Muslim in Darrang and Udalguri district of Assam. Further, clashes between Bodo and Muslim started on July 2012 in Kokrajhar and later spreaded to neighbouring district of Chirang and Dhubri resulted 40 people were died, 200,000 were displaced and hundreds of homes were burned.

4.3.3 Factors for the Emergence of Bangladeshi Migration in Assam

Majority of the respondents on the factors behind the Bangladeshi migration in Assam, identified porous border as the main factor, while, some identified as poverty. 15 percent replied as unemployment, while 11.25 percent replied as flood and 8.75 percent replied as cyclone. Their answers are given below in the diagram-



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union members and Government Officials

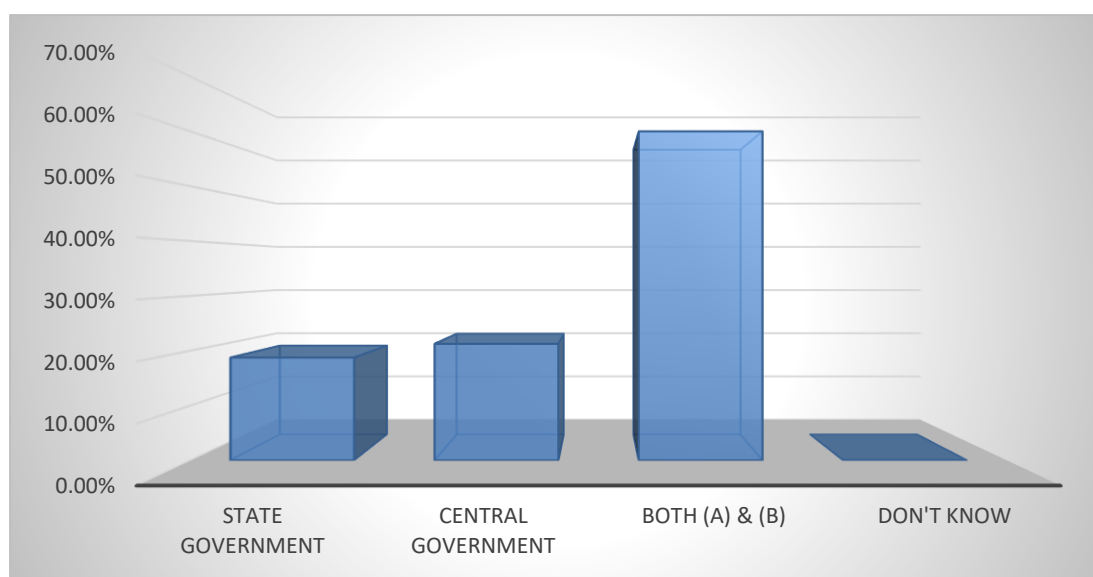
Figure 4.31: Factors for the emergence of the Bangladeshi migration in Assam

They said the Bangladeshi migrants do not accept the language of the homeland, cultures, ethnicity etc. Similarly, the people of Assam also do not accept them as citizen of Assam. It also affects the national integration of the state.

Further, question was asked that “Who according to you is most affected by Bangladeshi migrants in Assam?” Majority of them said it was the daily wage local labourers who mostly are affected, comprising 26.25 percent. 25 percent replied as Bodo and remaining 48.75 percent were unable to answer.

4.3.4 Responsibility to solve the problems of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam

Majority of the respondents feel that it is the responsibility of both central and state governments to solve the problems of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam and 21.25 percent replied as central government and 18.75 percent replied as state government. Their answers are given below in the diagram-

