

## CHAPTER - 4

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### Demography and Social Status: Household Sample Analysis

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#### 4.1 Demographic profile

Presently, analysis of demographic parameters becomes important in a dynamic sense in order to understand the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the population that interacts with the environment for all-round development. Therefore population characteristics affect the rate of development both in the economic and social sphere on the one side and at the same time it also influenced of overall development of any area or country. The population characteristics always influenced the nature and natural resources, and level of resource use although it depends on knowledge of technology and perception level. Thus analysis of demographic parameters have crucial significance, and refers mainly to the study of size, territorial distribution and composition of population, changes therein and the components of such changes (Hauser, 1959) most important in Population Geography. The demographic analysis deals with the numbers population, spatial distribution and other characteristics of the human population and these phenomena continuously changing which are concerned with the relationship between demographic processes on one side and economic, social, political, biological and ecological sphere on the other side. Therefore, in this chapter an attempt has been taken to analyse the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the population in Alipurduar District, such as the size of family and growth of population in the villages, through which natural increases of population can be explain. The population structure in terms of age sex composition and sex ratio, which disclose important aptitude in fertility, migration, labour availability and other socio-economic conditions, and literacy rates that pointed clearly the level of social awareness, thus, some of the qualitative aspects of the population discussed carefully.

##### 4.1.1 Demographic profile of forest villages

There were total of 878 households in the 17 sampled study villages. The total population size was 4071 of which 2102 (51.63 %) were male and 1969 (48.37 %) were female during the survey in 2017 (table 4.1). Among the total households, 776 (88.38 %) households were of cultivators; where about 668 (76.08 %) cultivators were their own land for cultivation. From the

observation the researcher has noticed that the villagers have agricultural as well as labour power potentiality.

**Table 4.1** Demographic characteristics of sampled forest villages.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Total household	Total population	Male	Female	Cultivators	Cultivated land owner
1	Lehra	22	93	49	44	21	21
2	Suni	28	127	69	58	28	25
3	Garo Basti	72	329	170	159	70	63
4	Balapara	35	152	78	74	32	29
5	Poro (N)	61	301	155	146	61	57
6	Gadhadhar	63	348	179	169	63	60
7	Gudamdabri	63	251	129	122	63	61
8	Nimati & Dabri	68	368	191	177	68	63
9	Gangutia H.A	55	210	112	98	32	24
10	Adma H.A	55	184	95	89	31	20
11	Raimatang H.A	55	271	139	132	43	32
12	Bhutri F. basti H.A	45	221	113	108	40	36
13	Chunabati H.A	54	211	109	102	34	24
14	Santrabari H.A	65	310	159	151	53	37
15	Bhutiabasti	30	133	68	65	30	21
16	Sankosh	60	331	169	162	60	54
17	Lapraguri	47	231	118	113	47	41
<b>Total</b>		<b>878</b>	<b>4071</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>668</b>
				<b>(51.63 %)</b>	<b>(48.37 %)</b>	<b>(88.38 %)</b>	<b>(76.08 %)</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017)

Among the sampled forest villages only one village have below 200 inhabitants according to the census of India namely it is Lehra village, and other 8 village have population between 200 - 500 persons as well as population more than 500 hundred persons also belongs to other 8 villages (table 4.2).

**Table 4.2** Number of sampled villages in different population size.

<b>Number of sampled villages in different population size, according to 2011</b>			
Forest village	Population less than 200 persons	Population between 200 - 500 persons	Population more than 500 hundred persons
Lehra village	✓		
Suni village		✓	
Garo Basti			✓
Gadhadhar			✓
Poro (N)			✓
Nimati and Dabri			✓
Gangutia H.A			✓
Adma H.A		✓	
Raimatang H.A			✓
Bhutri forest basti H.A		✓	

Gudamdabri			✓
Chunabati H.A		✓	
Bhutiabasti		✓	
Sankosh			✓
Lapraguri		✓	
Santrabari H.A		✓	
Balapara		✓	
<b>Total</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>08</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017)

The other detailed profile of the forest villagers in the area understudy consisting of the age, caste, ethnic composition, dominant tribal group, literacy status, and working condition are given below.

