

## Developmental Trends among the North Eastern States of India

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**ABSTRACT:** India stands at number four in the list on world's largest economies after around six decades of independence. Life expectancy and literacy rates has doubled in our country and quadrupled in the last few decades. The Development pattern in the North-east India, which comprises of eight states that is Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim is geographically connected to the rest of the country, by a narrow corridor of land named Siliguri corridor, development in these region is very poor in terms of infrastructure, accessibility and connectivity with road ways, railways, airways expect in the state of Assam which is a plain region. These region can be a hub of tourist spot only if there is a proper developed in the transportation and communication in each an every state and districts which will lead to flourish in the state GDP and in different parameters of socio-economic development.

**Keywords:** *Socio-economic conditions of SC and ST population and their developments*

### INTRODUCTION

India is the world 7<sup>th</sup> largest country and the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated country after China with a population of 1.21 billion according to the 2011 census. India being a developing has various backward in many aspects due to its diversity in culture, religion, ethnicity etc. India being one of the most populated countries in the world needs to establish more developmental plans. Imbalance in the educated and the non-educated citizen is one of the prime reasons for being a developing country. The developmental programmers that are being provided by the Indian Government is insufficient, more over the already existing plans are still not working at the grass root level. Development at a grass root level should be the primary goal and the Indian government is being paralysed working at grass root level. So when we see there are various planning's related to development out of which the 5 year plan is widely known. The first five year plan was launched in the year 1951-1956 which mainly focuses in the development of primary sectors and the in this five year plan they have gained more than the target but in some

five year plan like the forth five year plan from 1969-1974 where the planning commission target was 5.7 and they have archived 3.3%. So, in some phase the planning was failed and couldn't achieved the target and this 5 year planning was not successful among all the Indian states because there was not grassroots planning and the development was mainly on the developing region or urbanized region. The time of Green revolution 1960 which was also known as the period when Agriculture in India changed into a industrial system due to adoption of modern methods and technology, such as high yielding variety(HYV) seeds, tractors, irrigation facilities, pesticides etc. The green revolution was successes in the states like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh but this revolution doesn't bring any change in the northeast region because the agriculture land was basically scattered and finding a plain land was difficult more over the climatic condition in some of the northeast state was extreme in some area it is cold and some region hot and humid. There was no water shortage for the irrigation purpose but the capital that was required for the investment was not sufficient.

In the present scenario the term development is defined as a state in which things are improving. But it is defined in different ways in various contexts, social, political, biological, science and technology, language and literature. According to Jan Drenowski, "development is a process of qualitative change and quantitative growth of the social and economic reality which we can call either society or economy. Because of the close inter-relation of economic and social elements no 'purely' social or 'purely' economic development is possible. Consequently, it is better not to speak of social development separately. Socio-economic development, therefore, is the process of social and economic development in a society. It is measured with indicators, such as gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment, health status, occupation etc. To get better understanding of socio-economic development, we can understand the concept separately like social and economic both in a different way. Social Development: the development of a society and its social well-being is referred to as social development and it can also be defined as a process which results in the transformation of social institutions in a manner which improves the capacity of the society to fulfill its aspirations. It implies a qualitative change in the way the society shapes itself and carries out its activities, such as through more progressive attitudes and behavior by the population, the adoption of more effective processes or more advanced technology.

Northeast region is the eastern most region of India and it comprises of eight states that is Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Sikkim. The Siliguri Corridor in West Bengal, with the width of 21 to 40 Kilometers plays a very vital role which connects the whole Northeast region to the rest Indian states. The total area and total density covered by these states are 262,230 km<sup>2</sup> and 45,722,188 respectively. The region has enormous natural resources and a very beautiful place for recreational purpose but this region faces threat to biodiversity and river ecosystem owing to various developmental projects. The region is covered by the mighty river name Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Northeast India has a subtropical climate that is influenced by its relief and influences from the southwest and northeast monsoons

## STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

As the region being situated in the hilly area the people over there already suffers from natural hazards like heavy rainfall, landslides, floods (mainly occurred in Assam) etc. The growth and development of these regions is low in terms of income levels, infrastructure, and human development compare to other states. There is a huge gap between the northeast region and the other Indian states in terms of development, infrastructure, facilities and opportunities. The main reason for the lagging behind in terms of development in the northeast region is train and road connectivity like the majority of the northeast states cities and states are not well connected with the roads and train properly due to the rough terrain, mountains, valleys and jungles. The only way through which northeast is connected with rest of India's state is the Siliguri corridor and there is no any other ways expect airways. The people who are inhabitant in the remote areas have less awareness of the developmental programs issued by the government of India, over and above the roads (transportation) heading towards the remote areas are not well constructed which makes the people living in that areas still backward.

