

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1. 0. Introduction

The term Scheduled Caste owes its origin to the Government of India Act, 1935. In accordance with this enactment some of the undefined depressed castes were singled out in 1936, and listed in a schedule in order to ensure certain concessions and privileges for them because of their disadvantageous position in the social hierarchy. Because of the fact that their names are shown in a “schedule of the Act, they came to be known as “Scheduled Castes”. Gandhiji called them “Harijan”. According to Article 341 of the constitution of India, the President, after consultation with the Heads of the State or by public notification, specifies the castes, races and tribes or groups within the castes, races and tribes which shall, for “Scheduled Castes” in relation to the concerned State or the Union Territory. The President may also include in or exclude from the list of the Scheduled Castes any caste, race and tribe. Under the Article 341, there is the provision for the inclusion of even a tribe into the list of scheduled castes. The term Scheduled Castes is a constitutional myth and a legal fiction. Except listing a number of castes and sub-castes under the Article 341, no other explanation is given as to who are the Scheduled Castes.

Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution conferred political rights on the Scheduled Castes in the form of reservation of a specified number of seats in the various State Assemblies and the Parliament on the basis of population. For Assam, it is 7%. Article 335 ensures reservation of services and posts for the Scheduled Castes in the affairs of the state. By a Presidential order, in pursuance of Article 341, a number of castes were specified as Scheduled Castes for the purpose of the Constitution in general and the above Articles in particular.

According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976 there are sixteen Scheduled Castes communities in Assam. These are Bansphor, Bhuimali/ Mali, Brittal Banka/ Bania, Dhupi/ Dhobi, Hira, Jalkeot, Jhalo/ Malo/ Jhalo-Malo,

Kaibbartha/ Jaliya, Lalbegi, Mahara, Mehtor/ Bhangi, Muchi/ Rishi, Namasudra, Patni and Sutradhar.

Out of the sixteen Scheduled Castes, some are indigenous and they are distinguished as Assamese Scheduled Castes, others are non-Assamese. The Assamese Scheduled Castes are: Brittal Banka/ Bania, Dhupi/ Dhobi, Hira, Jalkeot, Dugla/ Dholi, Kaibbartha and Mali.

The Bansphor, Lalbegi, Mahara, Mehtor/ Bhangi are non-indigenous Scheduled Castes of Assam. They are non-agriculturist group and have no scope for acquiring any land for agriculture. They are generally under the employment of municipal bodies of different towns.

The Muchi/ Rishis are also non-indigenous Scheduled Castes. They are mostly from Bihar and engage themselves in leather-work. They move from place to place and do their daily business on leather-made things like shoe repairing and manufacturing at certain convenient places of urban and semi-urban areas. They do not possess any permanent land for residential purposes. They live in the hired residential houses. Though the Bhumali is listed as Scheduled Castes in Assam but there is no record of such communities in Assam. The Namasudra, Patni, Sutradhar and Jhalo-Malo who are included in the list of Scheduled Castes of Assam are Bengali speaking communities and mostly concentrated in the Barak valley districts and Dhubri district.

Although Scheduled Castes people constitute a large section of population of Dhubri district, their lives are still characterized by hard work, drudgery and without any adequate basic amenities. A big chunk of them generally live in the slum areas without adequate basic accommodation, water-supply, sanitation, light, public health etc. Many of them, again who are landless and unemployed, migrate from the rural areas to the city and towns in search of labour, jobs, contracts and other petty wage-earning employments.

Poverty, malnutrition and consequent indebtedness are the socio-economic constraints inherited by the Scheduled Castes people from their fore-fathers and these problems still remained unsolved even in spite of the implementation of the special component plan within the state.

This sort of discomfoting and unenviable situation stifled their progress in all directions. They are deficit in education, in wealth and they could yield no influence whatsoever in the society in which they are moving. The few aspirants for higher education are the worst sufferers. They have to face great social barricades not only in Assam but also outside.

1. 1. 1. Statement of the Problem

Dhubri district is one of the districts of the state of Assam. According to 2001 census, the population of Dhubri district is 16,37,344 persons. Out of 16,37,344 persons, the total Scheduled Castes population of Dhubri district is 63,208 persons which constitute 3.86% of the total population of the state. Out of the total Scheduled Castes population 63,208 persons; 32,734 persons are males and 30,474 persons are females.

The study is concerned with the examination of the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes population of Assam. In Assam, majority of the Scheduled Castes people live in villages, a small proportion of them are in towns. In villages they are segregated from caste Hindus and in towns also they are discriminated against. The problems faced by the members of the Scheduled Castes are similar wherever they live.