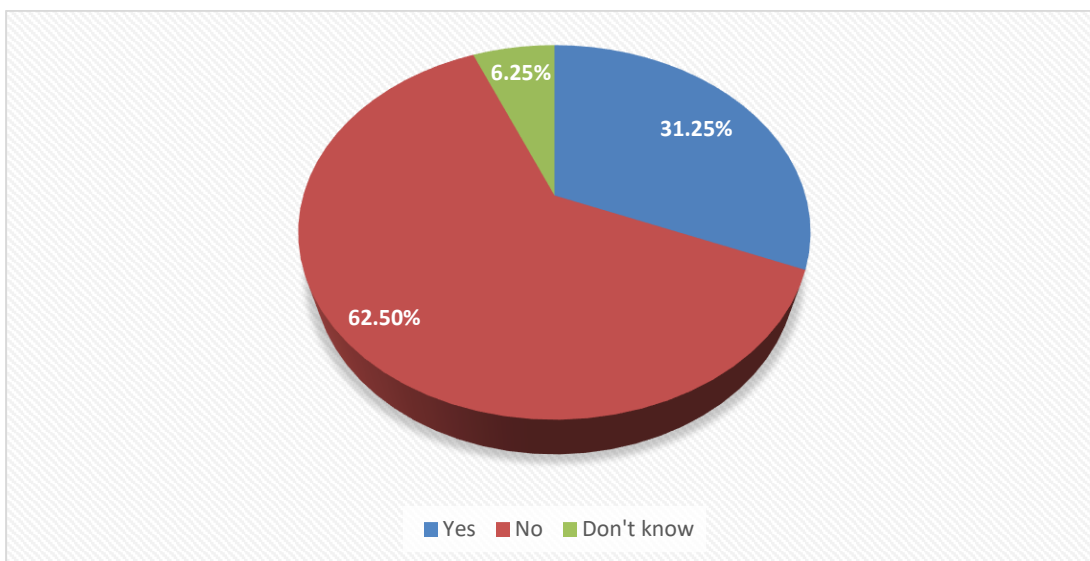


Source: *Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union members and Government Officials.*

Figure 4.32: Responsibility to solve the problem of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam

Question on the satisfaction with the arrangement and policy of governments to deal with the migrants, 31.25 percent respondents replied as yes, 62.50 percent replied as

no and remaining 6.25 percent did not know. Their answers are given below in the pie-

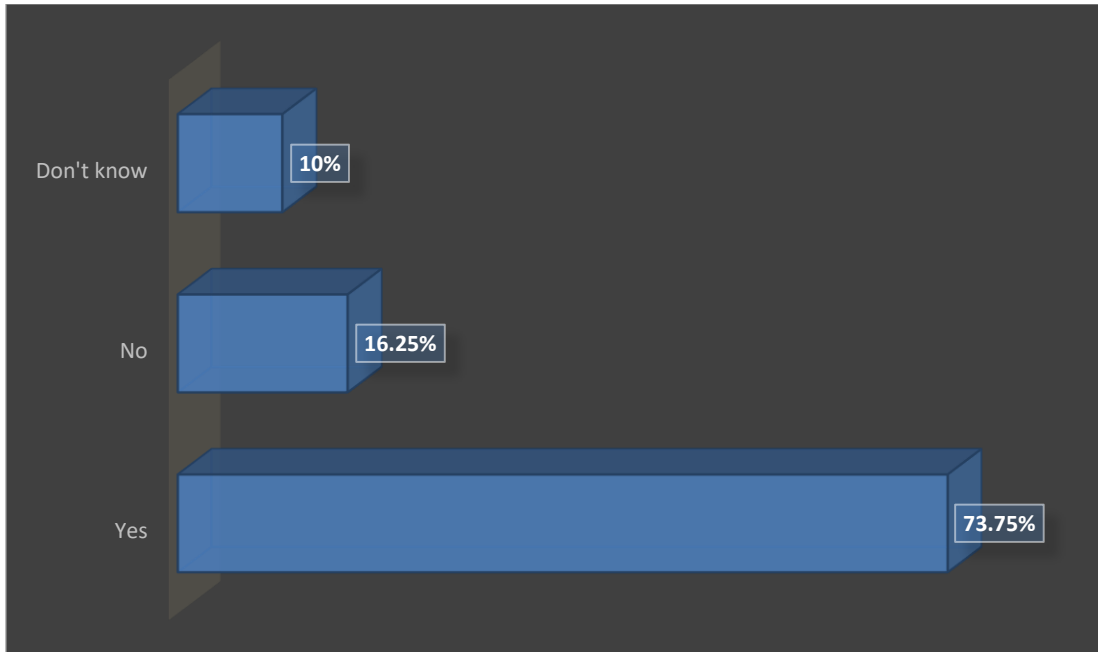


Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union and Government Officials.

Figure 4.33: Satisfaction with the arrangement and policy of government to deal with the migrants in Assam

4.3.5 Implementation of National Register of Citizenship in Assam

On the knowledge of existence of The National Register of Citizenship (NRC), majority of the respondents replied as yes comprising 73.75 percent, 16.25 percent replied as no and remaining 10 percent did not know. Their answers are given below in the diagram-



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union and Government Officials.