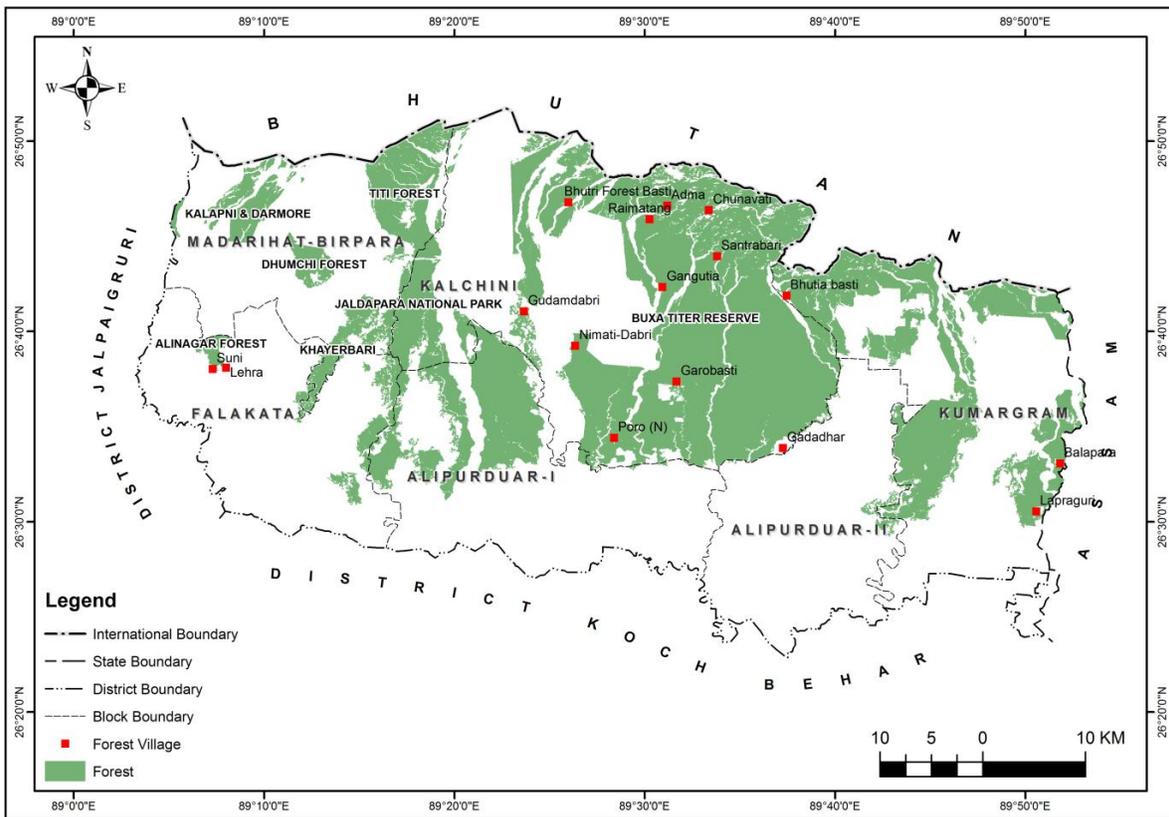


Figure 4.1 Alipurduar District map with site of sampled forest villages.

#### 4.1.1.1 Age Group

The table no.4.3 reveals the age group of forest villagers where the highest percentage is 24.83 % which is observed in the age group of 0 to 14 years and lowest is belongs to the group of above 60 years age which is only 11.38 %. Besides about 24.71 % of them are in the age group of 15 to 29

years, 22.16 % of them are in the age group of 30 to 44 years, 16.92 % of them are in the age group of 45 to 59 years. From the above observation it has been noticed that due to less education among head of households as well as villagers economy totally depends on primary activities such as agriculture, livestock and NTFPs collection etc. so more infant growth is a result of illiteracy and poor economic society where excess children would be later converted future labour power potentiality in their society.

**Table 4.3** Age group of sampled forest villages.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Age Group					Total population
		Up to 14 years	15 to 29 years	30 to 44 years	45 to 59 years	Above 60 years	
1	Lehra	20	30	24	11	08	93
2	Suni	29	34	25	25	14	127
3	Garobasti	73	88	79	49	40	329
4	Gadhadhar	84	98	71	54	41	348
5	Poron	61	70	84	48	38	301
6	Nimati and Dabri	86	90	81	71	40	368
7	Gangutia H.A	66	56	42	28	18	210
8	Adma H.A	51	45	43	31	14	184
9	Raimatang H.A	69	67	65	47	23	271
10	Bhutri forest basti H.A	59	52	50	36	24	221
11	Gudamdabri	69	53	55	40	34	251
12	Chunabati H.A	49	55	40	38	29	211
13	Bhutiabasti	33	32	27	24	17	133
14	Sankosh	84	76	75	65	31	331
15	Lapraguri	57	53	46	42	33	231
16	Santrabari H.A	76	72	63	54	45	310
17	Balapara	45	35	32	26	14	152
<b>Total</b>		<b>1011</b> (24.83 %)	<b>1006</b> (24.71 %)	<b>902</b> (22.16 %)	<b>689</b> (16.92 %)	<b>463</b> (11.38 %)	<b>4071</b> (100 %)

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017)

#### 4.1.1.2 Age-sex composition

The total population of the Lehra village sample household is 93 persons of which males account for 49 (52.69 %) and females for 44 (47.1 %). The age and sex composition pattern of the village population reveals that 9.68 % males and 11.83 females are in the age group of 0-14 years, 17.20 % males and 15.05 % of females are in the age group of 15-29 years. In 30-44 years age group, 15.05 % and 10.75 % males and females population respectively and 7.53 % and 4.30 % males and females population are in the 45-59 years age group. Only 3.23 % of male and 5.38 % of female population fall in the age group of 60 and above. The sex ratio of this village has 897.96 (table 4.4 from Appendix D).

From total 127 population of the Suni households, males account for 69 (54.33 %) and females for 58 (45.67 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 12.60 % of the male and 10.23 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 14.17 % males and 12.60 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 11.02 % and 8.66 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 9.45 % and 10.24 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 7.09 % males and 11.81 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 840.57.

The total population of the Garo Basti village households is 329 persons of which males belongs to 170 (51.67 %) and females for 159 (48.33 %). About 11.55 % male and 10.64 % female of the village population are in the age group of 0-14 years and; 13.68 % male and 13.07 % female are in the age groups 15-29 years respectively. About 12.46 %, 7.59 %, and 6.38 % of this village population are in the age group of 30-44, 45-59, and 60 and above years for male population, on the other side 11.55 %, 7.29 % and 5.78 % population are belongs to the female population. The sex ration of this village population is 935.29.

The total population of the Gadhadhar village households is 348 persons of which males account for 179 (51.44 %) and females for 169 (48.56 %). The age and sex composition pattern of the village population reveals that 12.93 % males and 11.20 % females are in the age group of 0-14 years, 14.66 % males and 13.51% of females are in the age group of 15-29 years. About 9.77 % and 10.63 % males and females populations are belong to the 30-44 years age group and 8.05 % and 7.47 % males and females population are in the 45-59 years age group. Only 6.03 % of male and 5.75 % female population fall in the age group of 60 and above. The sex ratio of this village has 944.13.

