PROLOGUE

In the Third world developing countries, particularly India, the role of Migration (rural Vs rural or rural Vs urban) has been highly applauded. It has been emphatically stated that the supply of surplus labour from rural areas has generously helped in expansion of industrialisation and urbanisation which in turn has helped lessening the acuteness of the crucial problem of unemployment and under-employment of the country. Conversely, it has also been emphasised that the out flow of money into rural hinterlands has considerably increased the economic viability of the rural poor and thus has reduced the gap by bringing the rural areas to the level of national economic front. In other words, the migration process has been considered as a vehicle for achieving economic growth and building a healthy nation.

While emphasising migration as an input package for economic development, deliberately or otherwise we have ignored or remained almost passive to some of its immediate or little distance, vital recurring repercussions. The unplanned, unsystematic and uninvited process of migration to the urban pockets of the Third world countries have swamped up with slums on which we do have quite a substantial number of studies. But what are the other effects? Mention may be made here, the influx of exodus migration from West-Bengal and Bangladesh to Assam has virtually blocked the future of
the native Assamese and reduced them into a minority community in their own habitat. The unappealing situation in the state evoked severe retaliation and sparked continued historical protest movements. Only a few months back an accord has been signed between Prime Minister and Assam Gana Parishad leaders near solving the foreign national issue. No other different situation prevails in the whole eastern zone of tribal pockets. Their constant movements and retaliation against the 'Dikus' who not only encroach upon the land but also exploit them systematically in several ways is still continuing unceasingly. Tribals bitter reaction to this has cleared the way for the demand of a separate state. Bal Thackery's Shiv-Sena call on preferential treatment to the son's of the soil, go back south Indians; anti Marwari Movement in Orissa in 1982; and grievances of local against the migrants in the 'green revolution' belt of the Punjab all these together reveal how the local workforce is antagonised by the Migrants. The conflicting situation seems to get more sharpened and also numerous day by day. In fact, it has generated a kind of feverish narrow parochialism, regionalism and a deep feeling of nationalities than a nationhood, inviting more danger to the process of building a strong nation. Since not much has been written on this, which invites immediate attention. However, the issue is beyond the scope of present exercise.
We have a host of studies on migration covering various aspects, both at the place of origin and destination. But unfortunately, none of the studies has ever attempted the process and its overall impact on both the places together. Further Migration studies on rural areas have been concerned only with those people who have migrated. These erudite Macro/Micro researches on rural areas vividly outlined several features such as backwardness of the area, population growth, unemployment and underemployment, poverty, lack of irrigation, low level of technology and natural calamities are some of the ingredients which have acted as catalyst for the source of supply of labour. These Macro/Micro studies knowingly or otherwise never included 'village' as an appropriate unit of observation for understanding the phenomena. This naturally raises several questions which need to be answered thoroughly. Is it that, rural-rural and rural-urban migration flow always occurs from a backward economy to a developed economy? Is it that all villages in the backward economy irrespective of their relative development and autonomy, do necessarily attribute equally to the process of migration? What role the history plays in shaping the economy of either a village, or a district or even a state in the process? Truly speaking, migration researchers in India have not made any appreciable efforts of comprehending the reality from this angle. It is time, therefore, the present work is an humble attempt in this direction.
The study is presented in five chapters. The chapters are organised with utmost care to maintain consistency in the presentation. The first chapter begins with the review of literature. Here I have classified the gamut of literature into two schools i.e., sectional and Historical-Structural with the clear intention to examine as to how far the latter school of thought can be utilised as an alternative approach in understanding the Indian agrarian structure and process of outmigration. To have coherent and meaningful understanding on migration either from a village or a district or even a state, it is necessary to understand the political economy of the unit concerned. The second chapter is mainly based on that theme. The remaining chapters are based on the strength of empirical findings. The methodology of the study-tools and techniques necessary for scientific analysis - is worked out in the third chapter. It also incorporates the broad outline of the study concerned. The subsequent chapter details out the production process in the selected villages individually and together. Furthermore, it details out broadly the existing class structure in the villages. The next chapter deals with examining the caste and class background of the rural migrants and their socio-economic and demographic characteristics. In addition, it also covers information on place of work and working condition, role of contact and last but not the least, it has attempted to examine the concept of 'Economic Development' a gift of migration.