Figure 4.34: Knowledge on existence of NRC in Assam

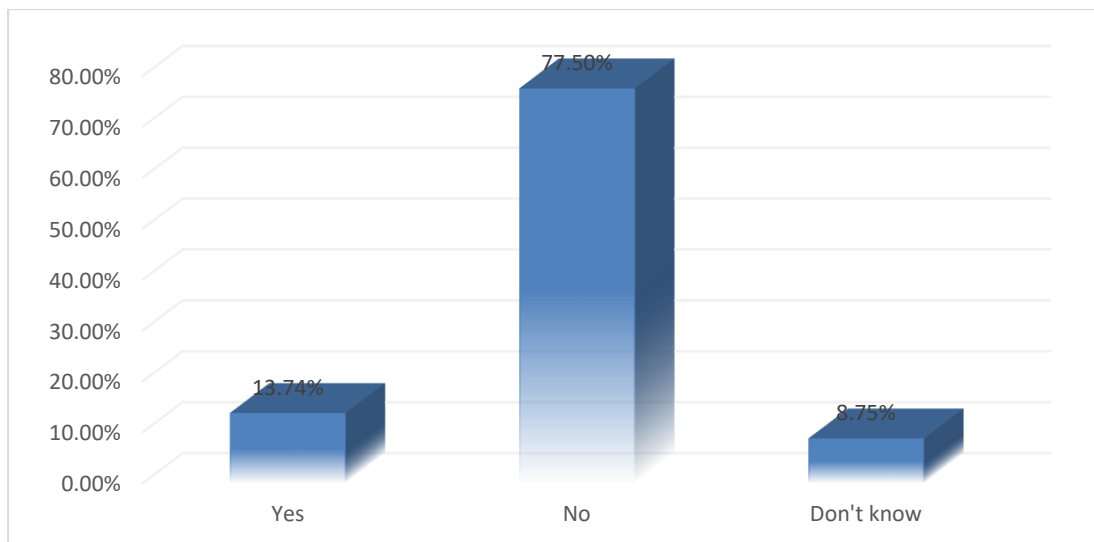
4.3.6 Factors for the delay of implementation of NRC in Assam

The National Register of Citizenship (NRC) 1951, is not updated but government of Assam is working on the implementation of NRC in Assam as soon as possible. Government is facing lots of problems regarding the implementation of the NRC in Assam. Here the question was asked as “what are the factors that are delaying the implementation of NRC in Assam?” The answers are like:

1. Slowing process of governmental work
2. Corruption
3. Fake documentation

In 2016 Amendment Bill of the Citizenship Act 1955 by the NDA government, under the consideration of Joint Select Committee of the Parliament, indicated in making migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for citizenship of India. It indicates that the Bengali Hindus who are migrated from the Bangladesh are now eligible for the citizenship of India. Here the question was “Do you agree with this amendment?” Majority of them

replied as no which comprises 77.50 percent, 13.75 percent were replies yes and remaining 8.75 percent were don't know. Their answers are given bellow in the diagram-



Source: Data collected from the field survey through Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union members and Government Officials.

Figure 4.35: On grant of citizenship to the migrants from Bangladesh

The respondents also identified the reasons for the failure of government to bring out the permanent solution to the migrants and migration issues. They are -

1. It is very difficult to identify them.
2. Holding fake documents.
3. Corruption.
4. Political parties are used them as vote bank.

4.3.7 Reason for the backward Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants

It was said that the socio-economic condition of the Bangladeshi migrants was not good as compared with the local people. The reasons behind which as the respondents identified are: Poverty

1. Unemployment
2. Illiteracy

Chapter 5:

Conclusion

5.1 Summary

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another place. A migrant is defined as a person who has changed his usual place of residence from one politically defined area to another similar area. Thus, the concept of migration involves implicitly imposition of boundary lines which must be crossed before a movement is counted as migration. There are various types of migration such as- immigrants, emigrants, population transfer, impelled migration, forced migration, chain migration, return migration, seasonal migration and so others. Similarly, there are numerous factors behind the migration in South Asia like – environmental calamities, forced migration, economic migration, political causes of migration and social causes of migration. On the other hand, socio-economic status of a person or a set of population can be measured by analysing the variables such as education, income, occupation, wealth, place of residence and so others.