There are 301 total population in the Poro (N) village of which males account for 155 (51.49 %) and females for 146 (48.50 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 10.63 % of the male and 9.63 % of female are in the age group of 0-14 years, 11.96 % males and 11.29 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 14.29 % and 13.62 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 8.64 % and 7.31 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 5.98 % males and 6.64 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 941.94. In the same way a total population of the Nimati and Dabri sample household is 368 persons, of which males account for 191 (51.90 %) and females for 177 (48.09 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 12.22 % of the male and 11.14 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 12.77 % males and

11.68 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 11.41 % and 10.59 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 9.78 % and 9.51 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 5.70 % males and 5.16 % females belongs to this village. The sex ratio of this village has 926.70.

The total population of the Gangutia village households is 210 persons of which males account for 112 (53.33 %) and females for 98 (46.67 %). The age and sex composition pattern of the village population reveals that 12.86 % males and 13.81 % females are in the age group of 0-14 years, 15.23 % males and 12.38 % of females are in the age group of 15-29 years. About 10.95 % and 9.99 % males and females population are in the 30-44 years age group and; 8.57 % and 6.67 % males and females population belongs to the 45-59 years age group. Only 5.71 % of male and 3.81 % female population fall in the age group of 60 and above. The sex ratio of this village has 875.

The total population of the Adma hill forest village households is 184 persons of which males account for 95 (51.63 %) and females for 89 (48.37 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 12.50 % of the male and 13.04 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 14.13 % males and 12.50 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 11.41 % and 11.96 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 9.24 % and 7.61 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 4.35 % males and 3.26 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 936.84.

The total population of the Raimatang village households is 271 persons, of which males account for 139 (51.29 %) and females for 132 (48.71 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 12.55 % of the male and 11.44 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 13.65 % males and 11.81 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 12.18 % and 12.55 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 8.49 % and 8.86 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 4.43 % males and 4.06 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 949.64.

The total population of the Bhutri forest basti village households is 221 persons of which males belongs to 113 (51.13 %) and females for 108 (48.87 %). About 13.57 % male and 13.12 % female of the village population are in the age group of 0-14 years and; 11.31 % male and 12.22 % female are in the age groups 15-29 years respectively. About 11.76 %, 8.59 %, and 5.88 % of this village population are in the age group of 30-44, 45-59, and 60 and above years for

male population, on the other side 10.86 %, 7.69 % and 4.98 % population are belongs to the female population. The sex ration of this village population is 955.75.

The total population of the Gudamdabri village households is 251 persons of which males account for 129 (51.39 %) and females for 122 (48.61 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 13.55 % of the male and 13.94 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 11.16 % males and 9.96 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 11.16 % and 10.76 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 8.37 % and 7.57 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 7.17 % males and 6.37 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 945.74.

The total population of the Chunabati hill forest village households is 211 persons of which males belongs to 109 (51.66 %) and females for 102 (48.34 %). About 12.32 % male and 9.16 % female of the village population are in the age group of 0-14 years and; 13.74 % male and 10.36 % female are in the age groups 15-29 years respectively, 9.00 %, 9.95 %, and 6.64 % of this village population are in the age group of 30-44, 45-59, and 60 and above years for male population, on the other side 8.37 %, 6.77 % and 5.98 % population are belongs to the female population. The sex ration of this village population is 935.78.

The total population of the Bhutiabasti village households is 133 persons of which males account for 68 (51.13 %) and females for 65 (48.87 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 12.03 % of the male and 12.78 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 12.78 % males and 11.28 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 11.28 % and 9.02 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 9.77 % and 8.27 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 5.26 % males and 7.52 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 955.89.

The total population of the Sankosh village households is 331 persons of which males belongs to 169 (51.06 %) and females for 162 (48.94 %). About 13.29 % male and 12.08 % female of the village population are in the age group of 0-14 years and; 11.78 % male and 11.18 % female are in the age groups 15-29 years respectively. About 11.18 %, 10.27 %, and 4.53 % of this village population are in the age group of 30-44, 45-59, and 60 and above years for male population, on the other side 11.48 %, 9.37 % and 4.83 % population are belongs to the female population. The sex ration of this village population is 958.58.

The total population of the Lapraguri village households is 231 persons of which males account for 118 (51.08 %) and females for 113 (48.92 %). The age and sex composition pattern

of this village population reveals that 12.99 % of the male and 11.69 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 11.26 % males and 11.69 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 10.39 % and 9.53 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 9.52 % and 8.66 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 6.93 % males and 7.26 % females belongs to this village. The sex ratio of this village has 957.63.

The total population of the Santrabari hill village households is 310 persons of which males belongs to 159 (51.67 %) and females for 151 (48.33 %). About 11.94 % male and 12.58 % female of the village population are in the age group of 0-14 years and; 12.26 % male and 10.97 % female are in the age groups 15-29 years respectively. About 10.32 %, 9.03 %, and 7.74 % of this village population are in the age group of 30-44, 45-59, and 60 and above years for male population, and about 9.99 %, 8.39 % and 6.77 % population are belongs to the female population. The sex ration of this village population is 949.68.

