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New Delhi
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<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAGSP</td>
<td>All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad</td>
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<td>AAMSU</td>
<td>All Assam Minority Student Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>AASU</td>
<td>All Assam Student Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-B</td>
<td>Ashuganj-Bakhrahad</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABSU</td>
<td>All Bodo Students Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGP</td>
<td>Assam Gana Parishad</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHDR</td>
<td>Assam Human Development Report</td>
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<td>AJBD</td>
<td>Assam Jatiyatabadi Dal</td>
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<tr>
<td>AJD</td>
<td>Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva- Chatra Parishad</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALA</td>
<td>Assam Legislative Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASF</td>
<td>Adivasi Security Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASS</td>
<td>Assam Sahitya Sabha</td>
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<tr>
<td>AYS</td>
<td>Assam Yuyak Samaj</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAC</td>
<td>Bodo Autonomous Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBS</td>
<td>Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>BRCS</td>
<td>Bangladesh Red Crescent Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>Bharatiya Janata Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>BTF</td>
<td>Bengali Tiger Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLT</td>
<td>Bodo Liberation Tiger</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNP</td>
<td>Bangladesh national Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRAC</td>
<td>Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSF</td>
<td>Border Security Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBR</td>
<td>Crude Birth Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Central Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDR</td>
<td>Crude Death Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEC</td>
<td>Chief Election Commissioner</td>
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<td>CHT</td>
<td>Chittagong Hill Tracts</td>
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CIDA  Canadian International Development Agency
CIS  Commonwealth Independence States
CPD  Centre for Policy Dialogue
CPI  Communist Party of India
CPI (M)  Communist Party of India (Marxist)
CPN-M  Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist
CPP  Cyclone Preparedness Programme
CSPS  Cyclone Shelter Preparatory Study
DCI  Direct Calorie Intake
DHD  Dima Halim Daoga
DNSF  Dimasa National Security Force
EPA  Enemy Property Act
FMOENCN  Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
GCIM  Global Commission on International Migration
GDP  Gross Domestic Product
GEFONT  General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions
GNP  Gross National Product
HCR  Head Count Ratio
HDI  Human Development Index
HDR  Human Development Report
HMG  His/Her Majesty’s Government
HPC  Hhar People’s Council
HPI  Human Poverty Index
HRWF  Human Rights Without Frontiers
IDP  Internally Displaced People
IDMC  Internal Displacements Monitoring Centre
ILO  International Labour Organisation
INSEC  Informal Sector Service Centre
IOM  International Organisation for Migration
IMDT  Illegal Migration Determination Tribunal Act
JICA  Japan International Co-operation Agency
JJAP  Janata Juba Chatra Parishad
JJCP  Janata Juba Chatra Parishad
JSS  Jana Samhiti Samiti
JMBA  Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority
KLO  Kamtapur Liberation Organization
LDC  Least Developed Countries
MFDM  Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
MMC  Million Meter Cube
MOF  Ministry of Finance
MOHA  Ministry of Home Affairs
MOLT  Ministry of Labour and Transportation
MOR  Ministry of Rehabilitation
MOELR  Ministry of Employment, Labour and Rehabilitation
MOLR  Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation
MOIA  Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
MPO  Master Plan Organization
MULTA  Muslim United Liberation Tiger of Assam
NDFB  National Democratic Front of Bodoland
NIDS  Nepal Institute for Development Studies
NHDR  Nepal Human Development Report
NLSS  Nepal Living Standard Survey
NR  Nepali Rupees
NRB  Nepal Rastra Bank
NRC  National Register of Citizen
NRCS  Nepal Rural Credit Survey
NRCS  Nepal Red Cross Society
NPC  Nepal Planning Commission
NSCN  National Socialist Council of Nagaland
ODA  Overseas Development Authority
PLP  Purbanchaliya Lok Parishad
PULF  People's United Liberation Front
RNSF  Rabha National Security Force
RSS  Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh
SP  Superintendent of Police
SVRS  Sample Vital Registration System
TNRF  Tiwa National Revolutionary Force
UAE  United Arab Emirates
ULFA  United Liberation Front of Assam
UN  United Nations
UNCED  United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCRM  United Nations Convention on the Rights of Migrants
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNEP  United Nations Environmental Programme
UNHCR  United Nations High Commission for Refugee
UPDS  United People’s Democratic Solidarity
USA  United States of America
USAID  United States of America for International Development
UTNLF  United Tribal Nationalist Liberation Front
VHP  Viswa Hindu Parishad
VPA  Vested Property Act
WB  World Bank
WMR  World Migration Report
WOREC  Women’s Rehabilitation Centre
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Preface

International Migration is considered to be defining global phenomenon as millions of people migrate in search of greener pastures and economic advancement. During the year 2000, the number of migrants – living outside their country or place of birth, in the world reached approximately 160 million. By the year 2005, roughly 192 million people are considered as migrants constituting three percent of the world’s total population indicating one out of thirty-five people is a migrant. Almost all the 190 sovereign countries are either points of origin, transit or destination for migrants; often all three at once. If these people are united in a single state/country, it would create a ‘migrants nation or nation of migrants’. Most of the world’s migrants are from the developing countries marching towards the developed for economic enlistment. The existence of wide income gap between the rich and the poor countries, development of transport and communication made migration easier. The economic and human development of many countries, such as Australia, US owe their creation as nation-states to migrants. Moreover, the income remittances that migrants send to their home countries are considered as an important yardstick. According to the estimates made by the ILO (2002), the remittances have increased from less than US $ 2000 million in 1970 to US $ 80000 million in 2000. The South Asian region, being a group of developing or Least Developed Countries (LDCs), considers migration as livelihood option and more than 1.5 million South Asian workers are estimated to migrate every year. The World Bank in 2007 estimated that the remittances to the South Asian region have exceeded $40000 million. Out of this, India accounted for $ 27000 million, Bangladesh $6400 million, Pakistan $6100 billion, Sri Lanka $2700 billion and Nepal $1600 billion.