Some policies for migrated population are the better livelihood of the migrants and shaping the condition of the work and livelihoods, as well as regulate their mobility. There are three migration policy domains in the South Asian region. Firstly, National Migration policy and Border regimes. Secondly, Migrants Rights and the treatment of Migrants and thirdly, Migration and Development. Similarly, United Nations also deals with the international migration and there are five legal instrument of United Nation, such as: (a) the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, (b) the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, (c) the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and Members of Their Families, (d) the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and (e) the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Likewise, UN, International Labour Organization (ILO) has also adopted three Conventions which are directly linked with the protection of migrants' workers- the Migration for Employment Convention 1949, the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers 1975, and the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers 2011. United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) is dealing with the protection of the human rights around the world. Further, European Union and SAARC has adopted convention/treaty/policy for the

protection of the rights of the migrants. The European Union have common immigration policy to manage the migrants of the member country. EU's dealings with migration traced back to the signing of the Schengen Convention in 1985. The treaty of Amsterdam of 1999 was the turning point of the migration policy in EU. Similarly, the 18th SAARC summit was gave importance to the issue of migration. Labour Ministers of the eight SAARC countries attended a two days' workshop in 2016 and emphasised on the slandering of labour migrants. Similarly, SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, was one of good initiatives taken by the SAARC for the protection women and children in region. This convention has also benefited the immigrants especially the women and their children.

There are various theories of migration research. Such as- labour market and push/pull theory, forced migration theory, developmental theories and so others. Labour market and push/pull theory discusses about the less developed national economies, push people out while those with higher wages and standards of living pull them in. And this rule is valid on particularly in third world countries. This labour market approach is also known disequilibrium approach. Similarly, forced migration theory, commonly referred to the movements of refugees and internally displaced people. Further, in the developmental theory of migration, examines firing ranges, bridge and resettlement schemes which have direct connection with displacements, leading to permanent human movement in search of livelihood (Ghosh, 2016).

Assam has witnessed wave after wave of migrations like any others part of the worlds. Few tribals were earlier settlers of the state. Bishnu Prasad Rabha stated that the 'Karbi' are the Columbus of Assam (Baruah, 1966). History of Assam witnessed that various people/group/community migrated into Assam. Bangladeshi migrants are also one of them. There are various factors behind the Bangladeshi migration into Assam like push and pull factors. Apart from push and pull factors, there are some other casual factors behind this migration, such as- the partition of India 1947 and forced migration, atrocities in 1964-65, India-Pakistan war 1965, India-Pakistan war 1971 and liberation of Bangladesh, porous border, population pressure in Bangladesh, deforestation in Bangladesh, natural disasters like flood in Bangladesh, land degradation and river bank erosion, cyclone and migration, economic factors like

poverty, economic factors- unemployment, old uses of agriculture, development and displacement in Bangladesh, socio-political factors etc. From the above-mentioned factors porous border is the important one. India shares 4097 km border with Bangladesh, comprising the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal (Sharma, et al, 2015). But only 1500 km border is fenced and major part of the shared border between the both countries is porous and easy for the illegal migration. According to the Police Department of Dhubri, Dhubri shares 99.26 km area with Bangladesh. In reality, about 2.25 km have been washed away and at present 46.508 km is only under fenced. Total unfenced area is 50.502 km which as per BSF entire is Char and river. Due to the unfenced border, most of the migration took place. So, it is very important to fence all the border area.

Migration is the burning issue of the South Asian region. South Asian region has witnessed the large scale of migration. According to the UN Department of Economics and Social Affairs report 2009, India's rank is ninth in terms of International migrants in 2010 and holding 2.5 percent of the total international migrants. As per the India's National Survey Organization 2010 report, from 2007 to 2008, India has witnessed 326 million internal migrants and 28.5 percent of the total population of the migrants. The 2001, India census, reported that an estimate of 3 million Bangladeshi migrants in India, holds 60 percent of total migrant population in India. There are many laws and policies in India to care take the migrants but these are poorly implemented and few migrants are only aware about them. Likewise, there are numerous labour- protection acts and policies, but none of them addresses the vulnerabilities which faced by the cross-border migrants. The main law relevant to migrants is- The Foreigners Act of 1946, which deals with the entry, stay and exits of foreigners within the country. Similarly, for the reasons of influx of migrants from Bangladesh to Assam, Government of India enacted the Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act (1983) and this Act is applicable in Assam only. Refugee and immigrants in India is protected through the expedience of Article 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution but they are not entitled to the Article 19. Foreigners of India are governed by the Foreigners Act 1946, along with the following regulations: The Foreigners Order, 1948, The Foreigners (Restriction on Movements) Order, 1960, The Foreigners (Restriction on Activates) Order, 1962, The Foreigners (Restriction on Residence) Order, 1968, The Foreigners (Proof of Identity) Order,