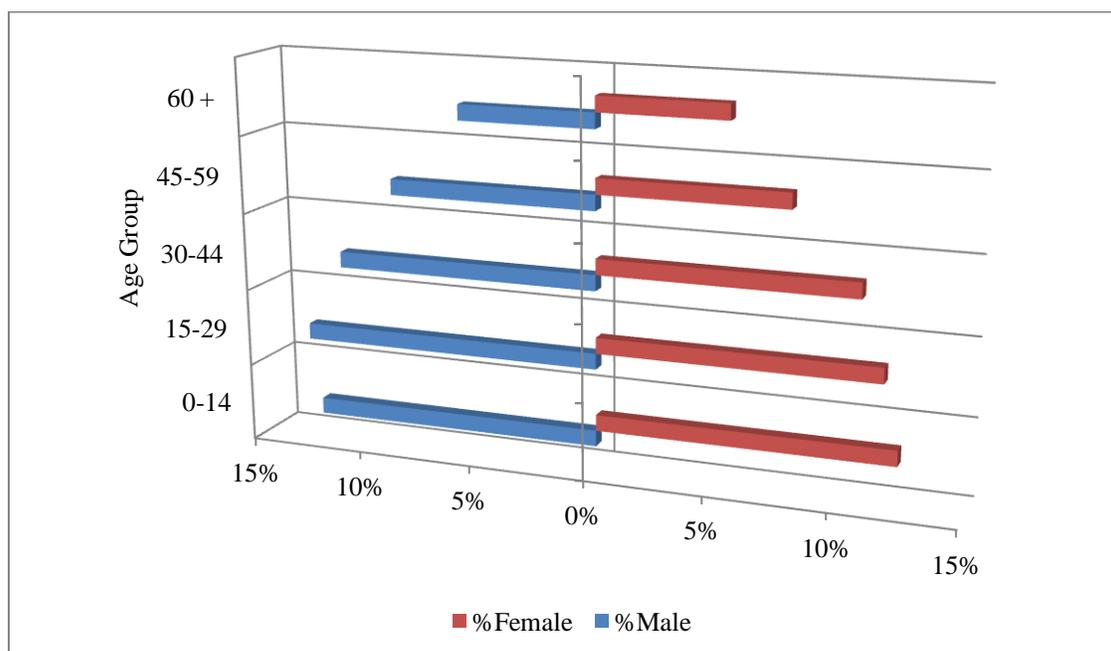
The total population of the Balapara village households is 152 persons of which males account for 78 (51.63 %) and females for 74 (48.37 %). The age and sex composition pattern of this village population reveals that 14.47 % of the male and 15.13 % of female in the age group of 0-14 years, 11.84 % males and 11.18 % females are in the age group of 15-29 years, 11.18 % and 9.87 % are in the group of 30-44 years and 9.21 % and 7.89 % are in the group of 45-59 years. In the age group of 60 and above there are only 4.61 % males and 4.61 % females in this village. The sex ratio of this village has 948.73.

A total population of the households are 4071 persons of which males account for 2102 (51.63 %) and females for 1969 (48.37 %). The age and sex composition of sampled villages population indicates that 24.83 % villagers associates with the age group of up to 14 years where 12.36 % is female and 12.48 % is male, about 24.71 % population are belongs to the age group of 15-29 years of which 11.74 % is females and 12.97 % is males, 22.16 % are pertains in the age group of 30 to 44 years of which 10.78 % females and 11.37 % is males, as well as 16.93 % are associates in the group of 45 to 59 years where 7.98 % is females and 8.94 % is males. There are only 11.38 % population is in the age group of 60 and above, of which 5.50 % is females 5.87 % is males of sampled villages. Besides, the sex ratio of population is normally expressed as the number of females' population per 1000 males' population. The overall sex ratio between male and female is 936.73 (Table 4.5).

**Table 4.5** Overall age-sex composition.

Overall age-sex composition							
Age Group	Male		Female		Both		Sex Ratio
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	
0-14	508	12.48	503	12.37	1011	24.83	990.16
15-29	528	12.97	478	11.74	1006	24.71	905.30
30-44	463	11.37	439	10.78	902	22.16	948.16
45-59	364	8.94	325	7.98	689	16.93	892.86
60 +	239	5.87	224	5.50	463	11.37	937.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>51.63</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>48.37</b>	<b>4071</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>936.73</b>

Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017.



**Figure 4.2** Age-wise male & female population

#### 4.1.1.3 Ethnic composition

The table 4.6 shows that about 3009 (73.91 %) of forest-villagers area belonging to the ST community which is found as a dominant community of forest villagers. It is followed by General 667 (16.38 %), and OBC 346 (8.51 %) of forest villagers respectively. However it is also noticed that only 49 (1.20 %) villagers are associates to SC community. So from the above observation, it is identified that majority of villagers are belongs to ST, which indicates that the area is resided by socially, economically and educationally belongs to backward class population.

**Table 4.6** Ethnic composition of sampled forest villages.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Ethnic composition				Total
		SC	ST	OBC	GEN	
1	Lehra	-	93	-	-	93
2	Suni	-	127	-	-	127
3	Garo Basti	05	304	12	08	329
4	Gadhadhar	-	331	06	11	348
5	Poru (N)	-	301	-	-	301
6	Nimati and Dabri	21	306	24	17	368
7	Gangutia H.A	-	13	48	149	210
8	Adma H.A	-	184	-	-	184
9	Raimatang H.A	05	176	24	66	271
10	Bhutri forest basti H.A	-	09	63	149	221
11	Gudamdabri	18	116	69	48	251
12	Chunabati H.A	-	211	-	-	211
13	Bhutiabasti	-	84	17	32	133
14	Sankosh	-	195	49	87	331
15	Lapraguri	-	231	-	-	231
16	Santrabari H.A	-	184	34	92	310
17	Balapara	-	144	-	08	152
<b>Total</b>		<b>49</b> <b>(1.20 %)</b>	<b>3009</b> <b>(73.91 %)</b>	<b>346</b> <b>(8.51 %)</b>	<b>667</b> <b>(16.38 %)</b>	<b>4071</b> <b>(100 %)</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017)