## STUDY AREA

The North East India, famously called as the land of seven sisters and one brother, is a very beautiful place with a favourable climatic condition. The geographical location of the northeastern state as a whole is 89° 50' 50" East to 97° 10' 43" East longitude and 21° 53' 59" North to 28° 14' 11" North latitudes. It is bounded by China on the North, Bangladesh on the West and Myanmar on the South and East, the region encompasses 2.55 lakhs sq.km about 8%

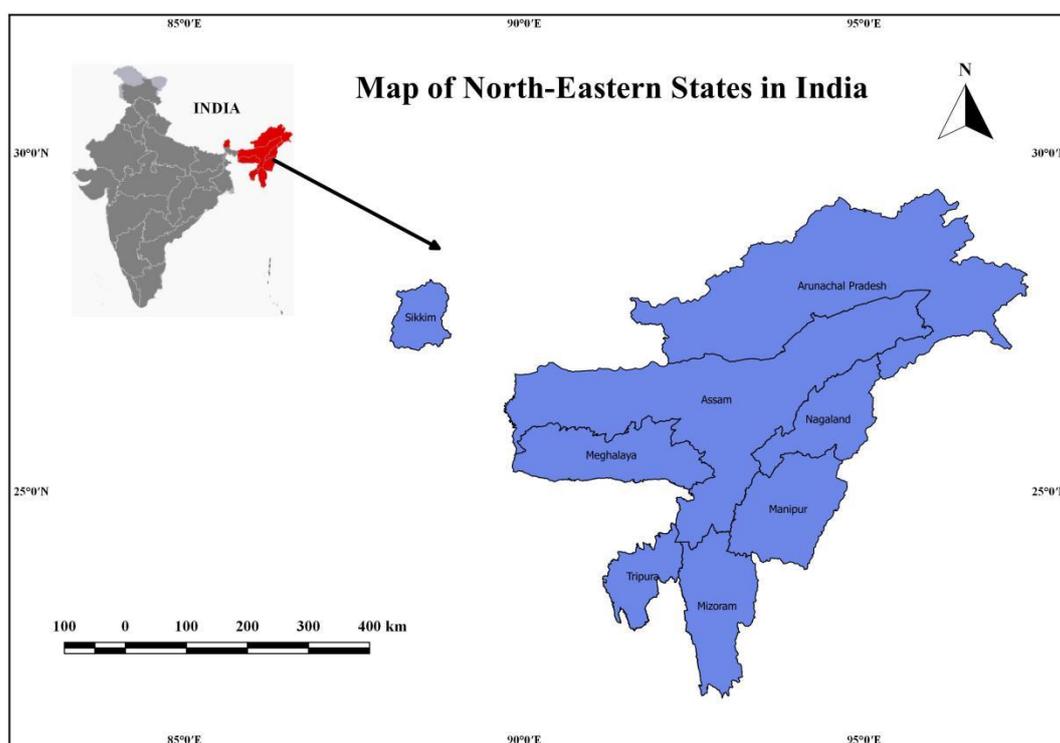
of the country's land and is home to 38.5 million people, which is 4% of the India's population. It is only the 22 km Siliguri corridor, a narrow strip of land, in West Bengal, popularly known "chicken's neck" which connects this region to the rest of mainland India.

The region comprises the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The regions experience a subtropical climate that is influenced by its relief and influences from the southwest and northeast monsoons. The temperature vary from place to place like by altitude with the warmest places in Brahmaputra and Barak river plains and coldest at the highest altitudes. Northeast region is the eastern most region of India and it comprises of eight states that is Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Sikkim. The Siliguri Corridor in West Bengal, with the width of 21 to 40 Kilometers plays a very vital role which connects the whole Northeast region to the rest Indian states. The total area and total density covered by these states are 262,230 km<sup>2</sup> and 45,722,188 respectively. The region has enormous natural resources and a very beautiful place for recreational purpose but this region faces threat to biodiversity and river ecosystem owing to various developmental projects.

The region is covered by the mighty river name Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Northeast India has a subtropical climate that is influenced by its relief and influences from the southwest and northeast monsoons. The Himalayas to the north, the Meghalaya plateau to the south and the hills of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur to the east influences the climate. The temperature varies from one region to another region like in the plains areas for e.g. Assam the climate is comparatively hot and humid than in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim etc. It is also influenced by proximity to the sea with the valleys and western areas being close to the sea, which moderates temperatures. Summer temperatures are more uniform than winter temperatures due to high cloud cover and humidity. In the Brahmaputra and Barak valley river plains, mean winter temperatures vary between 16 to 17°C while mean summer temperatures are around 28 °C. The highest summer temperatures occur in the West Tripura plain with Agartala, the capital of Tripura having mean maximum summer temperatures ranging between 33 to 35 °C in April.