1986, The Foreigners (Report to Police) Order, 1971 etc. (Ghosh, 2016). Apart from the above Act and regularities there are some other initiatives are taken by the Government of India like- The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950, The Passport Act 1950, The Nehru Liaquet Ali Pact 1950, Rehabilitation of Migrants, India-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty, Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964, Flight of Chakma People to India, Migrants Rehabilitation in Various projects- Permanent Liability Category, Dandyakarnya Project etc., Regularization of the Migrants, Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act of 1993 (IMDT), Issues of National Identity Card, Implementation of the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam, Assam Accord and so others. NRC was not implemented in Assam because of problems in preparing Electoral roles, fake documents, spelling mistakes in voter list of 1951, missing the pages from electoral role, tea tribes and complication and so others are various challenges faced by the Government for the implementation of NRC in Assam. With all the Acts and Regulations, the phenomenon of illegal migration is still taking place in Assam.

Analysing the socio-economic conditions of the Bangladeshi migrants, we can see that they lack adequate facilities in education, healthcare, transport and communication. It is evident that access of basic healthcare facilities is lacks in the most of the areas where the Bangladeshi migrants are settled. Similarly, the access to educational institutions is also poor and majority of the Bangladeshi migrants are the illiterate. The roads of their areas are poorly developed and it becomes an acute problem in summer when floods is common. Overall, we can say that the Socio-economic status of Bangladeshi households are very backward.

5.2 Major Findings

1. There are numbers of reasons behind the Bangladeshi migration in Assam. Arup Kumar Deka in his work “Migration and Conflict: A Comparative Study of Bangladeshi and Nepali Migration in Assam” explored two factors of Bangladeshi migration to India’s Assam- push and pull factor. Apart from the push and pull factors, there are some other casual factors are exist for which also Bangladeshis migrated in to Assam like- the partition of India 1947 and forced migration, atrocities in 1964-65, India-Pakistan war 1965, India-Pakistan war 1971 and liberation of Bangladesh, poorer border, population

pressure in Bangladesh, deforestation in Bangladesh, Natural Disasters- flood in Bangladesh, land degradation and river bank erosion, cyclone and migration, natural disaster and migration, economic factors- poverty, economic factors- unemployment, Bangladesh agriculture, development and displacement in Bangladesh, socio-political factor, porous border and so others.

2. Madhumita Sarma in his work "*A study of migration from Bangladesh to Assam, India and its impact*" said that the Bangladeshi migrants are settled in Assam lack adequate infrastructure in education, healthcare, transport and communication. It is evident that access of basic healthcare facilities is lacking in the most of the area where the Bangladesh migrants are settled. Similarly, the access to educational institutions is also poor and majority of the Bangladeshi migrants are the illiterate. The roads of their areas are poorly developed and it becomes very acute problems in summer when flood is common. For the reason of their illiteracy, majority of them are engaged with the agricultural institution, fishing industries, manual labour and small small business. To increase their standard of living, they purchase other properties, such as bicycle, thellas (Push Cart), rickshaws, cars, trucks, tractors and boats for fishing among others. Here, the finding is yes, the Socio-economic status of Bangladeshi households are very backward. They are settled in Assam lack adequate infrastructure in education, healthcare, transport and communication. Their houses are far away from nearest town. 85 percent of them having caccha houses. 55.11 percent of the total family members of the household are illiterate. Similarly, 47.50 percent of the total household were living such a place where, there was no school. Health condition of the 19.87 percent of the family members of the total household were not good. Likewise, the health centre/ medical is far away from the villages of household. They don't have any health card. Their family income was very low. Only 65 percent of total household income is 5001 to 30000 yearly. Majority of the household's occupation is daily wages labour. Further, majority of them having less than 1 Bigha of land.
3. Refugee and immigrants in India is protected through the expedience of Article 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution but they are not entitled to the Article 19. Foreigners of India are governed by the Foreigners Act 1946,