For centuries these depressed classes have been denied basic civic rights. The services of these depressed classes are utilized by the upper classes for their benefit. But the Scheduled Castes are not given equal status with others. Untouchability continues to be practiced in diverse forms.

In urban areas, these untouchables who are poor, illiterate and undergo the ordeal of caste discrimination generally live in slums. The life of these people is miserable and unhygienic. The environment of these people is in no way conducive to the achievement of better standards. They are made to feel that they are born to suffer. The Scheduled Castes are backward largely because they are confined to certain low occupation where their earnings are *low and partly due to social disability and illiteracy. The backwardness of the Scheduled Castes* has historical, social and political roots. Poverty, lack of educational facilities, discrimination, inability to enter government services and other lucrative jobs have all contributed to their backwardness. The concentration of the Scheduled Castes workers in low paying occupations is the product of a vicious circle of poverty and discrimination.

Agriculture is the backbone of the Assam economy. A number of Scheduled Castes communities of Dhubri district pursue agriculture as their major occupation. But the Scheduled Caste populations in this district are never self-sufficient in agricultural products as their cultivable lands are insufficient. Again, majority of the Scheduled Caste agriculturists of Dhubri district are poor, ignorant and unskilled. Due to lack of agricultural base and skill, their paddy fields are not suitable for a flourishing crop. As a result, the scope of economic

development has been hindered and the present generation is feeling the pinch of acute hardship.

The condition of the non-agricultural Scheduled Caste communities of Dhubri district is also no better. The Banias do not get enough to maintain their families as the people no longer use ornaments made by this community. The urban dwellers like Bansphore, Muchis, Mehtars, Maharas have to switch over to other professions because of the changing social scenario. Machine made cheaper articles are popular with the people and the Scheduled Castes people who produced bamboo items of day to day use can no longer withstand the stiff competition of plastic items.

The socio-economic condition of the Kaibartas of Dhubri district reveals a disheartening picture. The Kaibartas till about two decades ago had fishing as major source of income and most of the Kaibartas depended solely on fish trade. But today, the situation underwent metamorphic changes. The fishermen from other states have snatched the age old trade from the Kaibartas. Further, poor fishermen are indebted to the influential Mahajans. This indebtedness is a never ending affair and poor fishermen have no alternative but to bow down to the whims of the Mahajans. Consequently, upon degradation of the traditional income sources and non-availability of fresh avenues, the time worn economic backwardness has been further aggravated.

In Dhubri district, Scheduled Castes communities like Doms, Jalia-Kaibartas, Namasudra, Chandal, Hira, Brittil-Baniya or Hari are considered to be low in the Hindu society. They are look down upon by the upper caste Hindus as they are doing some menial or unclear jobs. Other Hindu castes do not accord them equal treatment. They are placed outside the pale of Hindu society. They are untouchables. This sort of discomforting and unenviable situation stifled their progress in all directions. Therefore, the Scheduled Castes people in Dhubri district, so far have failed to receive the social recognition of their caste status as the caste Hindus still maintain social distance rigidly.

Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district are yet to realize the paramount importance of education. Illiteracy is very high among the Scheduled Castes people of this region. According to 2001 census, literacy rate among the SC population is lowest as compared to the literacy rate of SC population of other districts of Assam. Children belonging to this community without getting educational facilities start to help their parents in work and raise the family earnings and therefore proved to be assets to the family. Female children are confined to the kitchen rather going to school for cooking purposes. As the primary and middle stage of education is over, the number of school drop-outs increases among this

community as compared to other communities. The main reasons for drop-outs are lack of proper guidance, deplorable economic condition of the people, repeated failure in the examinations and marriage of girls at early age etc. The number of college going students is also very less in the Scheduled Castes inhabited villages.

Population growth is very high among the Scheduled Castes community of this region. They consider their children as the gift of God. They do not understand the effect of large family on the income of the family. People belonging to this community are ignorant about biology of reproduction, need of birth control and devices of birth control. They consider family planning programme to be curse, as according to them this is against the God's will. As a result, they create large number of births whose ultimate result is wide spread poverty.

Besides these, Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district are facing a number of problems which hinder their socio-economic development. Among them most important are joint family system, dowry system, observation of various festivals, chewing of tobacco, smoking of bidi and drinking of country liquor regularly among minor and adult males, dirty dwelling condition, unhygienic, poor sanitation, belief in witchcraft and sorcery etc.

The Government of Assam has been implementing various welfare schemes for all round development of Scheduled Castes people of the state living below poverty line. But these welfare schemes have brought neither a remarkable change nor a considerable benefit to Scheduled Castes people. The reason is that the scarce funds of the government has been misused or mismanaged. There is corruption in the officer level and improper selection of the beneficiaries. There is also lack of adequate cooperation between the implementing authorities and the beneficiaries.

