CHAPTER - II
CHAPTER II

STUDY AREA AND DATA BASE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter we have explained an overview of illegal migration of Northeast India and its impact on society along with brief description of related studies. The aim of this chapter is to study the changes in the politico-administrative boundaries in the North-East region of India and Bangladesh during different census periods and also provide a brief explanation about the data used in this study with their source of collection. For the comparison of data between two different censuses there should be same number of district in both the census and therefore needs adjustment of areas. At the time of independence India had in the north east one province, two princely states, one central agency and several tribal states. After independence there was a long period of administrative reorganization of the areas of North-East India. The administrative boundary has been changed in different census periods and also new states and district has been created within the region. The North East India comprises seven states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, and cover a total area 255,036 sq.km which represent about 7% of the Indian land mass (Taher 2005). The region has a population of 38.4 million as per 2001 census which is 3.75%( approx) of the country's total population. The region borders with china, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan. Its long boarder extending over 4,800 km and it is connected with the main land by a narrow
corridor. The width of the corridor is about 33 km on the eastern side and 21 km on the western side.

The Brahmaputra River valley is the dominant physical feature of Assam. The river enters Assam near Sadiya in the extreme northeast and runs westward across the length of Assam for nearly 450 miles before turning south to enter the plains of Bangladesh. The river valley—studded with low, isolated hills and ridges that rise abruptly from the plain—is rarely more than 50 miles wide and is surrounded on all sides, except on the west, by mountains. Numerous streams and rivulets flow from the neighbouring hills to empty into the Brahmaputra. The Barak River valley in the southeast forms an extensive lowland area that is important for agriculture and supports a relatively dense population. Only a small portion of this valley, however, is within the state's borders.

2.2 HISTORY WITH FORMATION OF NEW STATES AND DISTRICTS IN NORTHEAST INDIA.

The population of the North East consists of the original, indigenous inhabitants together with various ethnic groups, including people from Tibet, Burma, Thailand and Bengal, who migrated into the region at various periods of history. The present NE was included in the kingdom of Ahom, the people who ruled a major part of the Brahmaputra valley for long six hundred years from 1228 AD to 1826 AD. Ahom from whom the term Assam derives, was entering from the east to establish their kingdom and later become the lord of the land and also become one with the indigenous population (Hazarika 2007). After a dozen of Mughal raids, an attack by another Burmese tribe in
1817 left the kingdom weakened and the British were able to annex it in 1826. In 1838, all the Northeast India became part of the Bengal Presidency of British India (Bhuyan 1980). The history of the North East until independence in 1947 is a history of the expansion of British rule and of social, economic and political changes in the region. The Map of Northeast India in 1947 shows in figure 2.2.

After the Indian Independence from British Rule in 1947, the North East region of British India consisted of Assam and the princely states of Manipur and Tripura and in the later periods it is went up to seven states. The Indian Government partitioned former Assamese territories in to the tribal states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh over the next twenty years (Mishra, 1980; Weiner, 1978). In 1947 when India was partitioned, the district of Sylhet with the exception of three police stations of Badarpur, Ratabari, Patharkandi and a part of Karimganj went to then East Pakistan. The portion of Sylhet district that remained in India formed the Karimganj sub division and was added to Cachar district. The United North Cachar and Mikir Hills district was created in November 17, 1951 by merging 4421.12 sq.km of hill area from Nowgoan district and 1539.65 sq.km of hill area from Golaghat sub-division of the then sibsagar district and also 4371.23 sq.km of hill area from Jaintia Sub-division of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district (Taher, 2007).

In 1957, the Tuensang division of NEFA was joined with the Naga Hills District to form a Central Government Administrative Area named Naga Hills Tuensang Area (NHTA). The NHTA was renamed as Nagaland in
1961 and later made Nagaland a fully fledged state in 1962. The State of Nagaland was inaugurated in December 1963. On January 2, 1970, United North Cachar and Mikir Hills was divided into two autonomous districts, viz North Cachar hills and Mikir Hills districts and later this Mikir Hills was renamed as Karbi Anglong. In 1970 Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills were constituted into an autonomous state in the name of Meghalaya. Similarly, Lusai Hills was also made a Union territory in the name of Mizoramon in 1972. The North East frontier Agency was also transformed into a new union territory named as Arunachal Pradesh in 1971. The Princely State Tripura and Manipur became Central Government Administrative Agencies after they joined India in 1949. They were given the status of Union Territories, and later, in 1972, they became Tripura State and Manipur State. Thus in the later part of the 1980's as many as seven full fledged states emerged within the Union of India.