together with the following regulation: The Foreigners Order, 1948, The Foreigners (Restriction on Movements) Order, 1960, The Foreigners (Restriction on Activates) Order, 1962, The Foreigners (Restriction on Residence) Order, 1968, The Foreigners (Proof of Identity) Order, 1986, The Foreigners (Report to Police) Order, 1971 and other regularities (Ghosh, 2016). Apart from the above Act and regularities there are some other initiatives are taken by the Government of India like- The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950, The Passport Act 1950, The Nehru Liaquet Ali Pact 1950, Rehabilitation of Migrants, India-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty, Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964, Flight of Chakma People to India, Migrants Rehabilitation in Various projects- Permanent Liability Category, Dandyakarnya Project etc., Regularization of the Migrants, Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act of 1993 (IMDT), Issues of National Identity Card, Implementation of the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam, Assam Accord and so others. Above from the analyses it was cleared that there are numbers of Act/Regulation/Order are there for regulation of immigrants or refugee. But, government is failed in terms of regulation. Illegal migration is taking place in Assam. Similarly, government is also failed to give a permanent solution in terms of migration. Jagatmani Acharya and Tapan K. Bose in their works “The new search for a durable solution for refugee: South Asia” mentioned that larger percentage of the displaced persons of the South Asia are not regarded as refugee by the host government of the South Asia. They are treated as illegal immigrants and undesirable aliens. Same things happen with the immigrants in Assam also. During the last two decades numbers of Bangladeshi immigrants basically the Muslims were killed by the insurgents group as well as communal riots between Muslims and Bodos. Hence, they have no security for their life was seen. So, the condition of the Bangladeshi immigrants is vulnerable. There are some illegal villages, which are set up in the governmental and forest land. To free that land from the hand of the Bangladeshi immigrants in September, 2016, three villages namely – Banderdubi, Deuchur nad Palkhowa nearby Kajiranga, Nagaon district of Assam, police used force to free those three illegal villages, leading to the death of two persons. From above cases it was cleared that Bangladeshi immigrants have no security for their life in Assam. Further, Government of

Assam facing lots of problems in terms of implementation of NRC in Assam are electoral role, fake document, spelling mistake in voter list of 1951, missing of the pages from electoral role, tea tribes and complication for NRC and so others. Though, government of Assam is facing lots of problem to implement the NRC in Assam but they successfully published the first part draft of the NRC in 31st of December 2017, where 1.9 crore names were enlisted and the full NRC will publish soon with all the names of the legal citizens of India residing in Assam. So, people of Assam are in hope that implementation of NRC will solve the problem of Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam. Similarly, Assam Accord was signed in 15 August 1985 and government was agreed to find satisfactory solution to the foreigner's issues in Assam. But government is failed to give permeant solution in this regard.

5.3 Suggestions and Recommendations

1. **Reinforce border protection:** The Bangladeshi migrants mostly migrate to Assam through the river. So, there is urgent need of reinforcing river patrolling with modern technology.
2. **Border fencing:** India shares 4097 km border with neighbor country Bangladesh along with state of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal (Sharma, et all, 2015). But only 1500 km border is fenced and major part of the sharing border between the both countries is porous and easy for the illegal migration. Thus, there is urgent need of fencing in unfenced areas to stop the illegal migration.
3. **Socio-economic status:** The socio-economic status of the migrants from Bangladesh are very poor. To improve their socio-economic status, there was urgent need to improve the infrastructures of their areas.
 - A. There is also a need for hospital/health care center in their villages. Government should have taken initiatives regarding this matter. The availability of the doctors 24X7 is very much important. It is not only help the Bangladeshi migrants but also helped needy local people surrounding by them.
 - B. There is an urgent need of school in their area to increase the literacy rate of them.

- C.** There is no water supply in their area or villages. So, there was a need of water supply was sought in their villages.
- D.** Similarly, there is no pucca road in their villages. There is an urgent need of pucca roads for their better communication. Communication through public transport is also very necessary.
- E.** There is no bank in their area or villages. Hence, there is an urgent need for establishment of a bank for the financial support.

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Appendices

Appendix I

Interview Schedule

Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam: A Study of Dhubri and Nagaon Districts

The Bangladeshi migrants are settled in Assam lack adequate infrastructure in education, healthcare, transport and communication. It is evident that access of basic healthcare facilities is lacking in most of the area where the Bangladesh migrants are settled. Similarly, the access to educational institutions is also poor and majority of the Bangladeshi migrants are the illiterate. The roads of their areas are poorly developed and it becomes very acute problems in summer when flood is common. For the reason of their illiteracy, majority of them are engaged with the agricultural institution, fishing industries, manual labour and small small business. To increase their standard of living, they purchase other properties, such as bicycle, thellas (Push Cart), rickshaws, cars, trucks, tractors and boats for fishing among others. The proposed study will examine the socio-economic conditions of Bangladeshi migrants in Dhubri and Nagaon Districts of Assam.

Sir/Madam

With honour, I, Sri Prakash Dutta who presently pursuing M Phil. in the dept. of Political Science, Sikkim University is in need to undergo for research work for fulfilling the submission of Dissertation. For the purpose, I took up the aforesaid titled **“Socio-economic Status of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam: A Study of Dhubri and Nagaon Districts”** as an area of study.