1. 1. 2. Objectives of the Study

Our enquiry starts from this point, namely Scheduled Castes people of Assam who are living below the poverty line. The present study is carried out with the following objectives:

- (1) To understand and highlight the poverty scenario among the Scheduled Castes people of Assam in general and in particular of Dhubri district of Assam.
- (2) To study the social, economic and political profiles of the Scheduled Castes in Assam with reference to their social, economic and political status in the Assamese society.
- (3) To identify the problems faced by the Scheduled Castes people of Assam as well as Dhubri district which are responsible for their backwardness.

(4) To measure the level of significance of socio-economic and demographic variables such as family income, housing condition, type of family, pre and post-natal medical care, etc. on the mortality level of the Scheduled Castes people.

(5) To study the knowledge and practice of family planning among the Scheduled Castes people of Assam and their socio-economic determinants.

(6) To suggest remedial measures for improving socio-economic condition of the poor SC people and controlling fertility and mortality on the basis of the findings, so that the Scheduled Castes people of Assam in particular of Dhubri district can improve their quality of life.

(7) To find out the effects of different Government policies upon their upliftment.

1. 1. 3. (a) Research Questions

In order to fulfill the stated objectives of the proposed study there are different issues and questions on which we have conducted inquiries.

The research questions which have been addressed are:

(1) What is the present social, economic and cultural status of the Scheduled Castes people of Assam specially who are living in rural areas?

(2) What are their levels of awareness about socio-economic and political situation and their exposure to outside their society?

(3) Why are the majority of Scheduled Castes people of Assam living below poverty line?

(4) Is massive illiteracy responsible for their widespread poverty?

(5) Does poverty impact Scheduled Castes people more as compared to other section of the society?

(6) What problems might they be facing in their traditional occupations?

(7) Why are the Scheduled Castes people not motivated to shift from traditional occupations to modern occupations?

(8) What problems might they be facing in their new occupations from within and without their families?

(9) Why are the financial organizations not coming forward to support them?

(10) How far do the various governmental schemes help the poor Scheduled Castes people?

(11) Why are the various governmental schemes not adequately benefiting the Scheduled Castes beneficiaries?

(b) Research Gaps

Still today, nobody has analysed why the Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district are more backward than non-Scheduled Castes people and what prevents them from coming up in life. There is the need for a change of the traditional occupation of the Scheduled Castes people of this area. Thus there is a need for an indepth study to provide valuable suggestions to shift these downtrodden people to better occupations which will go a long way in transforming the society in India.

1. 1. 4. Scope of the study

The study is concentrated in one district of Assam i.e. Dhubri. As per 2011 census, the total Scheduled Castes population in Assam is 22,31,321 persons, which is 7.15 percent of the total population of the state. The percentage of SC population to total population in Dhubri District taken for the study is 3.15 percent.

Majority of the Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district are poverty victim. They are suffering with extreme poverty and they are concentrated in low paying menial occupations. There is a close relationship between caste and occupation. The caste system has not allowed SC workers of this region to shift to move productive occupation. Their initial economic position and social status do not permit them to reach better standards in life through the change of occupations. Today a substantial majority of Scheduled Castes people of Dhubri district remain confined to their ancestral occupations.

The Scheduled Castes people are seldom found in large compact areas like the other communities. They usually live inter-spread with the general population, though in clusters of villages/hamlets in some areas. The life-style of the village people is simple and they are a set of very contented people. Their possessions are few. They have the same careless attitude towards disease and death like other people. The poor progress in educational development among the Scheduled Castes people is due to strong caste prejudices, prevalence of the practice of untouchability, lack of proper financial aid, dropping out before completion of the school and ignorance of the value of education.

Indebtedness is also causing miseries to many of the Scheduled Castes people like other sections of the backward communities. One of the causes of indebtedness is the inherent poverty of the Scheduled Castes population. They take loans to purchase bullocks, to purchase

articles, to perform rites connected with death, marriage ceremonies and other festivals. The spread of modern education is very important to make the people understand this inherent problem.

The poor Scheduled Castes people cannot take loan offered by the Government Departments as they cannot offer sufficient security for obtaining such loan. Hence, in spite of provisions for loan and subsidies or subsidized-grants, the vast majority of them are deprived of these provisions. The Scheduled Castes people in Assam generally reside on the banks of rivers. The habitations of these people living on the banks of the rivers are vulnerable to erosion and inundation for which they lose house and house-hold property. They have to construct residential houses and built property afresh every year for which they have to take loan from private sources. Hence, they cannot get-rid of sufferings caused by natural calamities and perpetual indebtedness.