#### 4.1.1.4 The dominant communities in the study villages

There were a total of 6 prime communities among the 17 study villages. The dominant communities such as the Nepali, Rava and Dukpa/ Bhutia were the landowning agreement holder predominantly native communities and were the commonest in the area. The Nepalis are first major community and dominant in 5 villages i.e. in Garo basti, Adma, Raimatang, Bhutri and Santrabari village, Ravas in 5 villages i.e. in Suni, Gadhadhar, Poro, Nimati and Dabri, and Lapraguri, Dukpa/ Bhutias in 3 villages i.e. in Adma, Chunabati and Sankosh; others were dominated in few villages. All communities are considered as backward castes and poor in the sense of education, living standard and income level.

#### 4.1.1.5 Dominant tribal groups

A substantial proportion of the villagers are comprises of scheduled tribes (ST) which is found as a dominant community of forest villagers and it is about 3009 persons (73.91 %). Among them the prime communities are Santal, Rava, Mechia, Nepali, Bhutia, and Oraon. The Rava about 1290 (42.87 %), Tamang (Nepali) about 560 (18.62 %), Dukpa/ Bhutia about 541 (17.98 %) and Mech about 233 persons (7.74 %) community are proportionally higher among forest villagers (Table 4.7 & 4.8). Villagers living altogether in complete communal harmony. Relationship of

villagers within their own community and with other community is good. They marry socially although love marriage is also allowed within the society. They generally arrange their marriage within the same community. Durga puja, Shyama puja, Saraswati puja etc. are the festival of villagers who are Hindu and Christmas is the main festival among Christians. All communities are living peacefully and help one another; and gathered to help for social activities each other. The tribal population mainly Rava, Mechia, Oraon, and Madeshia are concentrated in southern and comparatively low lying and plain area, while Dukpas/ Bhutia tribes are lived on extreme North Buxa Hill and Nepalese are scattered all around (Das, 2000). There are good numbers of Bangali too live in the proximity of the forest villages.

**Table 4.7** Dominant communities in the study villages.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Major communities			
		First major community	Second major community	Third major community	Forth major community
1	Lehra	Santal	Rava	Oraon	-
2	Suni	Rava	Oraon	-	-
3	Garo Basti	Oraon	Rava	Nepali	-
4	Gadhadhar	Rava	Santal	Oraon	
5	Poro (N)	Rava	-	-	-
6	Nimati and Dabri	Rava	Bihari	Bengali	
7	Gangutia H.A	Nepali	-	-	-
8	Adma H.A	Dukpa/ Bhutia	Nepali	-	-
9	Raimatang H.A	Nepali	-	-	-
10	Bhutri forest basti H.A	Nepali	-	-	-
11	Gudamdabri	Mech	Bengali	Nepali	-
12	Chunabati H.A	Dukpa/ Bhutia	Nepali	-	-
13	Bhutiabasti	Nepali	Bihari	-	-
14	Sankosh	Dukpa/ Bhutia	Nepali	Santal	-
15	Lapraguri	Rava	Oraon	-	-
16	Santrabari H.A	Nepali	Dukpa/ Bhutia	Oraon	
17	Balapara	Mech	Nepali	Santal	-

H.A=High Altitude, Source: Source: Tiger conservation plan, 2016-17 to 2026-2027.

**Table 4.8** Dominant tribal group population of sampled forest villages.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Dominant tribal group						Total
		Santal	Oraon	Rava	Mech	Tamang	Dukpa/ Bhutia	
1	Lehra	93		-	-	-	-	93
2	Suni	107		20	-	-	-	127
3	Garo Basti	-	128	158	-	18	-	304
4	Gadhadhar	23	19	289	-	-	-	331
5	Poro (N)	-	-	301	-	-	-	301
6	Nimati and Dabri	-	-	306	-	-	-	306
7	Gangutia H.A	-	-	-	-	13	-	13

8	Adma H.A	-	-	-	-	-	184	184
9	Raimatang H.A	-	-	-	-	176	-	176
10	Bhutri forest basti H.A	-	-	-	-	09	-	09
11	Gudamdabri	-	-	-	94	22	-	116
12	Chunabati H.A	-	-	-	-	-	211	211
13	Bhutiabasti	-	-	-	-	84	-	84
14	Sankosh	-	-	-	-	67	128	195
15	Lapraguri	-	15	216	-	-	-	231
16	Santrabari H.A	-	-	-	-	166	18	184
17	Balapara	-	-	-	139	05	-	144
<b>Total</b>		<b>223</b> <b>(7.41%)</b>	<b>162</b> <b>(5.38%)</b>	<b>1290</b> <b>(42.87%)</b>	<b>233</b> <b>(7.74%)</b>	<b>560</b> <b>(18.62 %)</b>	<b>541</b> <b>(17.98%)</b>	<b>3009</b> <b>(100%)</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017)

