

Review of Studies on Bengali Settlers in the Andaman Islands: A Sociological Perspective

Gaurab Dhali

Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab

Abstract: *This study examines the experiences of Bengali settlers in the Andaman Islands, focusing on their socio-cultural adjustments and physical and cultural isolation. It highlights the unique challenges faced by this uprooted community and their adaptation to a new environment. The study emphasizes that the Bengali settlers, constituting 98% of the total Bengali population, consider the Andaman Islands as their true homeland, rooted in their culture rather than their ancestral regions. It explores the non-physical cultural elements that help them maintain a sense of homeland despite their detachment from their ancestral homelands. The research also investigates the ancestral identity of the Bengali settlers, revealing their origins in the marginalized community of East Pakistan. Additionally, the article reviews the political and economic influence of the Bengali settlers in the Andaman Islands and their recognition as valid migrants under the reservation policy. This study provides a comprehensive sociological understanding of the Bengali community in the Andaman Islands, contributing to the understanding of migration patterns, identity issues, and the social dynamics within and between different communities in the islands.*

Keywords: Bengali Settlers, Cultural identity, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Biswas, S. K. (2013). MIGRATION AND IDENTITY PROBLEMS AMONG INDIANS: A CASE STUDY OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS. *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, 775-792.
- [2]. Lorea, C. E. (2017). Bengali settlers in the Andaman Islands. *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter*, (77), 4-5.
- [3]. Zehmisch, P. (2018). Between Mini-India and Sonar Bangla: The Memorialisation and Place-Making Practices of East Bengal Hindu Refugees in the Andaman Islands. *Partition and the Practice of Memory*, 63-88.