I seek your humble cooperation in providing the data available to your knowledge. At the same time, I would like to assure and ensure the confidentiality to have full faith in me that the data will be used for only academic purpose as aforesaid and will never be used for any other means or purpose.

Thanking you

Yours' faithfully
Prakash Dutta
Dept. of Political Science
Roll No- 16MPPL08
Sikkim University
Mobile No. 9678667812

Interview Schedule for Bangladeshi Migrants

[Respondents may kindly note that confidentiality will be maintained and in no way the identity/ personal information of the respondent will be revealed]

House No/ Panchayat Record No:

House hold no:

Section I

General Information

1. Village:

2. Name of head of the household:.....

Male [] Female [] Age

Community/ Sub group..... Religion.....

3. Number of household members: MaleFemale

Total

Family Type: Joint[] Nuclear []

Mother tongue:

4. Age group of Household members:

Age	Male (nos.)	Female (nos.)
(0- below 5 years)		
(5- below 14 years)		
(14- below 18 years)		
(18- below 30 years)		
(30- below 50 years)		
(50- below 65 years)		
(65 and above years)		

5. Distance from the nearest town.....km

6. Residing since Year.....

7. Types of household: Kaccha [] Pacca [] Both []

8. Types of ownership. Own [] Tenant []

9. What kind of identity card do you hold? (Please tick)

Voter ID [] Aadhar card [] PAN card [] Driving licence []

Passport [] NRC [] Land record []

Any other (specify).....

10. Do you have membership in any political party? Yes [] No []

i. If Yes, please specify

11. Any of you/ family member ever been arrested? Yes [] No []

i. If Yes, please specify reason.....

12. Do you/ family feel secured? Yes [] No []

i. If Yes, please specify reason.....

ii. If No, please specify reason.....

13. Given a chance would you like to go back? Yes [] No []

14. How do you see the future (you/ family)?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Section II

Education

15. Educational Qualifications

Educational qualifications of the family members	No of Adults (above 18 years)			No of Children (below 18 years)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No education						
Primary (upto 4 th class)						
Secondary (5-10 class)						
Higher Secondary (11-12 class)						
Graduation						
Post Graduation						
Above						

16. Is there a school/s in your village? Yes [] No []

16 (A) (a) If yes...Primary [] Secondary [] Higher Secondary []

(b) What kind of school/s is it? Government [] Private []

Both []

(c). any of your family members enrolled in the school/s?

Government Private

16 (B). If no, why and where does (any of) your family members attend the schooling?

17. Where do you/ your family members go for higher studies?

18. What are the documents required to be enrolled in school/ college

(i).

(ii).....

(iii).....

(iv).....

(v) other.....

19. Do you/ family have these documents? Yes [] No []

Section III

Health

20. Health

Age group	Male (Describe health condition/ ailments)	Female (Describe health condition/ ailments)	Reason(s) for the health condition
(below 5 years)			
(5- below 14 years)			
(14- below 18 years)			
(18- below 30 years)			
(30- below 50 years)			
(50- below 65 years)			
(65 and above years)			

21. Is there any health centre/ dispensary in the village? Yes [] No []

21 (A) If yes, it is Government [] Private []

(B) If no,

(a) where do you go for health check ups?.....

(b) How far is it from your village.....

(c) Are the facilities there are satisfactory?.....

(d) Have you requested concerned authorities to provide a health centre in your village? Yes [] No []

If yes, what was the reply?.....

(e) What do you do in emergency health situations?

22. Do your family members have health cards?

23. Are you availing any health scheme? provided by Government Yes [] No []

(a) If yes describe.....

(b) If no, why?

24. How often do your family members fall sick?

25. Provision of drinking water by private [] public []

26. Is there any provision of sewerage facility? Yes [] No []

If yes, it is private [] public []

Section IV

Family status and religion

27. Do you think your family status in the society is good? Yes [] No []

28. What are the implications of migration on your family?

Specify.....

29. How do you find an alliance for marriage: community matrimony []

Family connections [] Any other (specify)

30. How difficult to find a marriage alliance? (specify).....

31. Do you think your religious practices affected due to migration? Yes [] No []

32. a. If yes, specify how?.....