In the mountainous areas of Arunachal Pradesh, the Himalayan ranges in the northern border with India and China experience the lowest temperatures with heavy snow during winter and temperatures that drop below freezing like the Tawang district which suffers from a very low

temperature and heavy snowfall. Areas with altitudes exceeding 2,000 meters receive snowfall during winters and have cool summers. Below 2,000 meters above sea level, winter temperatures reach up to 15 °C during the day with nights dropping to zero while summers are cool, with a mean maximum of 25 °C and a mean minimum of 15 °C. In the hilly areas of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, Sikkim winters are cold while summers are cool. The average rainfall of a region is 2068mm, and Mawsynram [Cherrapunji] which is the wettest place on earth have an annual rainfall of around 12000 mm.



*Source:* QGIS map

## OBJECTIVES

1. To compare the spatial variation of Social development within Northeast states.
2. To compare the spatial variation of economic development within Northeast states.
3. To find out the comparative analysis between the socio-economic development.
4. To find out the major causes of backwardness and their measures.

## METHODOLOGY

The proposed study is based on quantitative methods and a study of regional disparities is encountered with a variety of problems. Apart from data constraint, one has to choose a set of indicators and decide about the weights to be assigned to each indicator. Further, as different indicators of development would give a different order of ranking, it becomes necessary to combine the indicators in a way so as to develop an integrated index of regional disparities. The ultimate picture of regional disparity, which emerges, obviously depends upon the chosen set of indicators, assigned weights and the method of combining them. For the research work quantitative methods were used helped by appropriate graphical representation. The quantitative method drawn upon for this research can be categorized into the following steps:

## ARITHMETIC MEAN

Arithmetic mean is the simplest form of various types of averages which is defined as the sum of the items in the data divided by the number of the items in the data. In other words it would be the share of each individual value in operation if the values are equally distributed. i.e. for any data the arithmetic mean would be:

$$(X_1+X_2+X_3+X_4+X_5+\dots\dots\dots X_n)/n$$

The generalized formula would be

$$X^- = \sum_{i=1}^n Xi$$

Where  $X^-$  represents the arithmetic mean,  $\sum_{i=1}^n Xi$ , the total of individual values (i) in which the value of (i) ranges from 1 to n and n is the number of items in the data.

## SIMPLE PERCENTAGE METHOD

Simple percentage method is a form of method where the number of values is divided by the total number of value into hundredth. With the help of simple percentage method we are able

to find out accurate result from the data and we can also represent bar diagram, chart diagram, pie diagram, line diagram by using this method.

## 1. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the present scenario the term development is defined as a state in which things are improving. But it is defined in different ways in various contexts, social, political, biological, science and technology, language and literature. According to Jan Drewnowski, "development is a process of qualitative change and quantitative growth of the social and economic reality which we can call either society or economy. Because of the close inter-relation of economic and social elements no 'purely' social or 'purely' economic development is possible. Consequently, it is better not to speak of social development separately. Socio-economic development, therefore, is the process of social and economic development in a society. It is measured with indicators, such as gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment, health status, occupation etc. For a better understanding of socio-economic development we can understand the concept separately like social and economic both in a different way. Social Development: the development of a society and its social well-being is referred to as social development and it can also be defined as a process which results in the transformation of social institutions in a manner which improves the capacity of the society to fulfill its aspirations. It implies a qualitative change in the way the society shapes itself and carries out its activities, such as through more progressive attitudes and behavior by the population, the adoption of more effective processes or more advanced technology. Following are various indicators for the social developments;

### Demographic Attributes

There are three demographic indicator represent in the below table and diagram that are population, literacy rate and sex ratio. The total population is recorded highest in Assam and the lowest is in Sikkim but when we look into the Decadal growth of population than Meghalaya has recorded the highest decadal growth in population between 2001 and 2011 that is 0.53 percent and the negative population growth can be seen in Nagaland that is -0.78 percent. Sex ration has increased in Arunachal Pradesh that is 0.28 percent followed by Mizoram and Nagaland, the rest states are having negative Decadal sex ratio. When we look into the literacy rate that every state of Northeast has a literacy rate more than 50 % than 2<sup>nd</sup> highest literacy rate all over the India state is Mizoram that is 91.33 percent which is also a

state in Northeast and the reason behind the state holding a very good position in literacy rate is mainly due to missionaries schools.

