

## Chapter – VII

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

#### Findings

This chapter summaries the findings of the study and put forward some suggestions on the basis of these findings.

The study is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter contains an introduction to the work, its scope and objectives, its location as well as the research method and techniques adopted for the study.

The second chapter deals with the review of literature.

The third chapter shows the demographic profile of Scheduled Castes people in the state of Assam and the district of Dhubri and occupational pattern of Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district of Assam. The main findings in this chapter are:

- (1) Regarding the nature of occupation, it is found that unskilled labour is the main occupation of the Scheduled Castes people. In case of permanent occupation, only 37.14 percent husband and 8.89 percent wives are able to get the permanent type of work.
- (2) In case of changing occupations, majority of the Scheduled Castes people (78.33) changed their fore-fathers' occupation due to various reasons.
- (3) Regarding the marital status, it is found that the percentage of married male (39.08) and female (39.12) are almost same. The percentage of widow (5.01) is higher than the percentage of widower (0.98).
- (4) Child marriage is still practiced among the Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district of Assam. 35 percent respondents of the survey area are married below the legal age of marriage. The highest percentage of women (48.33 percent) got married in the age group 16-19 years which prolongs their reproduction period, which is indirectly responsible for poverty.
- (5) In case of religion, it is found that all the sample households are Hindus and no one is found whose religion is other than Hindu.

In the fourth chapter, the demographic behavior of Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district and couples' attitude towards family planning and adoption behavior of family planning measures have been analyzed. The main findings in this chapter are:

- (1) The knowledge of contraceptives is wide spread among the ever-married Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district of Assam. About 60 percent of the females have knowledge of at least one modern method of contraceptives and the best-known method is contraceptive pill.
- (2) Both knowledge and practice of family planning are found to be similar among the respondents irrespective of their number of live birth.
- (3) Knowledge of family planning is found to be the highest among the couples with monthly income of Rs.10,000/- plus and practice of family planning is the highest among the couples with monthly income of Rs. 6001 – 10000/-.
- (4) Both knowledge and practice of contraception are almost similar among the women irrespective of their age at marriage.
- (5) With higher educational attainment, the knowledge of family planning is also found to be higher. However, in case of practicing of family planning, the role of education is found to be less significant.
- (6) The working women have sound knowledge of contraceptives as compared to the unemployed while the use of contraceptives is almost similar among the women irrespective of their employment status.
- (7) Women's knowledge of family planning increases with increasing family members but the percentage of women using contraceptives is almost similar among the women irrespective of the number of family members.
- (8) Females with longer effective married life lived are found to have higher knowledge of family planning while no difference is observed among them regarding use of contraceptives.
- (9) The availability of medical facilities plays no role in influencing the knowledge and practice of family planning among the sample couples.

The fifth chapter shows the causes and consequences of poverty among the Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district. The main findings in this chapter are:

- (1) The educational attainment among the scheduled Castes is not at all satisfactory. Female education is much lower than that of the male. Graduate level of education among the people is eye catching. No husband or wife was found to be post-graduate or technically educated. Over all, the scenario of education among the sample husbands and wives is very pathetic
- (2) The percentage of male (36.14) dropped out is higher than the female (21.00) dropped out. The reason is that the female children are generally neglected and set married at an early age.
- (3) The dropped out at secondary level is almost double than the dropped out at higher secondary level. The female dropped out is higher at lower primary level. The reason is the neglect of girl children.
- (4) Out of the total families, majority of the families (84.58 percent) belong to BPL category (below poverty line).
- (5) The dominant family type is found to be nuclear among the Scheduled Castes.
- (6) It is found that more 50 percent families of the sample households are living in semi-pucca houses and only 10 percent families are living in pucca houses. More than 80 percent semi-pucca houses are given by the government under the IAY scheme (Indra Awaas Yojana)
- (7) 11.67 percent of the households are still using surface water (pond, river, spring) for household uses and drinking purposes.
- (8) In the sample villages, more than 20 percent households have kutchra latrines and more than 60 percent households do not possess any latrines. They use the nearby jungles or fields for this purpose.
- (9) In the surveyed villages, as many as 90 percent households use fire wood and others mainly cow-dung as a source of fuel for cooking and only 10 percent households use L.P.G. for this purpose.
- (10) In the surveyed villages, 38.33 percent households have electricity and 61.67 percent households use kerosene for lighting.
- (11) Regarding the assets holding position, it is surprise that more than 80 percent of the households have Mobile phones. They have somehow managed to possess a Mobile phone.

In the sixth chapter, poverty alleviation programmes and their implementation and the effectiveness of these programmes in Dhubri district have been discussed in detail. The main findings in this chapter are:

(1) Among the sample respondents, it is observed that more than 80 percent households belong to BPL category and rest of the households belong to APL category. Out of the total BPL families, more than 50 percent BPL families have received houses under IAY scheme and rest of the BPL families have not yet received houses under IAY scheme. But some of them (IAY Non-beneficiaries) are in wait list.

(2) It is also noticed that there is a huge corruption in selecting the IAY beneficiaries.

(3) It is observed that more than 80 percent households have been issued job cards but only less than one percent households have been provided employment.

(4) While conducting field survey a question was put to all about the performance of MGNREGA. The response was almost hundred percent negative. We have identified so many problems which are related to MGNREGA. Some of them are:

(a) Problems of awareness

(b) Problems related to job cards application and distribution

(c) Problems related to application for work

(d) Problems related to identification of works

(e) Problems related to worksite facilities

(f) Problems related to payment of wages

(g) Problems related to muster rolls

(5) It is observed that out of total BPL families only less than two percent BPL families have been provided LPG connection at free of cost under Randhan Jyoti Scheme.

(6) Out of the total BPL households only less than twelve percent BPL households have been provided free of cost electricity connection with two bulbs and a meter under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

(7) It is also found that no one traditional artisan of the surveyed villages have been benefited by the skill development scheme.

(8) It is found that only one SHG by men and four SHGs by women have formed among the sample respondents.

(9) Under Chief Minister's Special Employment Generation Programme, only 9 fishermen have benefited under this scheme and only 4 beneficiaries have been found who are insured under the Fishermen's Insurance Scheme.

(10) Among the sample villages, no beneficiary has found who has benefited under the schemes- Stipend for craftsman Training in ITI, Self-help scheme for self-employment of unemployed youths, computer and data processing training, pre-matric scholarship to the children of those parents engaged in unclear occupation, National Scheme for Liberating & Rehabilitation of Scavengers; Coaching and Allied scheme and Book-Bank scheme for Medical/Engineering/Veterinary/Agriculture etc. respectively. But, under Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship Schemes only 46 and 43 Scheduled Castes students have benefited respectively.

(11) The loans offered by the banks and the subsidies given by the government departments are not availed by the Scheduled Castes people for whom the provisions are made. This happens due to lack of real field work and survey on the part of the departments concerned and corruption.

(12) Among the sample respondents, more than twenty five percent of the total loan holders have taken loan from village mahajan at high rate of interest in emergency.

(13) More than sixty percent households who have not taken loan have approached to the banks for availing loan but they were unable to get loan due to non providing security against loan.

(14) It is also noticed that under Infrastructure Development Scheme, only two community halls and one lower primary school building have been constructed by the Assam State Development Corporation for SC Ltd.

(15) Similarly, it is also noticed that ASDC has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 100000/- for repairing only one village link road.