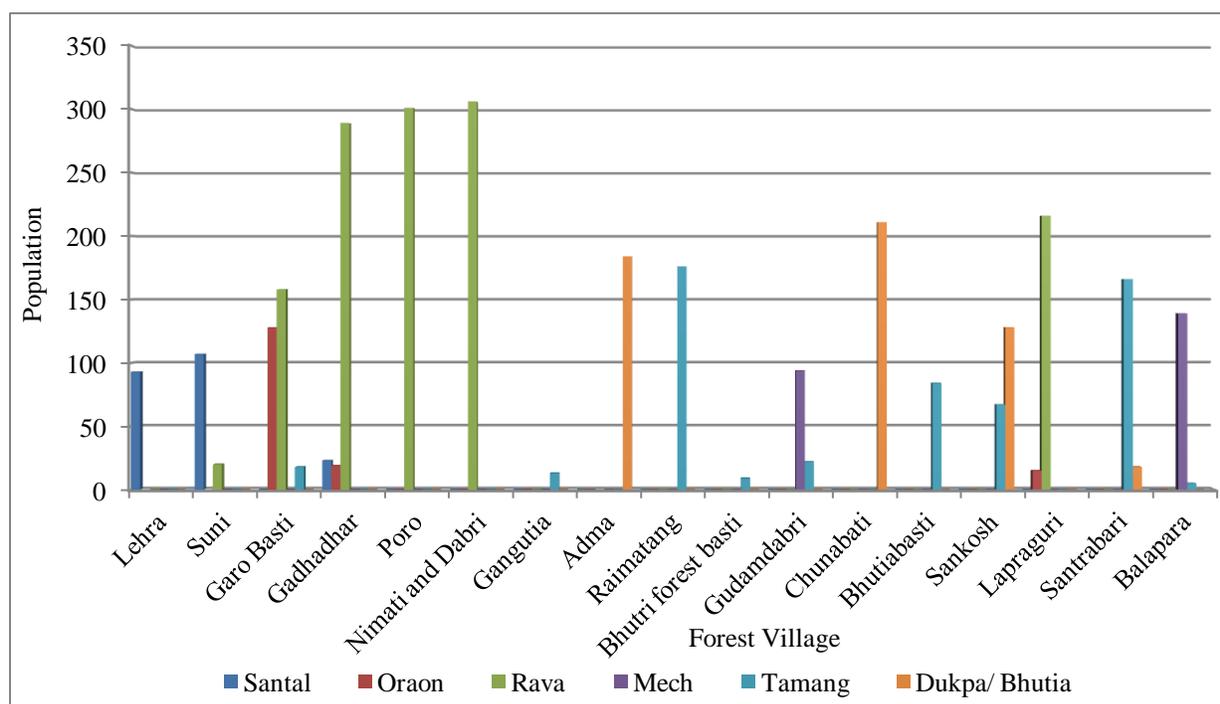


Figure 4.3 Dominant tribal group population (village-wise).

#### 4.1.1.6 Occupation

In the table 4.9, it is noticed that about 1443 (35.45 %) of forest villagers engaged in agriculture & livestock as their primary occupation. It is the highest percentages among villagers engaged in agriculture and livestock. The forest villagers are lowest in number of 19 (0.46 %) who are working in service as Govt. or private sector. It has also been observed that 1198 (29.43 %) are employed in agriculture labour and livestock, 424 (10.42 %) is in horticulture, agriculture and livestock, 424 (10.42 %) is in daily labour, forest product collection and livestock; and remaining 549 (13.48 %) belongs as students and other job. So, it is considered that for livelihood needs

villagers are mainly depend on different kinds of primary activities due to lack of opportunities of manufacturing and service jobs which have less importance for them.

**Table 4.9** Occupational structure of sampled forest villagers.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Occupation						Total
		Agricul-ture & Livestock	Agricultural Labour & Livestock	Daily Labour, Forest product collection & Livestock	Agricul-ture, Horticulture & Livestock	Service	Student & Other	
1	Lehra	47	31	-	-	01	14	93
2	Suni	52	36	11	15	01	12	127
3	Garo Basti	101	87	39	48	03	51	329
4	Gadhadhar	137	98	31	27	-	55	348
5	Poru (N)	89	78	37	56	-	41	301
6	Nimati and Dabri	146	85	41	48	02	46	368
7	Gangutia H.A	83	44	28	21	01	33	210
8	Adma H.A	55	53	31	24	-	21	184
9	Raimatang H.A	81	93	34	23	04	36	271
10	Bhutri F. basti H.A	84	71	24	16	01	25	221
11	Gudamdabri	104	83	21	11	01	31	251
12	Chunabati H.A	62	79	23	24	01	22	211
13	Bhutiabasti	41	46	14	11	-	21	133
14	Sankosh	129	98	24	31	02	47	331
15	Lapraguri	81	75	26	22	-	27	231
16	Santrabari H.A	93	89	28	50	02	48	310
17	Balapara	58	52	12	11	-	19	152
<b>Total</b>		<b>1443</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>4071</b>
<b>%</b>		<b>35.45</b>	<b>29.43</b>	<b>10.42</b>	<b>10.76</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>13.48</b>	<b>100</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017).



**Plante 4.1** Primary activity (paddy cultivation) at Gadhadhar village.

### 4.1.2 Migration

The tribal migration may be understood from two angles. The first is through pushed out factors and the second is pulled out factors that force the tribals to leave their lands (Hasnain, 2005). Generally migration among the forest villagers is uncommon since they are meant own self as son of soil. They love to stay within the silence forest environment and doing their daily day works for livelihood peacefully. However, the temporary migration has observed as common matter for rehabilitation, employment and education. The details are presented in table 4.10. The highest number of temporary migration has been experienced in case of employment purpose where members of 352 household (40.09 %) are connected with temporary migration and it is shown almost in all village.