To overcome all these problems, accurate information regarding the provisions made in the Constitution for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes people to be given wide publicity, through mass media, like radio, television, newspaper, bulletins and wall posters. Personnel across the administration cadres from Deputy Commissioner to village level workers, banks and co-operatives could play useful role in this regard. Otherwise, Scheduled Castes society will remain in the same standard as it was yesterday and there will be no better tomorrow waiting for them. So, it is today that we should bring about a change and uplift the society.

1. 1. 5. Area of Study

(a) Physical and Demographic Features of Assam

Assam is situated in the North-East region of India – bordering seven States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and West Bengal and two countries viz. Bangladesh and Bhutan. With a geographical area of 78,438 Sq. K.ms. Assam accounts for about 2.4 percent of the country's total geographical areas. Most of the State's population lives in the lush and verdant valleys of its two major river systems in the twenty two districts of the Brahmaputra valley and the three districts of the Barak valley. Less densely populated are the two hill districts of the KarbiAnglong and the North Cachar Hills, set in the low-lying hills that separate the two valleys. For administrative and revenue purposes, the state has 27 districts including the newly created Kamrup (Metro) district and four districts under the newly created Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas viz. Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri.

(b) Location

Assam is in the north-east corner of India and is connected with the rest of India by a narrow strip of land lying in the submontane regions of the Himalayas. She is surrounded on all sides (excepting the narrow corridor) by independent states, viz. Bhutan and China (Tibet) on the north; China and Myanmar on the east; Myanmar and Bangladesh on the south; and Bangladesh on the west. With a geographical area of 78,438 sq. km which is about 2.4 percent of the country's total geographical area Assam provides shelter to 2.6 percent population of the Country.

(c) Population

According to the census of India, 2011, the population of Assam stands at 3,12,05,576 of which 1,59,39,443 are males and 1,52,66,133 females. The total area of Assam is 78,438 Sq. Km. as per 2011 census. The decadal growth of the state's population works out to 17.07 percent during the decade 2001-2011 as against 17.68 percent for the country as a whole. The density of the population of Assam has gone up to 398 in 2011 which was 340 in 2001 Census. The corresponding all India figure was 382 as per Census, 2011. The number of census house used as residence houses is 63,52,226 for population size of 3,12,05,576 in the State as per Census, 2011. Table 1.1 shows some important features of population of Assam.

Table: 1.1
Population Features of Assam at a Glance

Particulars		Unit	2001 Census	2011 Census
Population		Lakh	267	312
Decadal Growth		Percent	18.92	17.1
Density		Per Sq. Km.	340	398
Sex-Ratio		Females per 1000 males	935	958
Literacy		Percent	63.25	72.19
	Male	Percent	71.28	77.85
	Female	Percent	54.61	66.27
Urban Population		Percent	12.90	14.09
	Male	Percent	53.41	51.39
	Female	Percent	46.58	48.61
Rural Population		Percent	87.10	85.90
	Male	Percent	51.43	51.03
	Female	Percent	48.57	48.97
S.C. Population		Percent	7.40	7.15
S.T. Population		Percent	12.83	12.45

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Classification of population by economic activity according to the result of population census, 2011 reveals that out of total population of 3,12,05,576 in the state; 1,19,69,690 were total workers against 9538591 were in 2001. Out of the total workers in 2011 main workers were 8687123 and 3282567 were marginal workers against 7114097 and 2424494 in 2001 respectively. Among male workers 82 percent were main workers, 18 percent were marginal workers against 85 percent and 15 percent respectively in 2001. Among females 48 percent were main workers and 52 percent were marginal workers in 2011 against 47 percent and 53

percent in 2001 respectively. Out of the total 11969690 workers in Assam in 2011 against 9538591 workers in 2001, 3138554 were Cultivators (26 percent), 903294 were Agricultural labourers (7.5 percent), 242071 were engaged in Household Industries (2.0 percent) and 4403204 were Other Workers (36.8 percent) in 2011. Thus, about 34 percent of working population was engaged in Agriculture (i.e. cultivators and agricultural labourers) in the State as per Census, 2011 against 52 percent as per Census 2001.

(d) Dhubri District

Dhubri District is one of the districts of the state of Assam. Dhubri District is located on globe between 89.42⁰ to 90.12⁰ east longitude and 26.22⁰ to 25.28⁰ north latitude. According to the 2011 census, the total land area of Dhubri districts is 2,176.00 sq. km, out of which 2144.06 sq. km. are rural and 31.94 sq. km. are urban. Dhubri District comprises of three sub-divisions: (1) Dhubri sub-divisions, (2) Bilasipara sub-divisions and (3) South Salmara sub-divisions.

