

## PREFACE

This study presents the history of the Bengali settlers in Burma, their development in the country during the period of 1824-1962. The history of the Bengali settlers in Burma is a relatively neglected area of research. Though important scholars and academicians have contributed in the studies of diasporic community particularly in Burma namely N.R.Chakraborty, Usha Mahajani, Uma Shankar Singh and others but most of the writings are focused on the Indian community as a whole and assertion is on the economic aspect of the community in the diasporic country. The writings do not deal with the serious issues of cultural and political development of the Bengali community which was the largest immigrant community among the Indians in Burma. The Bengalis in the study speaks of the undivided Bengal till 1947.

The proposed study addresses to the issues of push and pull factors for immigration, the economic, political, cultural development of the Bengali community in Burma and the post independent policies on the community in Burma. It also touches the problems of the Bengalis who emigrated from Burma during the post –independent period in 1948 and again in 1962 with the establishment of the military rule under General Ne Win.

The objective of the work is to investigate the history of the Bengali settlers in Burma who were one of the most significant communities among the migrant community in Burma. The community had left a definite mark on the economic, political and cultural life of Burma. The partition issues and refugee problems have received enough attention from the scholars but the exodus of the Bengali community from Burma has not received much attention or investigation. The hardship, trauma and difficulties faced by the Bengalis are still remembered by many of them as nightmares.

The proposed study intends to understand the history of Bengali settlers in Burma which has been largely unexplored area of study.