

P R E F A C E

PREFACE

For a long time the geographers were interested in finding out the relationship between man and his environment, but recently they have become interested to know about population and the factors influencing its growth.

Trewartha (1953) proposed in his presidential address to the American geographers of its 49th annual meeting that, geographical studies of population be systematized into a new division, namely population geography. The importance of population geography started after 1953, many eminent geographers like Zelinsky, Clark, Garnier, Melezin and a few other geographers strongly advocated the study of population geography. Different types of definitions have been given by different scholars of population geography. But according to Trewartha (1953), "the geographers goal in any or all analysis of population is an understanding of the regional differences in the earth's covering of people." He further pointed out that, "this involves not only number but also population characteristics, as well as growth and mobility," (Trewartha, 1969).

Another contribution to the Population Geography is the 'Readings in Cultural Geography' (1962) edited by Wegner and Mikesell. This book highlighted the cultural aspects of population through, "five implicit themes - culture, culture area, cultural landscape, culture history and cultural ecology". The Soviet Geographers' idea about the population geography as settlements geography, history of population, ethnography, labour force,

etc. A. Melezin - a Soviet geographer defines the Population Geography as, "the study of population distribution and productive relationship existing within various population groups, the settlement network and its fitness, usefulness, and effectiveness for productive goals of society", (Malezin, 1963).

Garnier (1965) in her book 'Geography of Population' describes the problem of population geographer as - "the demographic facts in their present environmental context, studying also their causes, their original characteristics and possible consequences."

Following Garnier's statement Clarke (1965) mentions that, "population geography is covered with demonstrating how spatial variations in the distribution, composition, migrations and the growth of population are related to spatial variations in the nature of the place". He also mentioned that, "while the demographer is devoted to numbers and depends heavily upon statistical methods, the population geographer relates numbers to area and relies upon maps". According to him the scope of Population Geography includes the treatment of certain specific characteristics, such as the absolute numbers, physical, social and economic characteristics and population dynamics. Zelinsky (1966) an eminent American Geographer defined the discipline as "a science that deals with the extend and ways in which the total unique geographic character of places formed by and, in turn reacts upon a set of population phenomena which vary within it through both space and time as they follow their own behavioural laws and interact with numerous non-demographic phenomena". He also defined that, "the scope of Population Geography, which should include the treatment of all the variables present in the census schedules of the advanced nations." Newman and Matzke explained the population characteristics as, "the three

so-called demographic variables of fertility, mortality and migration constitute a core along with, of course, their outcome, mainly population change. Perhaps an ever more central concern is population distribution. Also the age, sex and marital characteristics of population are usually given high priority, primarily because of their impact on the three demographic variables," (Newman, 1984).

A number of geographical studies on different aspects have been made by different geographers. Among them Cumberland had shown the growth of population in New Zealand, (Cumberland, 1953).

David M. Smith (1977) in his book 'Human Geography - A Welfare Approach', describes, "a new systematic branch of human geography dealing with "welfare", just as economic geography deals with economic phenomena, social geography with social phenomena". In another book on 'Population Geography - A Reader' Demko (1970) had shown that Population Geography unlike other branches is highly sensitive to the time dimension. The stress has been given on the processes behind spatial variations of population attributes.

The statistical method on Population Geography was first introduced by Gregory (1963), followed by Yeates (1968) and King (1969).

Researches in Population Geography in India are so far quite limited. The first systematic research work conducted in Population Geography was initiated by G.S. Gosal in 1956 for his doctoral thesis, 'A Geographical Analysis of India's Population' at the university of Wisconsin under the guidance of Prof. Trewartha. He studied all the significant aspects of population such as distribution, growth, migration, sex-ratio, literacy, occupational structure etc. for the country as a whole. Following his work, at

micro-level Krishan wrote his doctoral thesis in 1968. He studied on the population change in Punjab's border districts of Amritsar and Gurudaspur. Chandana in 1969 worked on Haryana's districts bordering on the Union Territory of Delhi and Mehta (1970) on Bist Doab in Punjab.

The population sheets on the scale 1 : 1,000,000 published by National Atlas Organisation under the guidance of Prof. S.P. Chatteraji (1962) depicts the distribution of rural-urban population in seven macro-regions of India.

Ahmed in 1941 undertook a research work on, how the population distribution is influenced by the physical and cultural environment.

Another significant work has been done by L.S. Bhat in 1961, advocating for population studies in India on macro, meso and micro level, which help in regional planning. In another work Prakash (1970) had shown the population distribution and density of Uttar Pradesh using district and tahsil level data.

The process of population growth has been studied by some geographers. Gosal (1974) studied on population growth in India during 1961-71 decade using district level data. H. Lall (1980) studied on population potential distribution in western Uttar Pradesh. For this study he has used the growth potential model for analysing the population concentration in the region. Sinha in 1958 analysed the population growth in Orissa who later assessed the impact of increase in population on the economy of the state (1963). On this aspect micro level studies have made by Chatterjee and Ganguli (1943) on Nadia and Tirunelveli districts. A similar work done by Krishan (1968) on population change in the border districts of Amritsar and Gurudaspur of Punjab.