According to 2011 census, the total population of Dhubri district stands 19,49,258 persons of which 9,97,848 are males and 9,51,410 are females. Out of the total population of 19,49,258 persons, 17,45,557 persons are rural population and 2,03,701 persons are urban population. The density of population is 896 per Sq. km. and sex-ratio is 953 per 1000 males. The literacy rate of Dhubri district is 82.28 percent.

As per 2011 census, Dhubri district comprises 14 (fourteen) Development Blocks, 9 (nine) revenue circles, 168 numbers of Gaon Panchayats, 1091 numbers of villages and 9 (nine) numbers of towns (Statutory Census).

Dhubri district is in the west corner of Assam. The district is bounded by state West Bengal and Independent country Bangladesh on the west, Bangladesh and Meghalaya on the south, Goalpara district and Bongaigaon district on the east and Kokrajhar district on the north.

Map of Dhubri District



Fig: 1.1

1. 1. 6. Methodology

With limited resource and time of an individual researcher, we have taken up the enquiry in only one district of the state of Assam covering a few development blocks. The name of the district is Dhubri. The reason for selecting Dhubri district is that Dhubri is one of the backward districts of Assam. As per 2001 census, literacy rate of Dhubri district is lowest as compared to the literacy rate of other districts of Assam. Again, Dhubri is one of the high SC population concentrate district of Assam. The research project is primarily based on field data collected from the sample households of the sample villages with the help of a series of questionnaires prepared for the purpose. The samples have been selected with the help of multiphase (stratified) sample technique both random and purposive. The respondents selected for this enquiry will be all rural. The study is descriptive in nature.

In case, where more than one male/female member was present in a family, only one had been interviewed. The field work spread over a period of six months from May, 2014 to October, 2014. This method of obtaining data has strong as well as weak points of its own. On the one hand, it is not possible for an individual to visit a very large number of households in the villages scattered in a large area and perforce, the sample size must be kept at its modest level. On the other hand, the opportunity given by meeting the households in person provides a great scope for an in depth investigation. Details on income from various sources, consumption expenditure, family size, housing condition, occupational pattern, productivity etc. can be obtained from such an enterprise.

Sample Design

Dhubri district consists of three sub-divisions and 14 Development Blocks. We have categorized the Blocks into three heads, on the basis of their level of development, viz, highly developed, moderately developed and least developed Blocks respectively depending on several development indexes. Seven development indexes of Blocks have been used for categorizing these Blocks. These development indexes are (1) Number of LP and UP Schools (2) Number of branches of banks and Micro finances (3) Literacy rate of population (4) Health status (5) Irrigational status (6) Road condition and (7) Agricultural productivity. These development indexes are broadly discussed in the appendix. So in each category several Blocks are included. Then two Blocks are randomly chosen from each category i.e. altogether six Blocks are chosen. We have chosen 2 villages as sample villages from each Block so as to give maximum geographical coverage. That is, altogether 12 villages have been chosen. From

these 12 villages, 20 households have been taken randomly from each village. Thus, altogether 240 households have been chosen from the entire district.

As noted above, the units of observation is the household and the total size of sample is 240 households.

