

**Dedicated to the eternal memory of my father**

**Late Harendra Chandra Choudhury**

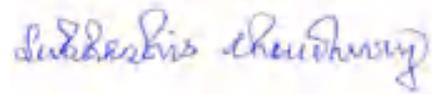
**who was my greatest source of achievement, pride and inspirations**

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**STRUCTURE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT POPULATION IN EAST AND SOUTH DISTRICTS OF SIKKIM SINCE 1975: A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY**” is a genuine research work has been prepared by me under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Rangadhar Sahu, Professor (Retd.), Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal.

The present research work is original and independent work done by me. It is being submitted for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geography under the Centre for Himalayan Studies as per requirement of University of North Bengal.

I also declare that, the thesis has not formed, in whole or parts, the basis for the award of any degree or fellowship of this university or any other university.



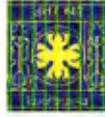
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## CERTIFICATE

I certify that the thesis entitled “**Structure and Socio-economic Conditions of Migrant Population in East and South Districts of Sikkim Since 1975: A Geographical Study**” submitted by Shri Subhashis Choudhury, Research Scholar, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of North Bengal under my guidance and supervision, is an original work done by the researcher. He has fulfilled all the requirements of Ph.D. regulation of this University for the submission of this thesis. This thesis has not been published previously, nor submitted anywhere for any degree whatsoever.

The thesis may now be placed before the examiners for evaluation.

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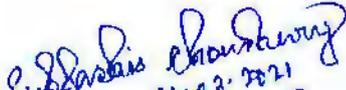
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## PREFACE

Migration is a global phenomenon since long past. The study of migration has been of increasing interest of economists, sociologists, demographers, politicians, policymakers and researchers alike who have paid attention forwards an appropriate understanding of the mechanism of migration. Several research works have also been done in this field so far. Though Sikkim has a very long history of migration with its varied physical phenomena and cultural ethnicity. Therefore, it an intensive study on migration has becomes inevitable to undertake such a study of migration not ever been undertake as yet in the state. Which has a great impact on the social and economic changes in the region.

The main objective of the present study is to examine the structure and socio-economic conditions of the migrant population and their perception towards the local set up and adjustment at the micro-level.

Keeping in view the above objectives the present work entitled, **–STRUCTURE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MIGRANT POPULATION IN EAST AND SOUTH DISTRICTS OF SIKKIM AFTER 1975: A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY”** will go a long way in understanding the migration pattern in Sikkim. The study contains chapters as follows:

**Chapter I - Introduction:** This chapter is the introductory part of the research work. It deals with the brief conceptual framework, statement of the problem, review of literature, the rationale of the study, objectives, hypotheses, database and methodology, sample design and size, tools and techniques and profile of the area of study.

**Chapter II - Geographical set up of the study area:** This chapter discusses with the physical aspects of the study area such as physiography, geology, climate, drainage system, soil, vegetation etc. It also highlights the socio-cultural and economic aspects of the study area such as growth, distribution and density of population, sex ratio, distribution of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, educational level, ethnicity, occupational structure, health conditions, land use pattern, mines and minerals, agricultural and industrial set up, irrigation facilities, power infrastructure, transport and communication system and tourism facilities in the study area.

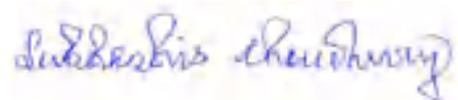
**Chapter III - Factors and patterns of migration in East and South districts of Sikkim:** This section of the study highlights the migration history of Sikkim along with internal, national and international migration of Sikkim as a whole; factors, which are responsible for the in-migration in the study area have been discussed in this chapter. Patterns of in-migration in the study area also have been discussed in this chapter of the study.

**Chapter IV – Structure and composition of migrants in East and South districts of Sikkim:** This chapter deals with the rate of migration in the study area. Structure and composition of in-migrants in East and South districts of Sikkim have also been discussed in this chapter.

**Chapter V – Socio-economic conditions of migrants in East and South districts of Sikkim:** This chapter deals with the social and economic status of in-migrants in the study area. Socio-economic conditions include demographic profile, economic profile and household status.

**Chapter VI – Satisfaction level of migrants“:** This chapter attempts to analyse the perceptions of in-migrants about their life satisfaction, for example, physical and mental health condition; job satisfaction; savings and remittance pattern; sleeping pattern; happiness, blueness, nervousness, calmness, cheerless level of migrants.

**Chapter VII – Summary and Conclusion:** This chapter is the last chapter of the study where a summary of the previous chapters has been discussed. This chapter includes major findings of the study and policy implications have been presented. Different dimensions regarding the scope for future research also has been indicated in this chapter.



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The factors, socio-economic status and perceptions towards satisfaction level presented in this study are based on household survey of in-migrants in the study area. I am also obliged to the in-migrants who have given me precious information during my field survey in the study area. This research would not have been possible without the contributions of these individuals and the assistance of all people met is gratefully acknowledged.

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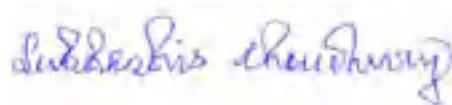
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## ABBREVIATION

|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| AAI  | – | Airport Authority of India             |
| BRO  | – | Border Road Organisation               |
| BSNL | – | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited           |
| CI   | – | Composite Index                        |
| CLR  | – | Crude Literacy Rate                    |
| CPWD | – | Central Public Works Department        |
| DEM  | – | Digital Elevation Model                |
| DI   | – | Demographic Index                      |
| EDI  | – | Education Index                        |
| EI   | – | Economic Index                         |
| GMR  | – | Gross Migration Rate                   |
| GSI  | – | Geological Survey of India             |
| HI   | – | Health Index                           |
| ILO  | – | International Labour Organization      |
| IMR  | – | In Migration Rate                      |
| INI  | – | Income Index                           |
| MDR  | – | Main District Road                     |
| MR   | – | Migration Rate                         |
| NDVI | – | Normalized Difference Vegetation Index |
| NH   | – | National Highway                       |
| NMR  | – | Net Migration Rate                     |
| ODR  | – | Other District Road                    |
| OMR  | – | Out Migration Rate                     |
| PHC  | – | Primary Health Centre                  |
| PHSC | – | Primary Health Sub-centre              |
| SEI  | – | Socio – Economic Index                 |
| SH   | – | State Highway                          |
| SI   | – | Social Index                           |
| SLI  | – | Satisfaction Level Index               |
| SPWD | – | State Public Works Department          |
| VPT  | – | Village Public Telephone               |
| WLL  | – | Wireless in Local Loop                 |