

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF NORTH-EAST INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

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## **Abstract:**

The socioeconomic condition of north-east India is basically weak and economically backward. The rural people of this region have been suffering from unemployment problems, educational backwardness, and underutilization of natural resources, violence and emergencies, disturbance of law and order situations, backwardness of transport and communications problems, rural poverty, food problems, and other socio-economic problems. Common problems of There are small ethnic groups of people living in this part, and they have common problems of technological backwardness. So this region helps to transform from a backward sector to a developed sector, which is accompanied by rural development. Rural development implies both the economic betterment of the people as well as greater social transformation. With the help of rural development, which increases the participation of the rural people in the process of developmental activities, better economic planning, better enforcement of land reforms, and greater access to credit, it is possible to provide better quality of life, improvements in the side of healthy life, and rural people have to get pure drinking water, proper sanitation facilities, and proper education facilities. Economic transformation mobilises the path of decent employment, eliminating poverty, with the help of democratic planning, taking a leading role in decision-making processes in economic development, restructuring the economy to provide the basic needs, and minimising the environmental impact of economic transformation. According to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "India is destined to emerge as a major powerhouse of the evolving global economy and, in the process, also get rid of the chronic poverty, ignorance, and diseases that still affect a large section of our society." Therefore, development indicates improvements in infrastructural facilities, improvement of health conditions, provision of pure drinking water, and balanced sector-wise development in rural agriculture and industrial sectors.

**Keyword:** i) Rural; ii) Development; iii) Quality of life. Iv) Agriculture; v) industrial sectors.

**Introduction:** Socio-economic problems related to growth and development, whether they are economic or mental,. There are a bundle of problems in north-east India with her inhabitants. They are backward in the sense that their income is low due to lower industrialization and inequality in income distribution. There is huge unemployment and underutilization of natural resources. The entire region has been suffering from backward transport and communication systems. They are also facing illiteracy, malnutrition, poverty, lower agricultural productivity, and lower per capita income. Economic and social transition as well as technological transformation are needed for development, but there are so many problems with labour mobilisation and shifting labour from the agricultural field to the industrial field.

**Objective of the study:** To understand the problems and prospects of rural development in north-east India.

**Methodology used:** The methodology mainly depends on the secondary data that is collected from books, journals, newspapers, TV, the internet, etc.

**Significance of the study:** The North East region is economically backward and has insufficient utilisation of natural as well as human resources. Through this study, problems are found and solutions also come out, which have great value nationally and internationally.

### Problems in North-East India

North East India consists of eight sisters, and all are still backward in the sense of economic point of view. There are huge unemployment problems and underutilization of natural resources. Water resources, mineral resources, forest resources, and tourism potential are still not mobilised in proper ways. There are many social evils, such as terrorism, crime, suicide, etc. After colonial exploitation, north-east India totally claps its cottage and small-scale industries.

**Socio-economic and political** settings in north-east India bear direct linkages and fit in order where the tribal form of society and economy occupy the vantage positions.

The demographic conditions in the region are characterised by a high birth rate, a higher level of population growth induced by migration, and the young age structure of the population composition.

**Infant mortality rate:** The rate is found in all eight states of the north-east region. Assam and Arunachal Pradesh had 66% and 61% in 2001, respectively, but there is still room for quality improvement in the schools and colleges.

**Inter-relationship** conflicts and government are major problems in the regions that also have adverse effects. The region is disempowered by obsessive concern for security and integration.

**Wealth inequality** in this region is widening, which will increase social tension and other problems in a society that has traditionally been egalitarian.

**Health Deprivation:** The health deprivations of the Northeast have some specific challenges, such as water and vector-borne diseases in the rainy seasons, and the flood-affected areas get cut off from the rest of the region. Boat clinics have been found to be very useful for the flood-affected people. The level of operation of boat clinics, however, needs to be scaled up.

### Regional disparities:

In the north-eastern region of India, there are regional disparities and it is still lagging behind other states in India. The region has been suffering from economic backwardness and educational disparities. The government of India has taken initiatives to improve the conditions. All non-exempt central ministries and departments are required to spend 10% of their gross budgetary support in

the north-east not only through their budgetary scheme but also through a dedicated scheme for the region. Special projects have been undertaken for the road construction and development programme.

### **Challenges in North-East India:**

Geographical challenges: very high rainfall, shifting river courses, poor drainage systems, and landslides in the North East.

Inaccessible Hilly terrain and underdeveloped transport.

Low participation in the private sector due to geographical and political reasons.

Large-scale migration from Bangladesh resulted in socioeconomic and political problems.

Poor financial conditions and a lack of development increased their dependence on central devolution.

The poor state of basic infrastructural facilities like roadways, railways, educational institutions, health facilities, etc.

**The Union Government established the Ministry of Development of the North East Region in 2001.** It deals with matters related to the socioeconomic development of the north-eastern region and promotes coordination between central ministries and departments and the state government.

**NITI Aayog Forum** for the North East to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to recommend appropriate interventions for the development of North East India.

**North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme:** This scheme helps to create education, health, and infrastructure development in north-east India.

**The government** has taken initiatives for transboundary trade, which increases capital in the region and commercial prospects.

### **Science and Technology Intervention in the North-East Region (STINER)**

This scheme aims to bring relevant technologies developed by academic, scientific, and research institutions to artisans and farmers, especially women.

**Prospects:** within the region do not reflect in several prospects the general development pattern of the country.

The state economy is led by agricultural production, though productivity is lower when compared with other states in India.

Industrial sectors: industrial based in Assam, comprised of food products and sugar, wood and wood products, gas and steam, and repair services. There is no heavy industry in north-east India, but the production of tea is the most popular in the world. Tripura has important industries and factories such as tobacco and tobacco products, wood and wood products, non-metallic products, metal products and parts of machinery and transport equipment, and water works.

### Security-Related Measures

The Central Government has initiated a system for reimbursement of security-related expenses (SRE) for states severely impacted by militancy or insurgency since 1995. Except for Mizoram and Sikkim, this scheme will be implemented throughout the North-eastern states.

Funds will be shared in a 90:10 ratio between the Centre and the states for the development of the Northeast. This expenditure on the North-eastern states will include many security-related items, such as raising India Reserve Battalions, providing logistics to CAPFs and Army personnel deployed in the state, etc.

### Conclusion:

For the betterment of the North eastern area, an integrated and balanced strategy must be used, focusing on industrial growth, environmental preservation, and the ethnic aspirations of the local population. By addressing security issues in the North eastern states and encouraging more private enterprises to invest in the region, the North eastern region can be more connected with the rest of India. Government should take proper initiatives for its development.

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