**Table 4.10** Migration of the sample households.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Number of households connected with migration					
		Cause of migration					
		Rehabilitation		Education		Employment	
		Temporary migration	Permanent migration	Permanent migration	Temporary migration	Permanent migration	Temporary migration
1	Lehra	0	0	0	0	0	7
2	Suni	0	0	0	0	0	9
3	Garo Basti	0	0	0	0	0	23
4	Gadhadhar	0	0	0	0	0	29
5	Poro (N)	0	0	0	0	0	25
6	Nimati and Dabri	0	0	0	0	0	29
7	Gangutia H.A	0	0	0	3	0	12
8	Adma H.A	0	0	0	6	0	23
9	Raimatang H.A	0	0	0	4	0	26
10	Bhutri F. basti H.A	0	0	0	6	0	18
11	Gudamdabri	0	0	0	0	0	28
12	Chunabati H.A	0	0	0	9	0	21
13	Bhutiabasti	0	23	0	3	0	11
14	Sankosh	0	0	0	5	0	36
15	Lapraguri	0	0	0	0	0	17
16	Santrabari H.A	0	0	0	4	0	24
17	Balapara	0	0	0	0	0	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>23</b> <b>(2.62%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b> <b>(4.46%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>352</b> <b>(40.09%)</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017).

For education purpose, particularly in the level of higher secondary, and college education, only 40 families (4.46 %) of the sampled households attached with temporary migration and it is noticed mainly in case of hill top villages such as Adma, Chunabati, Raimatang, Gangutia who are located far from transport line. It is only 2.62 % household (23 household) where villagers

were moved and rehabilitated permanently outside from village as well as forest. The permanent migration also occurred towards village area but in little number due to marriage of females who are from outside of forest and fringe area. So it is noticed that the households practiced temporary migration mainly for employment, education and health related problems.

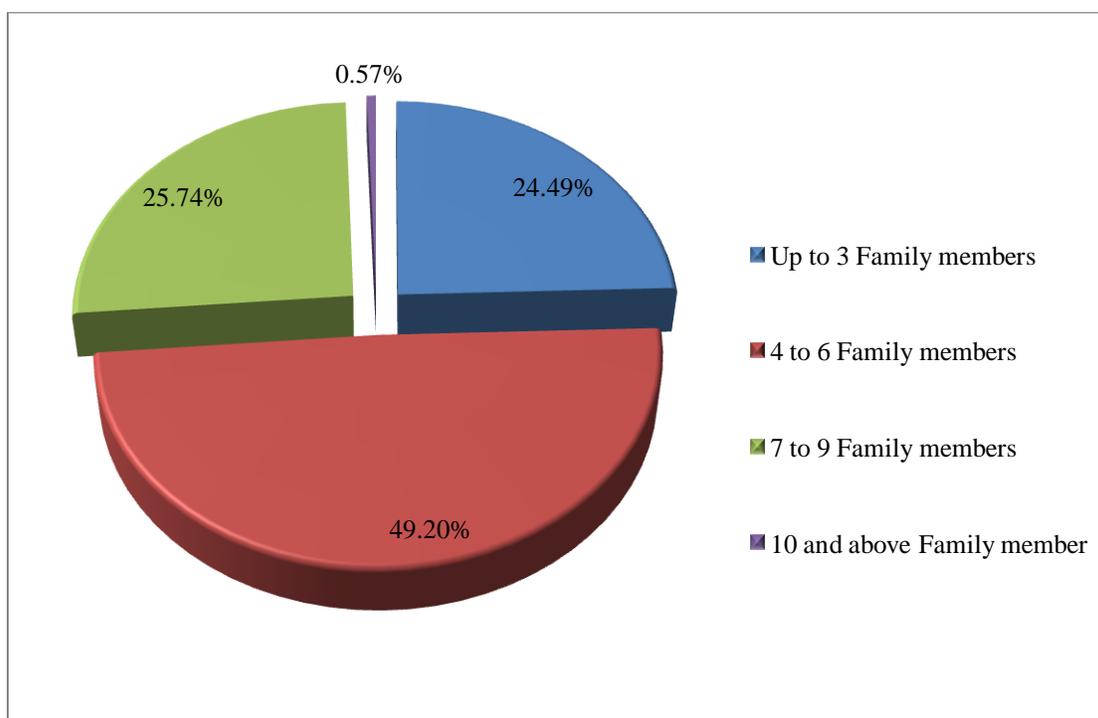
#### 4.1.3 Family size

The table 4.11 shows the type of family size of the sample households of the forest villages. Out of the total 878 sample households, 432 households (49.20 %) are of 4 to 6 family, followed by 7 to 9 members, 3 members and 10 and above members which constitute 25.75 %, 24.49 % and 0.57 % respectively. So it is clear that above 70 % of the households are belongs to the family of 4 to 9 members which is the result of economically and socially backwardness of the area where there is no idea regarding family planning among villagers hence they are less education and other social welfare related government project are not focused properly among this villages.

**Table 4.11** Family size of the sample households.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Family Size (members)				Total households
		Up to 3 family member	4 to 6 family member	7 to 9 family member	10 and above family member	
1	Lehra	07	12	03	-	22
2	Suni	09	13	06	-	28
3	Garo Basti	20	30	22	-	72
4	Gadhadhar	09	29	25	-	63
5	Poru (N)	13	28	20	-	61
6	Nimati and Dabri	08	33	27	-	68
7	Gangutia H.A	26	24	05	-	55
8	Adma H.A	21	32	02	-	55
9	Raimatang H.A	08	29	18	-	55
10	Bhutri F. basti H.A	07	23	14	01	45
11	Gudamdabri	21	34	08	-	63
12	Chunabati H.A	21	30	03	-	54
13	Bhutiabasti	09	15	06	-	30
14	Sankosh	06	29	23	02	60
15	Lapraguri	07	23	15	02	47
16	Santrabari H.A	14	29	22	-	65
17	Balapara	09	19	07	-	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>215</b> (24.49 %)	<b>432</b> (49.20 %)	<b>226</b> (25.74 %)	<b>05</b> (0.57 %)	<b>878</b> (100 %)

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017).