Section VI

Livelihood

33. Family income:

Below 5000 [] 5,001-30,000 [] 30,001-55,000 []

55,001-80,000 [] 80,001-1, 05,000 [] Above 1, 05,000 []

34. Occupation:Government service [] Other []
Specify.....

35. Facilities available in the area (please tick)

Drinking Water [] Irrigation [] Electricity Connection []
Hospital []

Primary Health Centre [] School College [] Banks []

Post Office [] Co-operative Societies [] Cinema Theatre []

Shops [] Bus Routs [] Telephone [] TV []
Radio []

Roads (Kutch/Pucca) [] Clubs [] Library [] Buses
[]

Temple [] Mosque []

36. Size of Agriculture land holding

Landless [] Less than 1 Bigha [] 1 Bigha- 4 Bigha []
Above 4 Bigha []

37. Nature of land

Non-Irrigated [] Partial-Irrigated [] Irrigated []

38. Livestock and poultry

Cow [] Buffalo [] Goat [] Horses [] Pig []
Chicken [] Ducks [] Others []

39. Agricultural Implements and Machinery

Ploughs [] Carts [] Tractors [] Electric Pumps []
Oil Engines [] Others (specify) []
.....]

40. What was/is the main cultivation?

.....
.....
.....

41. What was/is the quantity of production (per acre)?

.....
.....
.....

42. What were/ are the main source of water supply?

.....
.....
.....

43. Household items

Electricity [] TV [] Vehicle [] Radio []

Others(specify).....
.....
.....

Thank you for your precious time and cooperation.

Appendix II

Interview Schedule for Local Leaders, Student Union and Government Officials

Section (A)

Personal Information

[To be filled by the respondent]

- 1. Name:**
- 2. Age:**
 - a) 20-30
 - b) 31-40
 - c) 41-50
 - d) 51- Above
- 3. Sex/Gender:**
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
 - c) Others
- 4. Cast:**
 - a) SC
 - b) ST
 - c) OBC
 - d) MOBC
 - e) GENERAL
- 5. Education:**
 - a) Illiterate
 - b) Primary
 - c) Secondary
 - d) Senior Secondary Graduation
 - e) Post- Graduation
 - f) Others
- 6. Religion:**
 - a) Hindu
 - b) Muslim
 - c) Christen
- 7. Marital Status:**
 - a) Married
 - b) Never Married
 - c) Separated
 - d) Widowed
 - e) Divorced
- 8. Family Type:**
 - a) Joint
 - b) Nuclear
- 9. What is the primary language spoken at home?**
 - a) Hindi

- b) English
- c) Bengali
- d) Assamese
- e) Others

Section (B)

10. Are you aware about the Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam?

- a) Yes b) No

11. Do you think migration is impact on the state of Assam?

- a) Agree b) Strongly agree c) Less agree d) Totally disagree

12. What factor do you like to identify for the emergence of Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam?

.....

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.....

13. Do you think that Anti-foreigner movement in Assam is one of the reasons for emergence of insurgency groups in Assam?

- a) Yes b) No

14. Do you think Bangladeshi Migrants in Assam has affected the normal life of people?

- a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

15. Do you think Bangladeshi migrants is threat to internal security and national integration?

- a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

16. Who according to you is most affected by Bangladeshi migrants in Assam?

.....

.....

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.....

.....
.....

17. Who do you think responsible to solve the problem of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam?
a) State government b) Central government c) both (a) & (b) d) Don't know

18. Are you satisfied with the arrangement and policy of government to deal with the migrants in Assam?
a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

19. Do you know about NRC? If yes than do you think implementation of NRC in Assam is the solution for the influx migration?
a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

20. The National Register of Citizenship (NRC) 1951, has not updated till now but government of Assam is working on the implementation of NRC in Assam as soon as possible. Government has facing lots of problems regarding the implementation of the NRC in Assam. What factors you like identify for the delay of implementation of NRC in Assam?

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21. In 2016 Amendment Bill of the Citizenship Act 1955 by the NDA government, under the consideration of Joint Select Committee of the Parliament will make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Pariss and Christens from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan eligible for citizenship of India. It indicated that the Bengali Hindus who are migrated from the Bangladesh are eligible for the citizenship. Do you agree with this amendment?
a) Yes b) No c) Don't know

22. Why government has failed to bring out the permanent solution for the refugees and migration issues?

.....
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23. It was said that the Socio-economic status of the Bangladeshi migrants not good as compared with the local people. What factors you like highlighted for their above-mentioned conditions?

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.....

24. Do you think Bangladeshi migration is the reason for which Communal riots or violence and identity movements emerged in Assam?

- a) Agree b) Strongly agree c) Less agree d) Totally disagree

25. What suggestions do you like to provide to solve the problem of Bangladeshi migration?

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Thank you for your precious time and cooperation.