There are 14 new districts formed in Assam in between 1971 and 1991. These new districts mostly conform to the old subdivision boundaries with some minor adjustment. In 1972 after exclusion of Mizo district there were nine districts namely 1. Goalpara 2. Kamrup 3. Darrang 4. Lakhimpur 3. Nowgong 6. Sibsagar 7. Karbi Anglong (Mikir Hills) 8. North Cachar Hills 9. Cachar in Assam. The number of districts in 1991 went up to 23 from 9 districts in 1971 census. The detail formation of new states and districts in Assam shows in Table 2.1. From the Goalpara district, three new districts Kokrajhar (1st July 1983), Dhubri (1st July 1983), Bongaigaon (1st October 1989) were formed with the entire area of Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Bongaigaon sub-
divisions of the then existing Goalpara district, except the area of Bijni Police
Station and some villages of Sidli police Station of Kokrajhar district which
were transferred to the new district Bongaigaon.

The two new districts Nalbari (14th August 1985) and Barpeta (1st July
1983) was formed with the entire areas of Nalbari and Barpeta sub division of
the then existing Kamrup district. From the Darrang district two new districts
Darrang and Sonitpur was formed in July, 1983. The entire area of Mangaldai
sub division of old Darrang district was upgraded to a new district of name
Darrang district and Sonitpur District was formed with the entire area of
Tezpur (sadar) sub division with a minor adjustment of 7 villages transferred
from Dergoan PS of Golaghat sub division of Sibsagar district to Gohpur PS.
Three new districts Dibrugarh ,Dhemaji and Tinsukia were separated out from
old Lakhimpur district in Oct,1971. Dibrugarh district newly formed from the
Dibrugarh sub-division of Lakhimpur district with the entire area of Dibrugarh,
,Chabua ,Moran,Jaipur and Sadiya Police station (PS) and a part of Bardubi
and Tinsukia PS with 233 and 2 Villages respectively. Similarly the Tinsukia
district formed with the entire area of Sadiya ,Doomdoma , Digboi and
Margherita police station and also some part of Bardubi PS with 76 villages
and Tinsukia PS with 128 villages.Dhemaji district also form from old
Lakimpur district with entire area of Dhemaji and Jonai PS and a part of
Dhakuakhana PS with 203 villages. The Marigoan sub division was bifurcated
from existing Nagoan district and form a new district of Marigoan in October,
1989, with the entire area of Laharighat ,Mikirbheta and Marigoan PS. The old
Sibsagar district was bifurcated and formed two new districts Jorhat and
Sibsagar (1st July 1983). Jorhat District was formed with the entire areas of sadar sub division of Jorhat, sub division of Golaghat and Majuli. The sub division of Majuli was earlier created with the entire areas of Majuli Revenue Circle. This Golaghat sub division was further upgraded to the status of a district w.e.f 23rd march 1987. Mikir Hill District was renamed as Karbi Anglong District without any change in the boundary (31st May 1982). Two new districts Karimganj and Hailakandi were formed from the Cachar district. The new district Karimganj was formed with the entire areas of the sub division of Karimganj (1st July 1983) and Hailakandi district (1st October 1989) was formed with the then existing sub division of Hailakandi of Cachar district. The Map of Northeast India with eight states in 2001 shows in figure 2.1.