A few articles have been written on age and sex composition. Gosal (1961) attempted to analyse the regionalisation of sex composition of India's population as in 1951. He highlighted the regional contrasts in sex ratio, and examined the factors associated with these variations. Another significant work done by Sen (1963) on the sex-ratio in India's population. Among the works on literacy Gosal in 1964 worked on the interpretative study of literacy in India where he had discussed the regional variations in literacy referring the factors with which these variations are related. In another work Gosal (1967) had shown the rural literacy rate in India. Banerjee (1975) analysed the literacy in Singbhum district of Bihar by using block level data. Another significant work was done by Sharma (1968) where he had shown the growth of literacy and various causes of low level of literacy in rural Rajasthan.

In the research work on working force and occupational structure, Mehta in 1967 specially referred to the female participation in rural India. In 1975 Viswanath studied on the occupational structure of women in India by using the statewise data. Gosal in 1958 wrote an article on the occupational structure of India's rural population. He had emphasised on areal variations in the occupational structure of rural population. Krishan (1980) worked on the regional pattern of economic diversification on the basis of non-agricultural workers by using district level data. In another work Krishan and Chandana in 1974 studied on the working force and its occupational structure in Haryana. They emphasised on the low proportion of workers in Haryana. This has happened due to very high proportion of children population and extremely low participation of females in work.

Apart from these works a few standard books have been published on Indian population by different scholars. Among them are the ones of

Bhattacharyya (1978), Bhende and Kanitkar (1978) and Chandana (1986). These books are carrying important informations on the characteristics of Indian population.

It has been observed that the geographic studies on Indian Muslims are very limited. Most of the works have been done by Anthropologists, Sociologists, Historians, Census authorities and other social scientists. The significant work was done by Bose (1951). He observed that "Muslim converts have continued to obey caste rules of occupational monopoly. They continue to observe the hereditary character of their occupation, to believe in the superiority of various economic pursuits and even continued to observe the old rules of endogamy". He also finds that many of the notions of superiority of the occupations continued to be in vogue among the converts. A similar work done by Siddiqui (1978) in his book 'Population Geography of Muslims of India'. He stated that Muslims like other Indians also a lower class in India. It comprises mainly with the converts from non-Islamic Indians. It is difficult to distinguish them from the Hindu masses. Due to conversion little change is found in the social environment or economic pursuits and status of each Muslim in general. He also described that the distribution of Indian Muslims have its own regional framework within the general pattern of the distribution of total population of the country. He also mentioned the growth, composition and population movement, and their impact upon the cultural landscape of the country.

Several historians like Titus (1930), Qureshi (1962), Ahmad (1964) and Mujeeb (1967) have given accounts of the Muslims in the Indian sub-continent are basically about the diversity of their origin. Indian Muslims are composed of foreigners or later immigrants from such divergent regions

as Arabia, Turkey, Iran and Afganistan of different languages and of different culture, and indigenous converts drawn from widely differing background on the other.

A geneological work *Tarikh-e-Hasan* (1912) in Persian by Mir Jawwad Hussain of Gave (Bihar) gives valuable information about the Muslim convents from Hindu castes such as Thakurs, Babhans, Goalas and Kayasthas in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. An extract from *Tarikh-e-Hasan* rendered from Persian elucidates the point. "The Kshatrias, the Brahmins and the Kayasthas have been among the Hindu gentries. Several (Muslims) groups have sprung up from amongst them and likewise are Mai Pathans who are quite numerous. The Goalas who were converted to Islam assumed the name of Bhatti Pathan. Their women like those of the lower classes participate in agricultural activities. In Allahabad region the goalas accepted Islam and are known as Ghosis but continue to be engaged in milk trade. In the villages of Allahabad there are kayestha Muslims and they are engaged in the occupation of Patwar, their names are Lala such as such Hussain Ali.

This shows that during the rule of the kings many of them accepted Islam and continue to be Muslims. In the district of Jaunpur there are Muslim Thakurs who are Zamindars, Talukdars who take pride in their surname of Thakur. It shows that the Thakurs and Rajas having accepted Islam continue to be identified with their ancient surnames."

At micro-level another notable work has made by Ahmed (1962). His study based on field work, done in two different Muslim villages in Uttar Pradesh. He observed the caste ranking system and other elements of caste among the Muslims. The work of Raja, Ahmed and Siddiqui (1973) is a significant one which traces the historical factors which have contributed

to the pattern of concentration of Muslims in India. In another study Mukherjee (1973) had shown the spatial distribution of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh on the basis of geographic patterning of the historical phenomena.