**Table 1: Decadal differences in total population, literacy rate and sex ration from 2001-2011.**

States	Total Population			Literacy Rate			Sex Ratio		
	2001	2011	Difference	2001	2011	Difference	2001	2011	Difference
Arunachal Pradesh	2.82	3.02	0.21	54.34	65.39	11.05	893	938	45
Assam	68.37	68.17	-0.2	63.25	72.19	8.94	935	958	23
Nagaland	5.1	4.32	-0.78	66.59	89.56	22.97	900	931	31
Manipur	5.88	6.24	0.36	69.93	89.22	19.29	978	992	14
Mizoram	2.28	2.4	0.12	88.8	91.33	2.53	935	976	41
Tripura	8.21	8.03	-0.18	73.19	87.22	14.03	948	960	12
Meghalaya	5.95	6.48	0.53	62.56	74.43	11.87	972	989	17
Sikkim	1.39	1.33	-0.5	68.81	81.42	12.61	875	890	15

Source: Census of India 2001 and 2011

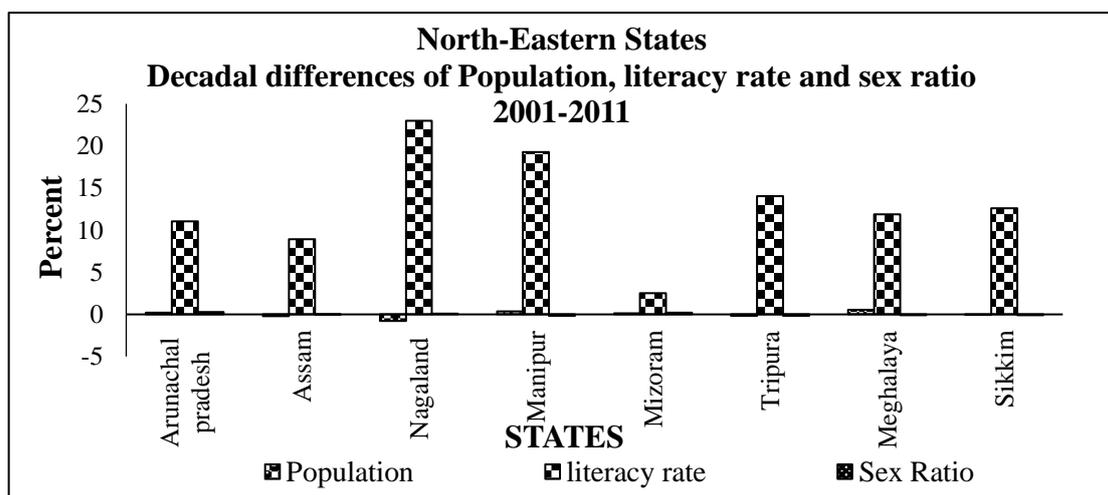


Figure: 1

**Table 2: Decadal differences of Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste populations between 2001 & 2011.**

States	Schedule Tribe population			Schedule caste population		
	2001	2011	Difference	2001	2011	Difference
Arunachal Pradesh	64.2	68.8	4.6	0.6	0	-0.6
Assam	12.4	12.4	0	6.9	7.15	0.25
Nagaland	89.1	86.5	-2.6	0	0	0
Manipur	34.2	35.1	0.9	2.8	3.8	1
Mizoram	94.5	94.4	-0.1	0	0.1	0.1
Tripura	31.1	31.8	0.7	17.4	17.8	0.4
Meghalaya	85.9	86.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.1
Sikkim	20.6	33.8	13.2	5	4.6	-0.4