However, the effects of migration are becoming increasingly multifaceted and migration though considered as tool of development, also has disastrous effect in the receiving country. International migration has definite effect on the demography, society and economic structures at the receiving end. If the receiving economy is developing and not developed, it becomes difficult to absorb migrants. Again, if migration occurs in small number, it gets adjusted and does not become a source of tensions, but if the numbers are large enough, there is high risk of conflicts being generated. The chances of generating
native-migrant conflict are high in the host country if the natives are ethnically sensitive. The migrant pouring at large number creates demographic imbalances leading to serious security implications, causing resource scarcity and hence leading to fierce competition/conflict for controlling resources, jobs, land, basic amenities etc. between the natives and migrants. Thus, migration has potential to trigger conflict in the following sequence: Migration → Migration Induced Scarcity → Political and Social Imbalances and Distortion → Conflict.

Assam can be considered to be the mother state within the seven states of the North Eastern region of India. Economically, population wise as well as in the development index, Assam has been in the leading tally in the region and for that reason it has become vulnerable to the home base for major migrant populations. However, the underdeveloped economy of the state has not been able to absorb the rising unemployment and poverty for which the natives have not been welcoming the migrants. Again, the large-scale migration from Bangladesh and a fierce competition for resource control and fear of losing Assamese identity in the hands of migrants have resulted in increasing native-migrant conflicts in Assam. Moreover, the vote bank politics of the political parties have complicated the situation in Assam. India has been the home of the migrants/refugee and historically it has been a migrant/refugee receiving country. Not a single South Asian nation has developed any formal structure or any regional formula to deal with the migrants. The migrants have been subjected to the same laws as illegal aliens. And due to absence of such migration policies, the migrants are dealt with an ad hoc administrative arrangement.

The study aims to analyse how migration leads to conflict in a comparative study of Bangladeshi and Nepali migrants in Assam. The study covers various issues which includes the analytical theory of migration, migration and conflict, history of migration of Bangladeshis and Nepalis into Assam/India, the triggering factors of migration, socio-economic burdens and stresses that occurred in Assam, the native-migrant conflict, consequences, the problem of demographic alteration, displacement occurred due to violence, role of political parties, the mechanisms of conflict resolutions and policies to
deal with managing migration. The hypotheses followed in the analysis are comprised of: higher the stress on resources both public and private triggered by the presence of migrants, the higher is the potential of conflict. Another is the fear psychosis of losing identity and becoming minority in a majority state (Assam) due to migrants spread the feeling of insecurity among the natives leading to violence against the former. Again, the politicization of the problem of migration in Assam by the political parties of vote bank politics complicated repatriation and induced a sense of anger among the Assamese people. The violent campaign during the anti-foreigner movement directed mainly against Bangladeshis leading to large-scale displacements of other communities mainly due to a weak state apparatus.

The study basically follows the historical and analytical approach. The analyses follow both primary and the secondary sources that include the reports of the various Ministries, Parliament Debate, Assam Assembly Debate, Reports of International Organizations, Reports of the NGO’s, Census Reports of India, Bangladesh and Nepal. An extensive field work has been completed by visiting Nepal and Bangladesh for understanding and analyzing various issues related to the topic. Apart from analyzing various reports collected during the visit, a number of interviews were conducted with experts, academicians, diplomats, NGO workers and also migrants etc. for better understanding on the issue. The contributions through various discussions with the experts are included through out various chapters. The secondary sources mainly included various books and articles.

The study and analysis has been completed by organizing it in various chapters. The Chapter – 1 starts the discussions by analyzing theoretical background of Migration and Conflict. This chapter analyses the definition of migration including various theories of migration giving an overview of international migration. It also includes and focuses on analyzing how migration leads to conflict and development and tries to find out the factors leading to conflict. A theoretical understanding of Bangladeshi and Nepali migration into Assam has also been included. The Chapter – 2 basically analyses the causal factors of Bangladeshi and Nepali Migration into Assam. It deals with various issues such as political, social, environmental, state repression etc. in both Bangladesh
and Nepal to analyse factors influencing migration. Meanwhile, Chapter – 3 discusses the nature, trend and extent of migration. It also tries to find out the volume of migration that took place in Assam from Bangladesh and Nepal by analyzing the census reports. The issue of trafficking from Nepal has also been analysed.

The Chapter – 4 is an attempt to understand how migration has led to conflict in Assam. It extensively analyses the conflict ridden period – Assam Movement. The chapter also tries to analyse and unreveal the causes, how migration led to conflict in Assam. The large scale displacements, killings, economic destruction and the consequences of Assam Movement have been dealt extensively. The chapter also focuses on the rise of insurgency and the population displacements due to various autonomy movements as a result of the Assam Movement. Chapter – V includes the discussion of various migration policies of the state and Union Government to deal with migrants. History of migration policies during the British period has been look into. The various rehabilitation policies to rehabilitate partition migrants, a detailed analysis of the IMDT Act and Foreigners Tribunal of Assam have been included. Finally, Chapter – VI concludes the comparative analysis of the study. An attempt has also been made as policy recommendations to deal with the migrants in Assam and also at bilateral and multi-lateral level.
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Chapter 6: Conclusion

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