Sample Chart – I

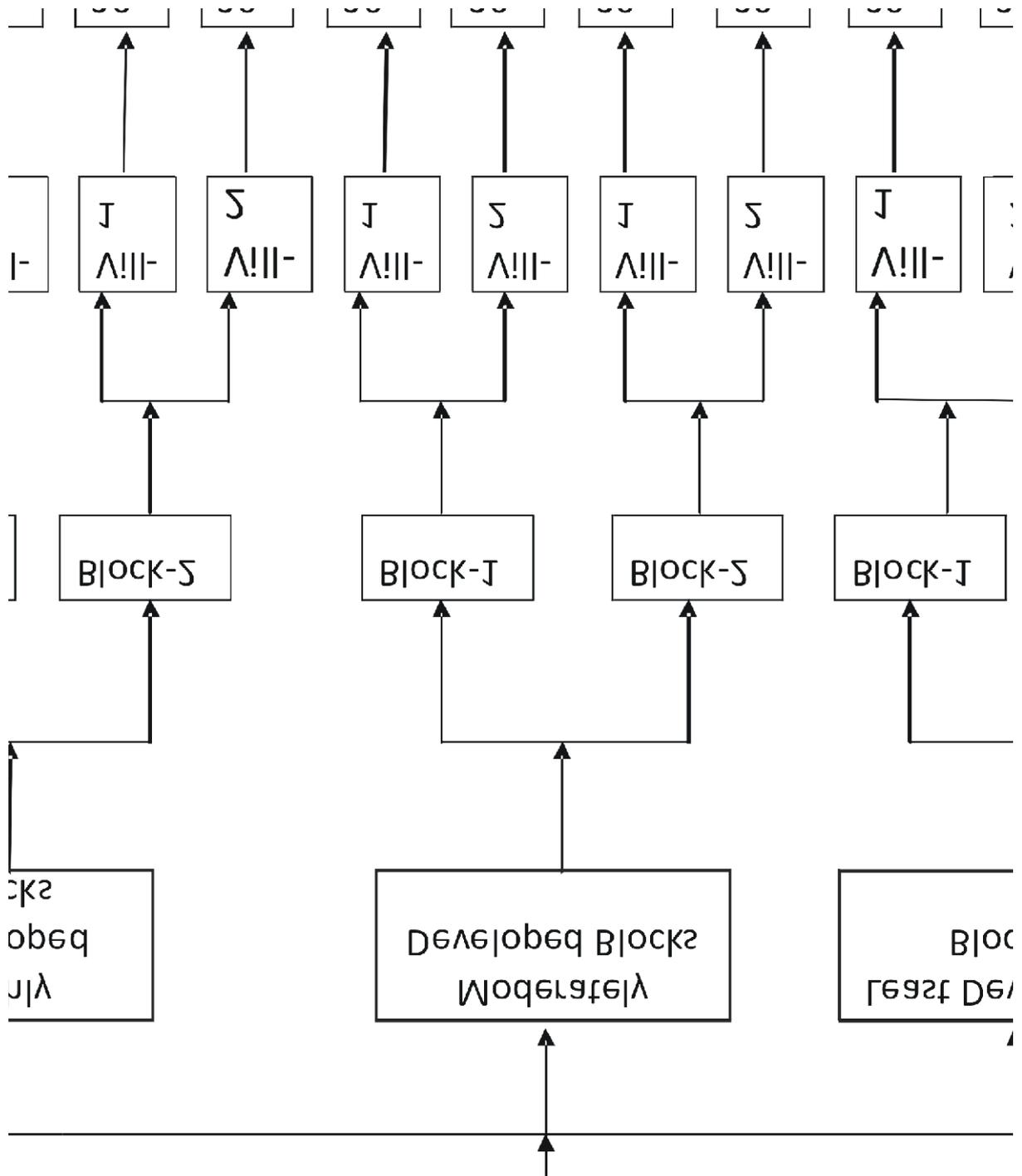


Table: 1. 2
Sample Villages

Block Category	Name of the Blocks	Sample villages	Under GaonPanchayat
Highly Developed Blocks	(1)Agomani development Block	(1) Kaldoba-1	Agomani
		(2) Choto Dighaltari	Boterhat
	(2)Bilasipara development Block	(1) Futkibari	Futkibari
		(2) Anandanagar	Anandanagar Bangalipara
Moderately Developed Blocks	(1) Chapar-Salkocha development Block	(1) Baniapara-1	Salkocha
		(2) Batardal	Barunitara Batardal
	(2)Gauripur development Block	(1) Dharmasala-3	Dharmasala
		(2) Bhelakoba	Durahati
Least Developed Blocks	(1)Fekamari development Block	(1) Hatsingimeri	Fulerchar
		(2) Kurkumara-1	Kurkumara
	(2)Debitola development Block	(1) Asharikandi	Asharikandi
		(2) Geramari-6	Geramari

Source: www.drdadhubri

We have chosen 2 villages as sample villages from each block of all three categories so as to give maximum geographical coverage. Agomani development block comprising 13 gaon panchayats and 67 villages. Out of 67 villages, we have randomly chosen two villages as sample villages and the sample villages are (1) Kaldoba-1 and (2) Chota Dighaltari. The first one goes under Agomani gaonpanchayat and the second one goes under Boterhat gaonpanchayat. Like that, Bilasipara development block consists of 10 gaonpanchayats and 79

villages. Among them two villages have been randomly chosen as sample villages and the sample villages are (1) Futkibari and (2) Anandanagar where first one comes under Futkibari gaonpanchayat and the second one comes under Anandanagar Bangalipara gaonpanchayat.

Similarly, two villages i.e. (1) Baniapara-1 and (2) Batardal have been randomly chosen as sample villages from Chapar-salkoca development block which comprises 12 gaonpanchayats and 142 villages where first one goes under Salkoca gaonpanchayat and second one goes under Barunitara Batardal gaonpanchayat. From Gauripur development block, we have randomly chosen two villages as sample villages which comprise 15 gaonpanchayats and 84 villages. The sample villages are (1) Dharmasala-3 and (2) Bhelakoba where Dharmasala-3 comes under Dharmasala gaonpanchayat and Bhelakoba comes under Durahati gaonpanchayat.