**Source:** *Census of India 2001 and 2011*

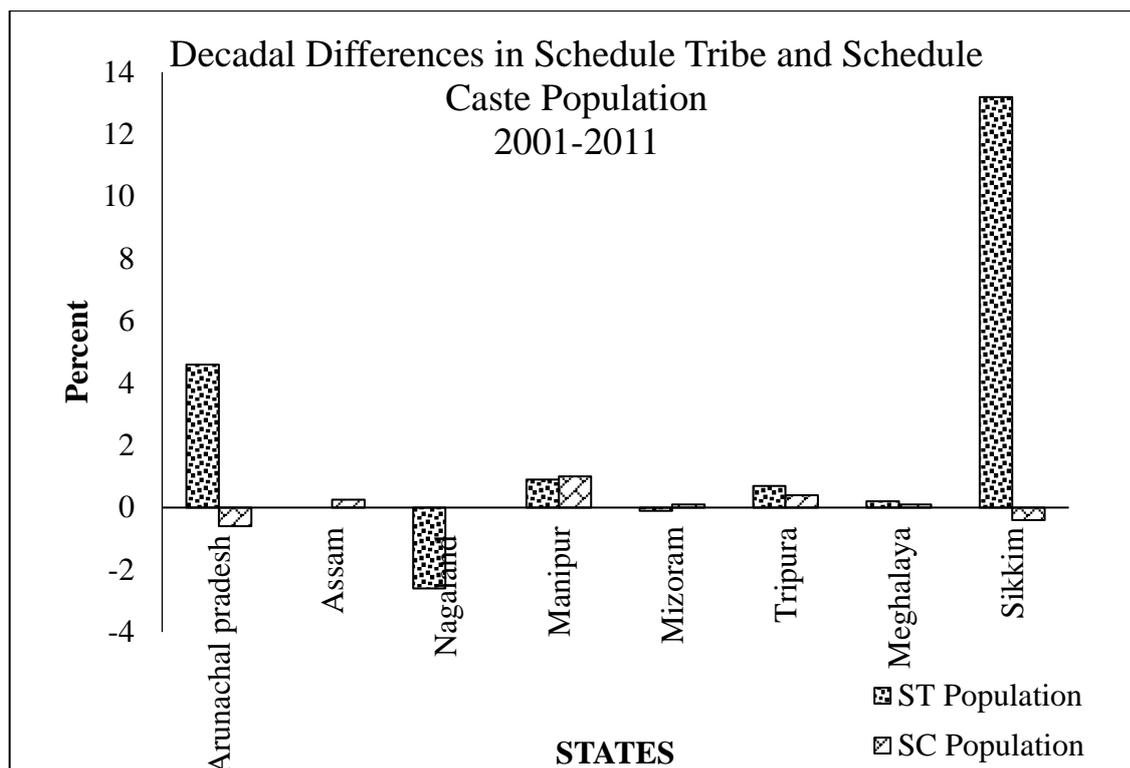


Figure: 2

The above given table and diagram shows the total percent of schedule tribes and Schedule caste population from 2001 to 2011. Northeastern States are having mostly Schedule tribe population. As we can see that Mizoram is the state having the highest Schedule Tribes Population i.e. 94.5 percent and the lowest is recorded by Assam i.e only 12.4 percent and when we look at the Schedule caste population that it is more in Tripura in both the year 2001 and 2011 i.e. 17.4 and 17.8 percent respectively. There is an increment in 13.2 percent of ST population in Sikkim and on the other hand there is a decrease in SC population by 0.4 percent this shows that the birth rate was more for the ST population.

### Educational Development

**Table No. 3: Total Number of Primary Schools**

States	Difference in Number of Schools		
	2005-06	2011-12	Difference
Arunachal Pradesh	3003	4413	1410
Assam	40208	61689	21481

Nagaland	2514	3359	845
Manipur	3840	4655	815
Mizoram	2515	3019	504
Tripura	3548	4747	1199
Meghalaya	8128	12878	4750
Sikkim	1097	1279	182

**Source:** *Census of India 2001 and 2011.*

The total number of schools in the year 2005-06 and 2011-12 was recorded highest by Assam that is 40,208 and 61,689 followed by Meghalaya i.e. 8128 and 12878 respectively. The state which has recorded the lowest primary schools is Sikkim and there are only 182 increases in number of schools in 6 years.

**Table No 4: Total Number of Primary Health Centre**

States	Decadal Growthh in Number of Health Centre		
	2005	2015	Decadal Growthh
Arunachal Pradesh	85	117	32
Assam	610	1014	404
Nagaland	87	128	41
Manipur	72	85	13
Mizoram	57	57	0
Tripura	73	91	18
Meghalaya	101	110	9
Sikkim	24	24	0

**Source:** *Census of India 2001 and 2011.*

The above table shows that the highest number of primary health centres located in Assam i.e. 404 between 2005 and 2015. The lowest decadal growth of primary health centres is recorded in Sikkim and Mizoram i.e 0 between 2005 and 2015. The others states have recorded different number of positive growth in primary health centers in which the highest positive growth is found in Nagaland i.e 41, Arunachal Pradesh 32, Tripura 18, Manipur 13 and Meghalaya have only 9 number of primary health centers respectively.

## 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development: is the development of economic wealth of countries. Economic growth is often assumed to indicate the level of economic development. The term “economic growth” refers to the increase of specific measures such as real national income, gross domestic product, or per capita income. The term economic development on the other hand, implies much more. It is the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well being of its people. The main aim behind the study of socio-economic is to bring about socio-economic development usually in terms of metrics such as GPD, Life expectancy etc.

Following are the various indicators:

States	GDP			Male Population			Female Population		
	2001	2011	Change	2001	2011	Change	2001	2011	Change
Arunachal Pradesh	3.12	4.69	1.57	3.12	2.84	-0.28	2.33	2.63	0.30
Assam	64.22	58.55	-5.67	68.24	69.23	0.98	72.28	71.87	-0.41
Nagaland	5.93	6.11	0.18	4.96	4.44	-0.52	4.13	3.20	-0.93
Manipur	5.43	4.75	-0.68	5.02	5.39	0.37	4.62	4.78	0.15
Mizoram	3.03	3.32	0.29	2.63	2.36	-0.27	1.59	2.10	0.50

Tripura	9.59	10.38	0.79	8.66	8.47	-0.19	8.70	8.35	-0.35
Meghalaya	6.91	7.58	0.67	5.67	5.70	0.04	5.25	6.03	0.78
Sikkim	1.77	4.63	2.86	1.71	1.58	-0.13	1.10	1.05	-0.04

