

Socio-Economic Issues of Assam: A book produced by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), bengtol College, Bengtol under Chirang district and published by Publication Cell, Bengtol College, Chirang (BTAD), Assam.

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1st Edition : 17th May, 2018

Producer : Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Bengtol College, Dist. Chirang (BTAD), Assam.

ISBN : 978-81-929915-1-1

Published by: Publication Cell, Bengtol College,

Chirang (BTAD) Assam

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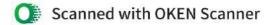
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Printed at:

Oasis Offset Printers, Chapaguri-1, Chirang, BTC, Assam Email: oasischirang@gmail.com:: Phone: 9435020367 & 72



Assam is one of the states of India and it is situated in the North-Eastern region with a land of socio-cultural diversity. Assam is a multi cultural, multi ethnic, multi religious and multi lingual The state of Assam has state. demographic, economic and strategic significance. Demographically, Assam is the hub of diverse social groups and economically is filled with natural resources including oil, tea, mineral and water resources. A wide range of ethnic group is also present in the region and they have contributed a lot towards the sociocultural development of the state.

In the post-independent India, Assam was one of those states of North East which had to suffer from the development strategy of the Indian state. Assam is economically a backward region, though the state has a lot of natural resources which, if properly tapped, will bring a huge boost to their economic development and improve the living standards of the people. But unfortunately because of the absence of large scale industries these raw materials cannot be manufactured within the region and hence it has just become only a major supplier of raw materials. Agriculture in the region is quite primitive, subsistence farming is mostly practiced;

hence the total output of agriculture is very low when compared with that of when states of India.

The growing competition for limited social and economic space has forther intensified the hostilities and prepadent among the ethnic groups since the colonia period. There has been a constant attempt of looking at the issue of demographs change due to constant migration and has destroyed the these immigrants homogeneity of Assamese society. Various ethnic groups viewed the state governmen as an instrument to extend, consolidate w transform their position in the economy and social system. All these implies competition, conflict and power single In this process of every ethnic group type to protect its own interest, the region witnessed a number of conflicts become the state and ethnic groups as well a between groups themselves.

Modernization A# (本意) improvement in education, muliciani technology and increases the levels of competition for jobs. As a result the he made estimate groups become many comin promuting their liderally and is he we competitive in protecting the limits remarked at their dispensed from our d Development for previous them to the second product was a some in account to It appears that the more the second

modernized, the more ethnic demands are manifested and similarly, the higher economic development has also related to greater ethnic conflict. Different cultural and linguistic ethnic groups wanted to retain their tradition and relative prestige while desiring to improve their socioeconomic and political status arose boundlessly. Among them those who have already forgotten their past heritage, are now reverting back to their old tradition through revival of language and culture. These entire issues involved competition conflict and power struggle.

Another important problem of Assam's economy is unemployment. The numbers of unemployed youth are increasing day by day. The special care for job opportunity for Women in Assam and their security in society and women reservation in centre and state is deplorable. The government has failed to provide job opportunities to them. As a result, the problem of unemployment is becoming more and more dangerous to the economy of the state. Apart from these factors, drainage of wealth, historical consequences, geographical location, poor slow process infrastructure, modernization, leadership crisis and political culture, slow pace industrialization are some of the major constraints or impediments on the way of rapid socio economic development in Assam.

However, this edition of book Socia Economic Issues of Assam' highlights on various existing problems of Assam, h is expected that this book will be able to create awareness among the readers and the people and also develop consciousness and create thoughts to resolve the issues which stands as challenges at the pace of socioeconomic growth and development of the state.

I am very much grateful to the Principal and IAQC of Bengtol College for giving such an opportunity to bring out this edition. I am thankful to the Editors for the help and support they extended while compiling this book and for bring out to reality.

I would also like to with and than all the authors for their valuable contribution of research papers and write up for this book.

Last but not the least I must extend my heartfelt thanks to the Oasis Office Printers for taking the effort of printing and bringing the book well in time.

Rimush Narrary Charl Edition

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