Likewise, we have randomly chosen (1) Hatsingimari village and (2) Kukurmara-1 village as sample villages from Fekamari development block which consists of 14 gaonpanchayats and 74 villages. The first one goes under Fulerchar gaonpanchayat whereas the second one goes under Kukurmara gaonpanchayat. Like that, Debitola development block consists of 11 gaonpanchayats and 189 villages. Among them two villages have been randomly chosen as sample villages and the sample villages are (1) Ashrikandi and (2) Geramari-6 where first comes under Ashrikandi gaonpanchayat and the second one comes under Geramari gaonpanchayat.

Category wise selected sample villages from six development blocks are as follows:

Highly Developed Blocks

(1) Agomani Development Block

Sample Villages

(A) Kaldoba-1

(B) Choto Dighaltari

(2) Bilasipara Development Block

(A) Futkibari

(B) Anandanagar

Moderately Developed Blocks

(1) Gauripur Development Block

Sample Villages

(A) Dharmasala-3

(B) Bhelakoba

(2) Chapar-Salkocha Development Block

(A) Baniapara-1

(B) Batardal

Least Developed Blocks

(1) Fekamari Development Block

(2) Debitola Development Block

Sample Villages

(A) Hatsingimari

(B) Kukurmara-1

(A) Asharikandi

(B) Geramari-6

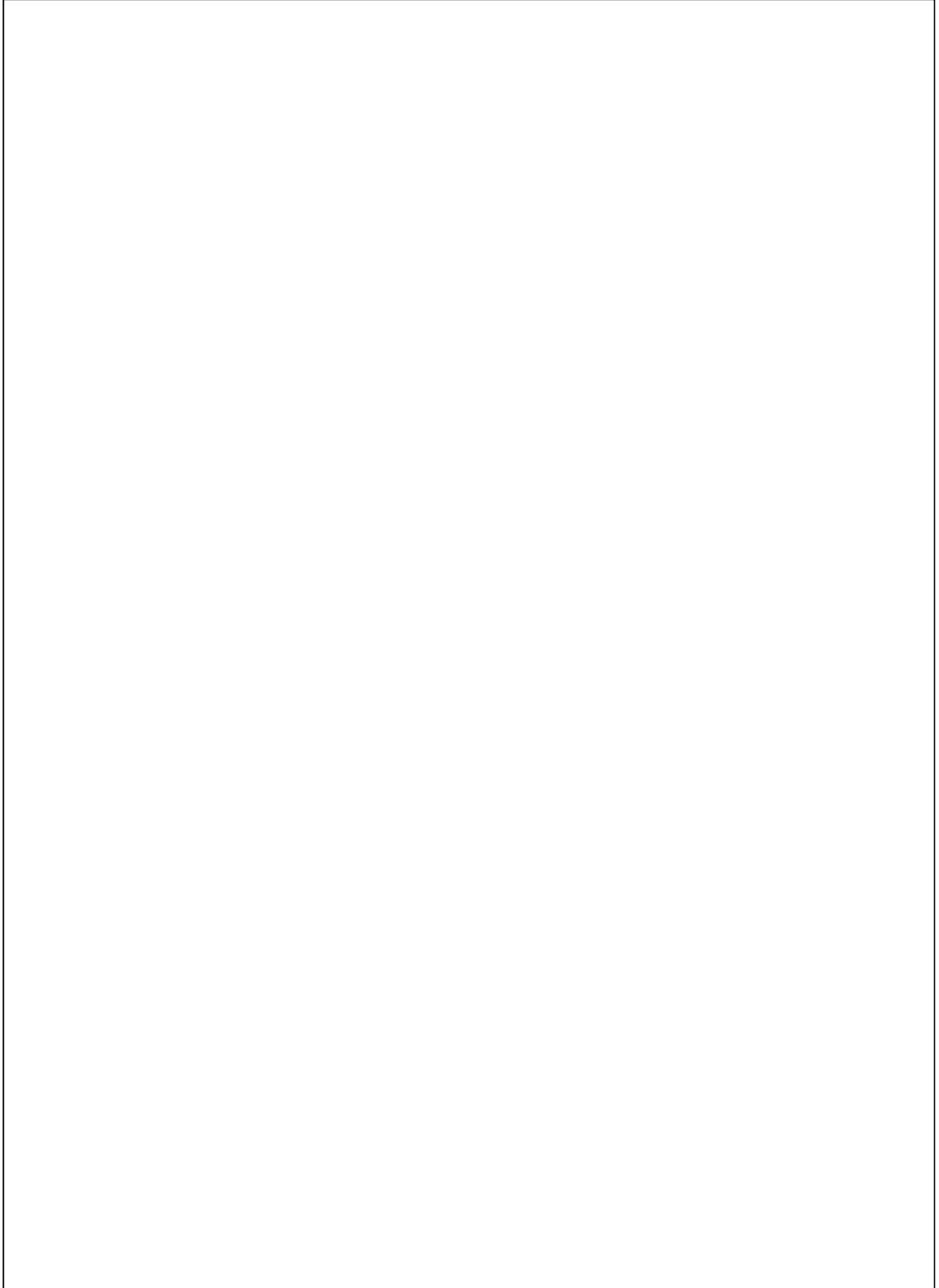
Table: 1. 3
Category Wise Selected Sample Villages