Besides the articles on the Muslims of India, several monographs also were published by different scholars. Among them Ansari's (1961) monograph based on published census reports relating to Uttar Pradesh where he finds the caste system among the Muslims of the state. Misra's (1963) monograph deals with the social backgrounds historically and their interrelationship among the Muslim group in Gujarat. Recently Siddiqui (1979) made a study on the Muslims of Calcutta in urban Anthropology. In this monograph he has made an attempt to find out the segments of Muslim society in the metropolis. He had also shown the interrelationship between these segments. Relevant studies in North-East India and Assam :

The study of Population Geography is still in its immature stage in North-East India. Recently few doctoral theses and research papers have been appeared on the population of North-East India. The work of Das (1976), Bhuyan (1977), Mathew (1983), Singh (1986), Barooah (1984), Bora (1990), are worth mentioning in this line. Das has studied on the demographic characters and socio-economic aspects of tribal population of Kamrup District of Assam. Bhuyan has attempted to study the spatial consequences of immigrant population in Assam as reflected in rapid population growth, landuse types, and economic development within the geographical framework of the state. Mathew had analysed on the spatio-temporal patterns of demographic, economic and socio-cultural characteristics of the composite population of Meghalaya. Barooah has studied on the evolution of heterogeneous population structure of Dibrugarh district of Assam during the period of

1872-1971 on a historical and racial background. She highlighted on the emerging pattern of variations of growth, distribution and density, occupational and socio-cultural aspects. Singh had studied in detail about the pattern of population characteristics such as growth, distribution and density, migration, occupational structure, literacy, religious, linguistic and social composition of population of Manipur in terms of plain-hill dichotomy. He also had shown the variations in distribution and density, growth, literacy and other socio-economic characteristics between the plains and the hills. He emphasised on the impact of immigration on population growth and resource base of the state. Bora has made a detailed analysis on the spatio-temporal variations of the distribution and density, rapid growth, pattern of age composition, sex-ratio, marital status, man-land relationship, pattern of work participation rate, occupational characteristics and the basis socio-cultural characteristics such as literacy and educational level, religion, language and dialects of the population of Siang region of Arunachal Pradesh. He also synthesised the intra-regional variations of these phenomena in order to divide the region into population zone. Besides these, the works of Taher (1977, 1979, 1987) and Sharma (1985) have done significant works relating to present study. Taher had shown a diagnostic survey of spatial distribution of tribes in North-East India. In another work he had shown a spatial analysis of the scheduled caste population in Assam. Another significant work has been made on the population base of Assam. In this work he analysed the population base of Assam which is characterised by the elements of racial, social, economic and cultural plurality and at times emerge in the guise of social regeneration. He also observes that the geographical location of Assam, as the meeting place of various currents of human migration since prehistoric times, some of which are sustained, coupled with its resources, inherits such condition. Sharma attempted a

comprehensive analysis of spatial pattern of sex disparity in literacy of Assam based on statistics using thana-level data of 1971 census.

Very little work has been done on the Muslim of Assam. Among these works the significant work has been made by Saikia (1978). He found the prevalence of group system among the Muslims and the remarkable impact of Islam on social and cultural life of Assam and traditional culture in the life of the Muslims. In another work Ali (1974) had shown the social relations among the three groups of the Assamese Muslims in rural and urban areas. A few M.Phil dissertations also have made on the Muslims of Assam. Among these, Saifun Nassa's (1984) work on the Assamese Muslim society in Assam, where she had shown the interrelationship between the different groups of the Assamese Muslims from the sociological point of view. The other two M.Phil dissertations are : Saikia (1985) and Jahan (1986). These studies mainly focussed the socio-cultural life of the Muslims of Goalpara and Darrang districts of Assam. They have also thrown light on the demography, by social and economic aspects of the Muslims of these two districts of Assam. Apart from these, a few papers have been published by Irshad Ali (1974, 1979 and 1981). These studies mainly dealt with the occupational structure, socio-cultural life and Hindu-Muslim relationship of the Assamese Muslims of Assam.

There are only a few scholars who have worked and written on the Maria Muslims. Among them Saikia (1978), Irshad Ali (1974) and Saifun Nassa (1984). Saikia mentioned about the Maria Muslims that the Maria word originated from the term Marshiya or Murji'iy. Murji'iy is the name of another sect of Muslims which emerged in the Umayyad age (A.H.40.) 667 A.D. Ali writes that Marias have almost abandoned their traditional profession because of the increasing of the popularity of factory made

utensils. Saifun Nessa described the Marias as, "They were looked down upon by the orthodox followers of Islam. Because of their habitat of durnkenness and quarrelsome character, they were regarded as a group of degraded Muslims. They participated in Islamic prctices only nominally". She also mentioned that, "The Marias were looked upon with detestation because of lowly occupation. But their occupation was not related to pollution. Moreover, brass utensils prāducing by them were even used in the Namghar. So it can be assumed that they were treated as a group of degraded Muslims not because of their occupation but because of their habitat."

It may be mentioned that no significant work has been done by any geographer on the Maria Muslims. From the foregoing review of available literatures on the Maria Muslims, it has been observed that almost all the works done from the perspective of other disciplines like Sociology, Anthro-pology and history. So there is a wide scope of doing geographic research work on this community. Keeping this in mind, the present study has been taken on the Maria Muslims within the framework of Population Geography.