

## ABSTRACT

Present-day illegal migration is a significant problem worldwide. After the partition in 1947 and the Bangladesh liberation movement in 1971, Bangladeshi people continuously entered (illegally) into the Indian northeast and eastern states, namely West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and so on. The picture of Assam is more problematic than other states in India. The state of Assam's unabated influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh has not only changed the demographic structure of the state but has also affected the social, cultural, economic, and political spheres negatively. These Bangali immigrants (both Hindus and Muslims), to ensure a prolonged stay in the mentioned State, marry girls from indigenous communities, thereby diluting their culture. Apart from this, crimes have increased manifold, not to mention overcrowding, environmental pollution, and the sprouting of slums in the area. During 1979-85, the Anti-foreigner movement escalated between native Assamese and immigrants. In 1983, the government of India passed the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, or IM(D)T Act to control illegal immigrants from the neighbouring Bangladesh. A writ petition (131 civil) was filed against the IMDT Act 1983 in the Supreme Court by Sarbananda Sonowal in 2000. In 2005, the Supreme Court of India held that the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, and rules have created the biggest hurdle and are the main impediment or barrier in the identification and deportation of illegal migrants, and struck down the Act (*Sarbananda Sonowal vs Union of India* on 5 December 2006, Judgement of the Supreme Court of India). The judges of the Supreme Court highlighted that under Article 355 of the Indian Constitution, it is the duty of the Centre to protect states from external aggression, and the apex court mentioned that illegal immigrants as an external aggression.

However, what is the actual number of illegal migrants who came from Bangladesh to Assam, and is there any serious and scientific attempt to study and even its associated problems in Assam? Still, the exact figure of the number of Bangladeshi immigrants (legal/illegal) in Assam and India is unknown; different scholars and media sources give different figures. Since it has far-reaching socio-economic and political consequences, there is a need to study the different aspects of illegal migration in Assam. For controlling the illegal flow as well as minimizing its adverse consequences and giving security to the indigenous communities, the causes of the illegal

migration and the relations between immigrants and local people in a different socio-cultural set-up. It is also important to know different policies, laws, and regulations regarding to control of illegal outflow in India as well as Assam.

Despite the gravity of the illegal migration issue, there is a lack of comprehensive and empirical research that holistically examines the Socio-Economic and Political impact of Illegal migration in Assam over the period from 2005 to 2024. In this study, we not only focused on demographic transformation but also examined what and how illegal immigrants change the social structures, cultural diversity, and patterns of language in Assam. Therefore, there is a need to critically analyze the future impact of illegal migration in Assam, drawing this picture from historical immigrant movements, present realities, and prospects. The researcher has chosen this topic for research to fill the research gap through a comprehensive investigation in the respective area, which helps to understand the ground reality of the illegal migration problem and suggest some effective measures to deal with illegal immigrants, no further continuity and suggest policies on how to protect socio-economic and political rights of the native Assamese origins.

**Keywords:** Assamese, Bangladeshi, Illegal Immigrant, CAA, Refugee.