**Table 4: Decadal differences in GDP, Male working population and Female working population between 2001 and 2011.**

Source: *Census of India 2001 and 2011.*

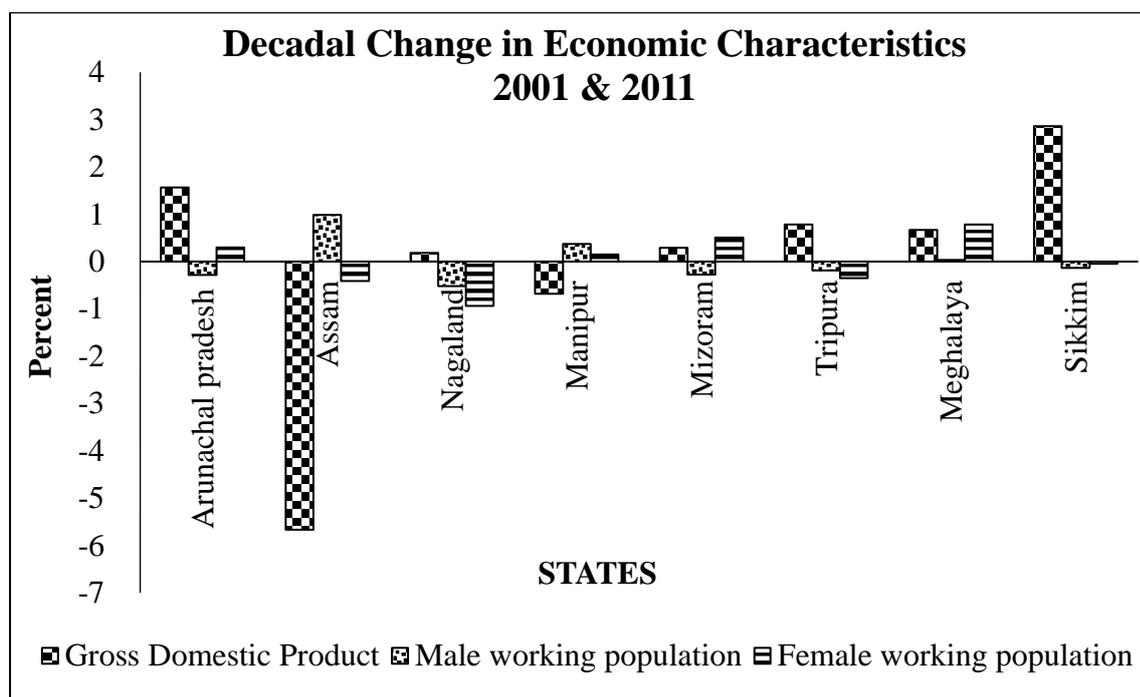


Figure: 3

The total Gross Domestic Product rate of the Northeast States is recorded highest in Assam but when we look at the decadal growth of GDP than it is negative in Assam and Nagaland from 2001 to 2011 and in some states like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya there is a positive growth in GDP. The main reason behind the negative growth in GDP can be due to some natural calamities like Flood which occurs every year in Assam. Male working Population of the Region is showing positive growth in states of Manipur, Assam, and Meghalaya is small percent and the rest states like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura are showing negative growth in Male working population and the reason behind that can be due to male migration to other states for better opportunity.

The decadal growth of Female working population has increased in states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and the rest of the Northeastern states there is negative growth of female working population and the reason behind the decrease in female working population can be due to marriage migration.

**Table 5: Total Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits in 2007 - 2011**

States	Domestic Tourist			Foreign Tourist		
	2007	2011	Difference	2007	2011	Difference
Arunachal Pradesh	2	3.66	1.66	4.72	8.07	3.35
Assam	73	68.08	-4.92	30.66	27.83	-2.83
Nagaland	0.47	0.4	-0.07	0.94	0.98	0.04
Manipur	2.14	2.11	-0.03	11.79	8.15	-3.64
Mizoram	0.91	0.98	0.07	2.36	1.12	-1.24
Tripura	5.18	5.64	0.46	2.36	3.53	1.17
Meghalaya	9.69	10.47	0.78	40.09	40.06	-0.03
Sikkim	6.96	8.67	1.71	7.08	10.26	3.18

**Source:** *Census of India 2001 and 2011.*

The above table shows the flow of Domestic and Foreign tourist visits in which the highest domestic tourist visits was recorded in Assam in both the year 2007 and 2011 i.e. 73 percent and 68.08 percent respectively. The Decadal growth of domestic tourist from 2007 to 2011 is recorded by Sikkim with an increase in 1.71 percent which is a good indicator towards economic development. The total Foreign Tourist Visit in both the year 2007 and 2011 was recorded highest by the state of Meghalaya that is 40.09 percent and 40.06 percent respectively. For increasing the flow to tourism there should be proper transportation facilities but due to the rugged topography of the Northeastern States there is a lack in transportation facilities and the roads in village area are in a very poor condition. The states for some of the state's recording

less flow to tourist visit may be due to poor connectivity and some political issue. For eg- we can see in the above table that there is very less tourist visit in Nagaland and the main reason behind this is because of the insurgencies and political issue.

