

Water Resources:

The Barak and the Brahmaputra rivers with their innumerable tributaries are the sources of water for Assam. These rivers supply water

for growing different crops. The rivers and 'beels' of Assam are the treasure houses of various species of fishes and turtles. Some of the tributaries of the Brahmaputra are suitable for hydroelectric power generation. The principal tributaries of the Brahmaputra are Dibang, Lohit, Subansiri, Manas, Tista, Dhansiri and Champawati. The Barak sub-basin in Assam also has a good Hydropower potential.

In spite of these abundant resources Assam is still a poor state with very slow pace of industrialization. Efforts on the part of the people of Assam as well as the government are necessary for the proper utilization of the resources of Assam.

Human Resources

India is the second most populous country next only to China, but is seventh in the world as regards to the area, i.e. only 2.4 percent. India is blessed with many natural resources. But all these resources cannot help our country unless they are tapped, handled and used in a planned way. This can be done only by the people. Man can develop the resources only when he is wise, healthy, educated and properly trained. Thus, the real resources of our country are its people. They are our human resources.

According to the 2011 population census total population of our country is more than 1.2 billion and every seventh man in the world is an Indian. Thus, India maintains 17.5 percent of world's population with 1.8 percent of world's income. Moreover, country's population is increasing at a rapid rate. It has doubled over the last 45 years.

There are three out of every four Indians live in villages. They earn their living from farming, forestry, fishing and cattle rising. People are now leaving villages and coming to cities in search of work. This is putting a great pressure on the civil amenities and other facilities in cities.

As natural resources are essential for economic development of a country, human resource is also equally significant for proper utilization and allocation of resources.

Assam is rich in human resource and has a long history of peopling. It has witnessed several waves and stream of migration of people belonging to various racial traits and ethnic groups from different directions since prehistoric time. Because of its transitional location between South and South East Asia, Assam has been receiving people from almost all the four directions. It can be termed as 'melting-pot'.

Ethno-linguistically, the population of Assam can be identified into three major groups - Austro-Asiatic, Tibeto-Chinese and Indo-European. These groups of people have settled in certain parts of the state in different points of time.

The size and growth of population is a very vital factor to determine the feasibility of economic development of a country. Assam is being state of Indian Union is also subjected to high rate of population growth as that of the country as a whole.

Trends of Population Growth in Assam

Assam is facing a formidable problem of alarming growth of its population. Since 1991 Assam had the distinction of recording one of the highest growth rates of population among all the state. The following table shows the trend of population in Assam.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population (in lakhs)</i>	<i>Percentage Decadal Variation</i>	<i>Density (Person per square kilometre)</i>
1901	33	-	42
1911	38	17.0	49
1921	46	20.5	59
1931	56	19.9	71
1941	67	20.4	85
1951	80	19.9	102
1961	108	35.0	138
1971	146	35.0	186
1981	180*	23.4*	230*
1991	224	24.2	286
2001	266	18.9	340
2011	312	17.1	398

*Interpolated

Source: Census of India, 2011

The figure 1.1 shows the sex ratio of Assam depicting gradual decline in the sex ration till 1961 and the increase up to 2011. Table 1.9 makes a comparison in the sex ratio of the state and the nation as a whole. It is reflected that the state figure remained less than the national one till 1991. Since then there has been an improvement in the sex ratio of the state and stood higher than the national average.

Figure: 1.1

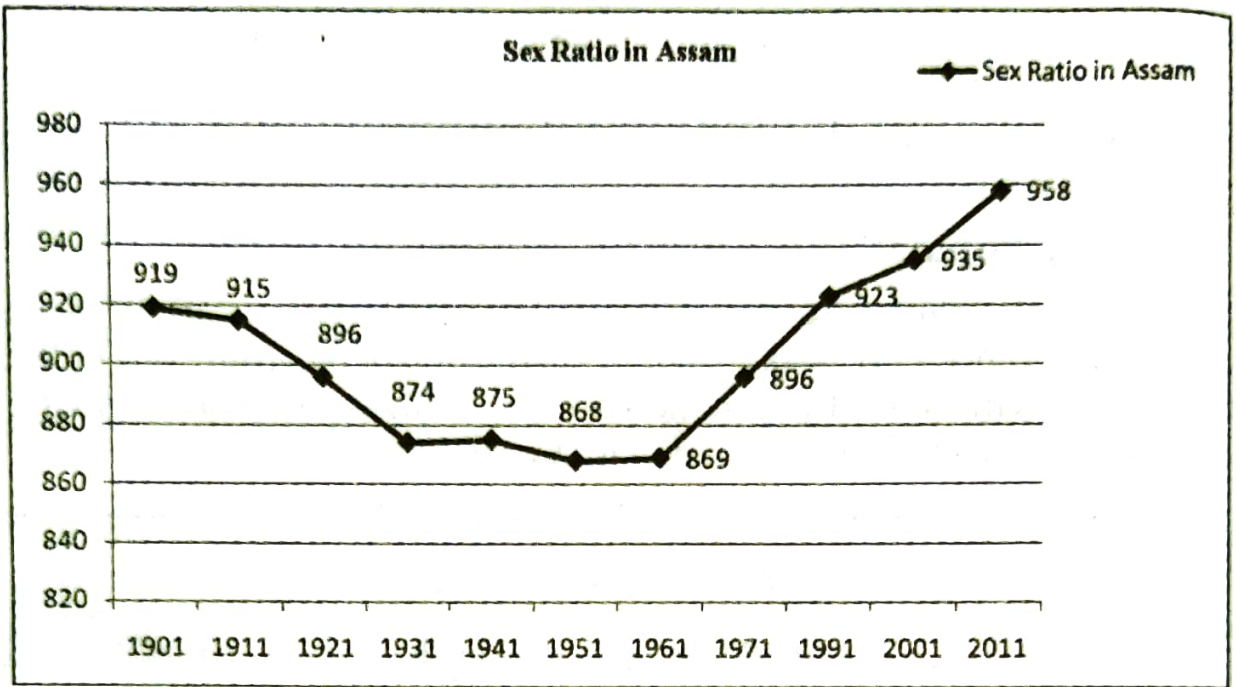


Table: 1.7

Comparison of Sex Ratio in India and Assam (Ratio per 1000 male)

Year	Sex Ratio in India	Sex Ratio in Assam
1901	972	919
1911	964	915
1921	955	896
1931	950	874
1941	945	875
1951	946	868
1961	941	869
1971	930	896
1981	934	-
1991	927	923
2001	933	935
2011	940	958

Source: Census of India, 1901-2011