Highly dev. blocks		Moderately dev. block		Least dev. block	
(1) Agomani Development Block	Sample Vill : Kaldoba-1 House hold : 538 Population: 2692 Male : 1836 Female : 1306 S.C. : 344 S.T. : 0 Others : 2348	(1) Gauripur Development Block	Sample Vill : Dharmasala-3 House hold : 489 Population: 2442 Male : 1228 Female : 1214 S.C. : 122 S.T. : 0 Others : 2320	(1) Fekamari Development Block	Sample Vill : Hatsingimari House hold : 112 Population: 408 Male : 193 Female : 215 S.C. : 119 S.T. : 36 Others : 253
	Sample Vill : ChotoDighaltari House hold : 128 Population: 386 Male : 198 Female : 188 S.C. : 149 S.T. : 0 Others : 237		Sample Vill : Bhelakoba House hold : 218 Population: 857 Male : 456 Female : 401 S.C. : 126 S.T. : 0 Others : 731		Sample Vill : Kukurmara-1 House hold : 387 Population: 1779 Male : 918 Female : 861 S.C. : 297 S.T. : 0 Others : 1482
(2) Bilasipara Development Block	Sample Vill : Ananda Nagar House hold : 926 Population: 4632 Male : 2317 Female : 2315 S.C. : 304 S.T. : 0 Others : 4328	(2) Chapar-Salkocha Development Block	Sample Vill : Baniapara-1 House hold : 103 Population: 333 Male : 159 Female : 174 S.C. : 128 S.T. : 0 Others : 205	(2) Debitola Development Block	Sample Vill : Asharikandi House hold : 308 Population: 1484 Male : 760 Female : 724 S.C. : 426 S.T. : 0 Others : 1058
	Sample Vill : Futkibari House hold : 159 Population: 633 Male : 326 Female : 307 S.C. : 217 S.T. : 129 Others : 287		Sample Vill : Batardal House hold : 116 Population: 401 Male : 204 Female : 197 S.C. : 134 S.T. : 42 Others : 225		Sample Vill : Geramari-6 House hold : 298 Population: 1422 Male : 759 Female : 663 S.C. : 328 S.T. : 0 Others : 1094

Source (1) www.drdadhubri

(2) Block development offices.

Sample Chart – II



Limitations of the Study

- (1) The information have been collected from the respondents and all kinds of cross-checking have done by us. Even then there may be some data gap as well as inconsistency of their reporting.
- (2) We are not able to cover more than six development blocks due to the resource and time constraints of an individual researcher. Therefore, the study which is conducted may not be claimed as representative of the Scheduled Castes people of entire rural areas of Assam. As such, it is necessary to test the validity of our findings in other districts also.
- (3) Judging the above limitations, we cannot claim to generalize a pattern or make any trend analysis.

1. 1. 7. Chapterization

The Study has been divided into seven chapters:

Chapter – I:

The first chapter includes an introduction to the work, its scope and objectives, its location as well as the research method and techniques adopted for the study.

Chapter – II:

The second chapter contains the Review of Literature.

Chapter – III:

The third chapter deals with demographic profile of Scheduled Castes people in the state of Assam and the district of Dhubri and occupational pattern of Scheduled Castes people.

Chapter – IV:

The forth chapter deals with the demographic behavior of S.C. population of Dhubri district with a focus on their attitude to family planning and the adoption behavior of family planning measures. This chapter is based on the field data.

Chapter – V:

The fifth chapter contains the causes and consequences of poverty in the district with special reference to Scheduled Castes people. This chapter is also based on the field data.

Chapter – VI:

The sixth chapter deals with the poverty alleviation programmes and their implementation and the effectiveness of these programmes in Dhubri district and problems and hazards faced by the implementing agencies.

Chapter – VII:

The seventh chapter summarizes the findings of the above chapters and suggests measures for improvement of the socio-economic and demographic life of the Scheduled Castes people.