**Line Diagram of Domestic tourist visits between 2007 and 2011.**

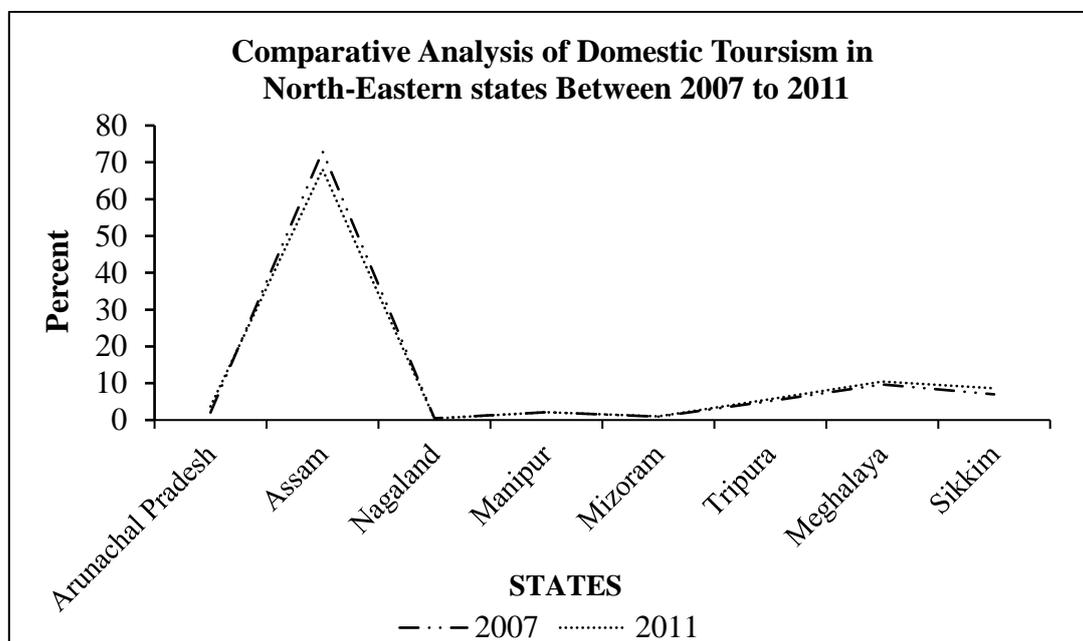


Figure: 4

The line diagram which shows the domestic tourist visits in between 2007 to 2011 can be seen that there is no highly fluctuation in the tourist visits from 2007 to 2011 more or less the tourist's visits are equal. Domestic tourist visits is highest in Assam in both the year 2007 and 2011 and the lowest is Nagaland.