2.3 AREA OF BANGLADESH WITH FORMATION OF NEW DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS:

The illegal migrants in the northeast region of India are mainly from Bangladesh. Therefore to make informed judgments about the cross boarder migration it is essential for us to knowing the changing demographic pattern of Bangladesh in different census periods. In this regard the population and religion data of Bangladesh in different census periods are also analysis in this study. The politico administrative boundary of Bangladesh has also been changed in different census periods like northeast India. In this section of the study history formation of new districts in Bangladesh in different census periods are described.
Bangladesh is located in the northeastern part of South Asia and covers an area of 147,570 square kilometers. The country is bounded by India on the west, north and northeast while Myanmar on the south-east and the Bay of Bengal on the south. Except the hilly regions in the north-east and south-east and some areas of high lands in the northern part, the country consists of plain and fertile land. A network of rivers exists in the country of which the Padma, the Jamuna, the Teesta, the Brahmaputra, the Surma, the Meghna and the Karnaphuli are important. All those rivers have 230 tributaries with a total length of about 24140 kilometers. Bangladesh is now world’s eighth populous country having 148.5 million people, but occupying only 3000th part of the world’s land space. Such a huge concentration of population in small land space cannot but draw one’s attention. About 2.3 million people are currently being added to its existing population (Mabud,2008).

Bangladesh is divided into seven administrative divisions: Dhaka,Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal ,Rangpur and Sylhet. Each Division is further subdivided into Districts. During the period of 1974 census the Bangladesh is broadly divided in to four major divisions: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisons. These are also designated as central, eastern, southern and northern regions, respectively (United Nations 1983). There are 21 regions under these four major divisions. The regions Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra, Rajshahi and Pubna under Rajshahi divison and Kushtia, Jessor,Khulna,Patuakhali and Barisal under Khulna division and Dhaka,Faridpur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh and Tangail are in Dhaka division and Bandarban, Chittagong ,Chittagong Hill Tract, Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhet

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districts are in Chittagong division. During the period 1993 to 1995 these four major divisions further divided and become six divisions. In 1st January, 1993 a new division Barisal was formed from old Chittagong division and on August 1, 1995 Sylhet was declared as the sixth division of the country. In January, 2010 there is another division named Rangpur has been formed from old Rajshahi division and the number of divisions in Bangladesh is become seven. After formation of seven divisions from original four divisions, the 21 region is further divided to 64 District or Zila. The number of districts in 2001 census went up to 64 from 21 regions in 1974 census. The old 6 regions under Chittagong division bifurcated to 15 districts and old 5 regions under Dhaka division upgraded to 17 districts .Similarly old 5 regions under Khulna division in 1974 are separated out to 16 districts in 2001 census and 5 regions of Rashahi division bifurcated to 16 districts. The Map of Bangladesh with 21 region in 1974 shows in figure 2.3 and map with 64 zila in 2001 census shows in figure 2.4.

2.4 DATA DESCRIPTION:

The study of complex phenomenon like undocumented migration requires a tedious scanning of data to be derived from various sources. To estimate the illegal migration in Northeast region of India the main problem faced by the researcher is the lack of quality data related to migration. In India the census is the only single source of data for migration analysis. The census birth place statistics provide direct method of estimating migration to a state. But the accuracy of this birth place statistics is depending on the respondent answer relating to the ‘place of birth’ question. In India many of the illegal
migrants willfully give wrong ‘birth place’ information. Therefore a valid estimate for volume of migration is not possible based on this incorrect information. In view of the non availability of accurate migration data an attempt has been made in this study to estimate the approximate volume of illegal migration of Northeast India by using an indirect method.

In this indirect method the census population of different age groups and sex is projected by using Age Specific Fertility Rates and life table mortality rates collected from Sample Registration System (SRS). The growths of population by various religious groups in different census periods are also calculated by using census religion data. The census language data also analysis for knowing the growth of different language speaking people in different census periods. An approximate figure of total net migrants between two census periods also calculated in this study by using census data of Migration.

In northeast India the illegal migrants mainly comes from Bangladesh. Therefore to make informed judgment about the cross boarder migration it is essential to know about the changing demographic pattern of Bangladesh in different census periods. In this context the present thesis works also deal with the analysis of population and religion data of Bangladesh in different census periods. The details of various types of data used in this study with their source of collection are listed below.