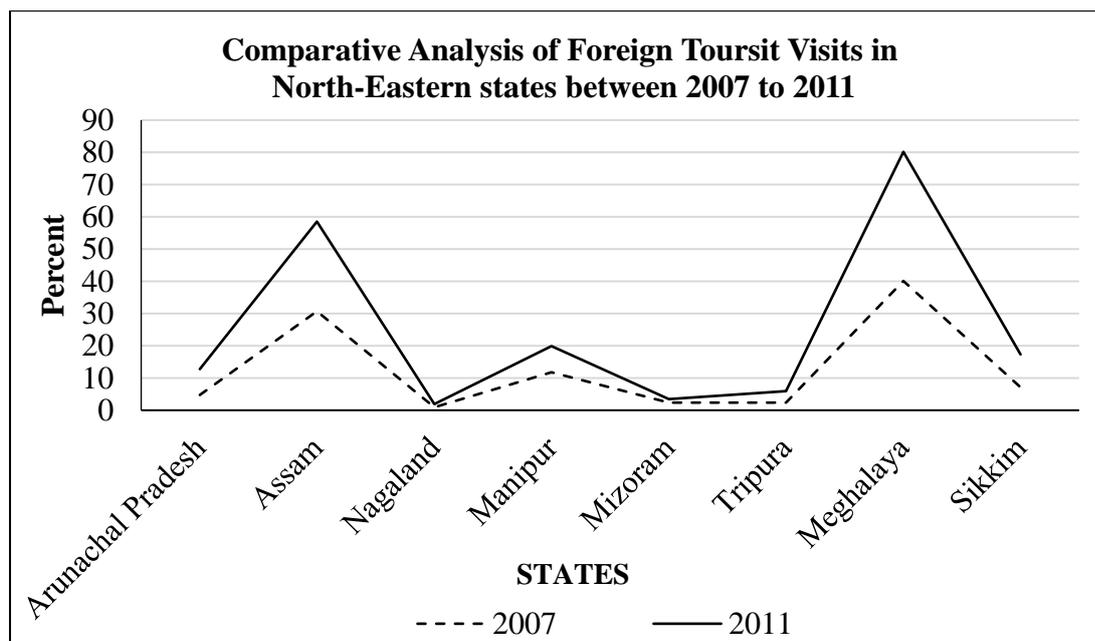


Figure: 5

The line diagram shows the comparative analysis of foreign tourist visit between 2007 and 2011 where we can see that the highest foreign tourist visit was recorded by Meghalaya followed by Assam in both the year 2007 as well as 2011. Not every states but in some states like In most of the states Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim there is an increasement in foreign tourist visits.

## CONCLUSION

Total population of the North-eastern states was highest in the state of Assam with a percentage of 68.37 per cent in the year 2001 and 68.17 percent in the year 2011 and the lowest populated state was Sikkim with the population of 1.39 per cent. The birth rate of Assam is high as compare to other North-eastern states. Sikkim has the lowest population among the Northeast because the area of Sikkim is the smallest among the other Northeast states. Mizoram has the highest literacy that is 88.8 in the year 2001 and 91.33 persons in the year 2011 which comes under the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest literacy rate in India after Kerala and lowest literacy rate in the state of Arunachal Pradesh with a literacy rate of 54.34 persons in the year 2001 according to the census.

The reason for Mizoram being the highest literate state is mainly because of the region is more urbanized and the population is less in number. The percentage of Schedule Tribe population to the total population of a state was recorded highest in the state of Mizoram i.e.

94.5 per cent where the lowest Schedule Tribe population was recorded in the state of Assam i.e. 12.4 per cent but the percentage of Schedule caste population to the total population of state is low in almost every states and it was recorded highest in the state of Tripura that is 17.8 per cent to its total population in the year 2011. This shows that the share of Schedule Caste population is low as compare to the Schedule Tribe population. Sex ratio of the Northeast state is good as compare to other Indian states like Haryana, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh etc.

Manipur has the highest sex ratio with 992 number of female per thousand male according to 2011 census. Sikkim has the lowest sex ratio that is 890 according to 2011 census. Total number of schools is highest in the state of Assam followed by Meghalaya and the lowest was recorded in the state of Sikkim that is only 1279 number of schools in total which indicates that Sikkim is less developed in terms of educational institution as compare to Assam. Primary health canters (PHC) seems to be very less in the state of Sikkim that is only 24 canters in the year 2005 as well as 2015. Highest PHC was recorded in the state of Assam that is 1014 canters in the year 2015 which may be one of the reason for the populous state in Northeast.

Percentage of Domestic tourist visit was recorded highest in the state of Assam followed by Meghalaya. The reason for Assam being the highest domestic tourist visits is because of easy transportation, more developed, better facilities like fooding, lodging etc. Lowest domestic tourist visit as recorded in the state of Arunachal Pradesh though the place is has a lot of scenic beauty but the transportation facilities is very poor and the roads are non-metal which creates difficulties while travelling. As Assam being the most developed state among the Northeast So, the Domestic tourist flow is high in this state as compare to the other states of Northeast and the reason for the low flow of tourist in other states is not because the place doesn't have any tourist spot but only because of limited tourism infrastructure facilities like accommodation, transportation, market etc. Particularly in terms of quality, experience and site service also because of continuous fear of unstable environment which makes the tourist less unattractive to this states.

## SUGGESTIONS

1. After comparing the spatial variation on socio-economic development in the Northeastern region Assam is the only state where the socio-economic development is taking place in a large portion as compare to the rest seven states of Northeast which is still backward it is

because Assam act as a nodal point among all the northeast states. So, there should be better connectivity among all the states of Northeast to rest of India to overcome backwardness.

2. Patterns of Literacy rate in the North-eastern state is above 50 per cent which is a good indicator. Besides holding a good per cent in literacy rate expect Assam rest all the states are still suffering from backwardness. So, there should be more of quality education than quantity education.
3. After working on different parameters of development I would like to suggest that only the state of Assam is developed and the rest are suffering and the main reason for being a backward region is mainly because of rugged topography, poor transportation facilities in in accessibility and connectivity and these region are geographically isolated, political instability and insurgency is a big issue that can be seen in the states of Nagaland and Manipur. Everything can be improved if the central government pays more attention towards these states with special preferences.
4. Adequate infrastructure should be there so that the people of these regions can easily get the jobs and Govt. Should makes investment in these regions to break the geographical isolation.
5. Proper development policies are needed and people should be aware of to develop their own states.

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