2.4.1 MIGRATION DATA:

In this thesis work undocumented migration are estimated with the help of population projection and it is done here without considering migration rates.
After completion of population projection the net migrants calculated from census data are added with the projected population for estimating the population of a census year. For the calculation of net migrants between the period 1971 to 1991 and 1991 to 2001, data required about the number of immigrants to Assam from other state and other country and also the number of emigrants from Assam to other state and other country within the respective periods. So far as migration data of census of India is concern it is collected with reference to both place of birth and place of last residence. Study of migration by place of birth is like studying one time event. Data on migration by last residence reveals recent migrations over the years and therefore more informative on the current status of the population. Till 1961 Census, migration data was presented with reference to place of birth only and in 1961 the scope of collecting information on migration was enlarged by including duration of residence at the place of residence. Since 1971 Census, data are being collected on the basis of place of last residence in addition to question on birth place. To calculate in migrants and out migrants from 1991 and 2001 census data Table D-2 used which are the migrant classified by place of last residence and duration of residence in place of enumeration. In this study the immigrants between 1971 and 1991 are the persons those enumerated in Assam in 1991 census but his last residence was in other states and other country with duration of residence less than 20 years periods. Similarly the out migrants from Assam to other state are the persons those enumerated in other state and their last residence was in Assam and duration of residence less than 20 years. The out migrants from Assam to other country are the person those
enumerated in other countries but their last residence was in Assam. But these data is not available either in census or other sources and their number is comparably too small. Similarly the in migrants and out migrants between 1991-2001 are the migrants enumerated in 2001 census but duration of residence less than 10 years. Further for in migrants in Assam the table D-2 for Assam is used and for out migrants in Assam the table D-2 for all other states except Assam is used.

2.4.2 POPULATION DATA:

In the study of undocumented migration one of the important factors is the analysis of population growth in different census periods. The population growth is primarily caused by natural increase and if there is not much difference between immigration and emigration then this growth should be close to the natural increase. In the present study the population growth for Assam and its all district and also for other northeast region are calculated for different census year and also compare this with natural increase. The population data with five year age group and sex for the year 1971, 1991 and 2001 are used in the study. In 1991 census from the series 4 of state Assam and volume of publication entitled Part II-A, contains the A series of table i.e A-1 to A-5 and their appendix relating to basic population data of 1991. In the table A-2 contains the population of Assam and its all district from 1901 to 1991 and these data are adjusted according to the district of Assam in 1991 census. In the present study the population of Assam and all districts for the year 1971 and 1991 are collected from this table A-2 of Series 4. Further the
appendix of table A-2 is also presented in this table and this gives the particulars of states and districts at the 1991 census and also showing 1971 area or population which is adjusted according to the jurisdiction of 1991. Similarly the population data for 2001 census collected from General Population Table.

2.4.3 RELIGION DATA:

In this thesis the religion data used to know the growth of different religious population in Assam in different census years. The illegal migrants in northeast region are mainly from Bangladesh therefore the growth of Muslim population in comparison to other religion is important for this study. The population census of India is the only instrument that collects the individual information about the followers of various religion including minor religious belief and faith. The collection of religion data through census has been started before 19th century. Because of collecting religious information at the time of census enumeration a variety of answer might have been provided to the question on religion. In the census of post independent periods although the actual religion like Hindu, Muslim Christian etc. recorded a category of other religions also recorded. The persons who returned their nationality like Iranian, Israel instead of their actual religion were put in the category of "Religion not stated" and also the persons said that he had no religion was included in this group. In this study the census religion data has been taken from 1971 to 2001. The religion data of Assam and all districts for 1971 and 1991 has been collected from the census of India 1991, series 4: Assam, Part
iv-B (ii). Here the data presented both for 1971 and 1991 according to the jurisdiction of 1991 of Assam. The religion data of 2001 is collected from the C-Series: Social and Cultural Tables.

2.4.4 LANGUAGE DATA:

Assam is a multilingual state having various mother tongues of both major and minor speech communities. Although the language analysis in Assam is a difficult work an attempt has been made in this study to analyze the change of population with respect to different major language group. The Assamese and Bengali are the two major languages of Assam and represents 49 and 28 percent according to 2001 census. The Bangladeshi illegal migrants are Bengali speakers therefore to know the growth of Bengali speaking population is important for this study. The census of India is the only reliable source of language data providing basic information on linguistic characteristic of the nation. In 1951 census the definition of mother tongue was “the language first spoken from cradle”. A large number of language as well as dialects have been returned as mother tongue at 1951 census and these are presented in five different table. In “Statistical Abstract of Assam in 1960-61” of table 1.8 contains the population of 69 principal language and dialects in each district of Assam. In 1961 census the definition of mother tongue was “as language spoken in childhood by the person’s mother or mainly spoken in the house hold”. There are a total of 1652 different mother tongue returns in 1961 census and these are presented in five different table. The language data of 1961 available in same publication with 1951 but table number 1.13 and
source 1961. In this thesis language data used from the census 1971 to 2001. In 1971 census there are more than 3000 languages or mother tongues were recorded. These all languages are divided into two parts A and B. In language table part-A showed the distribution of speakers of the 15 languages (inclusive of language/mother tongues grouped under each) specified in schedule viii to the constitution of India. The speakers under these group covers 95.37% of total population of India and remaining 4.63% are the speakers of languages in part B. The language data of 1971 collected from Table C-v, Part A (i) and table C-v, Part B (i). In 1991 census three volumes have been published on language data. In the first volume there are two parts, in part A contains 18 scheduled languages and in Part B contains non schedule languages. In the 2nd volume there are three parts 18 schedule language, 96 non schedule languages and languages in descending order. The third volume contains Bilingualism and Trilingualism. The data used for present study from 2nd volume. In 2001 all the language divided in two parts. In part A there are 22 scheduled languages and in part B there are 100 non scheduled languages. In the present study language data for 2001 collected from the table C-16 contains both schedule and non schedule language.

2.5.5 AGE SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE AND LIFE TABLE:  
In the present study the Leslie matrix population projection model used for estimating illegal migration. The ASFR and life table \( L_x \) function is required in this projection model and these are collected from the Sample Registration System for this study. The Sample Registration System (SRS) is a large-scale
demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of birth rate, death rate and other fertility & mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels. In this study the Age Specific Fertility Rates is collected from the publication of “Compendium of India’s Fertility and Mortality Indicators 1971-2005”. According to this publication the ASFR for a 5-year age group is calculated as the number of births to women in the age group during the year divided by the mid-year number of women in the age group. So far as life table data is concern the office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) over the years produced for India and its major states and also Himachal Pradesh about 3060 life tables referring to urban, rural and total area of males, females and both sexes combined using the Greville’s life table method and the age-specific death rates (ASDRs) of the Sample Registration System (SRS), which is a duel record system for collecting fertility and mortality indicators. ORGI assumed that the reported ASDRs are of good quality and can be used for constructing the life tables. In the present study the SRS Abridge life table of Assam for the year 70-75, 76-80, 81-85, 86-90, 91-95 and 96-2000 are used for population projection of Assam and SRS Abridge life table of India 91-95 and 96-2000 are also used for population projection of other Northeastern States. All these tables are furnished in Appendix-I.

2.5.6 POPULATION AND RELIGION DATA OF BANGLADESH:

To make informed judgments about the cross borderer migration between India and Bangladesh it is important for this study to analyze the growth and decline of population and also different religious group of people in Bangladesh
in different census periods. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, conducted a national census in Bangladesh. They recorded data from all of the districts and upazilas and main cities in Bangladesh. In this studies the Population and religion data of Bangladesh from 1951 to 2001 has been collected from the publication of National Series, Volume –I, Analytical Report, Oct, 2007, and Analytical Findings and National Tables, August 1984 of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
Table 2.1: Formation of New Districts and States in Assam in Different Census periods.

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Figure 2.1: Map of Northeast India in 1947
Figure 2.2: Map of North-East India 2001
Figure 2.3: Map of Bangladesh in 1974 Census with 21 Regions
Fig 2.4: Map of Bangladesh in 2001 Census with 64 Zila