**Figure 4.4** Family size of sample households.

#### 4.1.4 Type of family

The table 4.12 shows the type of family type of the sample households. Out of the total 878 sample households, 462 families (52.62 %) are joint families, followed by 403 nuclear families (45.90 %), and 13 extended families (1.48 %). It is noticed that above fifty percent of the total family belongs to joint family which convey that the villagers still believes traditional way of livelihood. On the other hand nearly fifty percent of the family comes to the touch of modern culture and chosen nuclear family system for the betterment of family.

**Table 4.12** Family type of the sample households.

Sl. No.	Forest village	Family type			Total households
		Joint Family	Nuclear Family	Extended Family	
1	Lehra	17	05	-	22
2	Suni	24	04	-	28
3	Garo Basti	35	34	3	72
4	Gadhadhar	37	26	-	63
5	Poru (N)	30	31		61
6	Nimati and Dabri	31	34	03	68
7	Gangutia H.A	29	26	-	55
8	Adma H.A	21	32	02	55

9	Raimatang H.A	24	28	03	55
10	Bhutri forest basti H.A	27	18	-	45
11	Gudamdabri	30	33	-	63
12	Chunabati H.A	25	27	02	54
13	Bhutiabasti	17	13	-	30
14	Sankosh	33	27	-	60
15	Lapraguri	34	13	-	47
16	Santrabari H.A	29	36	-	65
17	Balapara	19	16	-	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>462</b> <b>(52.62 %)</b>	<b>403</b> <b>(45.90 %)</b>	<b>13</b> <b>(1.48 %)</b>	<b>878</b> <b>(100 %)</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017).

## 4.2 Social condition

### 4.2.1 Language

The dialect which the Lehra and Gadhadhar villagers are speaking is Santali language among them since almost all are belongs to the santal community. The Santali language is part of the Austro-Asiatic language family (Grunning, 1911). Most of the villagers communicating through Santali but they used other regional languages to interact with outsiders nearby such as Bengali, Hindi and Rajbanshi. The Rava tribes of Suni, Garo Basti, Gadhadhar, Poro, Nimti-Dabri and Lapraguri villagers' speaking Rava language among them which is their mother language. The Rava language belongs to Maituri, Rongdani category of Sino-Tibetan language family (Jose, 2000). They also speak in Bengali language in markets, schools and office but for neighbours they follow local language such as Rajbanshi, Nepali and Sadri.

The villagers' of Garo Basti, Gadhadhar and Lapraguri who are Oraon, converse with each other in Kurukh, a popular language. This language belongs to the Dravidian family group and has got a relation with other language including Brahui and Paharia (Karmakar, 2011). They also speak in Bengali and other local language such as Rajbanshi, Nepali and Sadri. The villagers' of Gangutia, Raimatang, Bhutri forest basti, Bhutiabasti, Sankosh and Santrabari are speaking Nepali as prime conversation language. This language belongs to the Indo-Aryan, Indo European and Sino-Tibetan language family group formally it is called as Khaskura and Gorkhali and has got a relation with other language including Paharia (Karmakar, 2011). They also speak in Bengali and other local language such as Rajbanshi and Sadri. The villagers' of Gudamdabri, Balapara who are Mech, converse with each other in Bodo language, which is Tibeto-Burman dialect, and this language belongs to the Indo European family group and has got a relation with

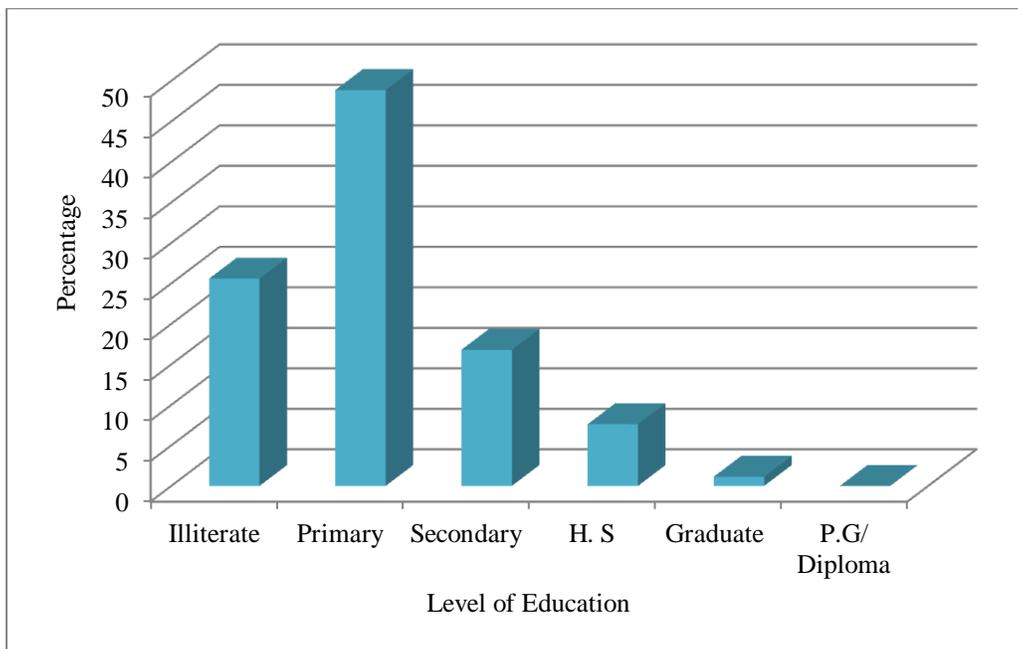
Assamese language (Debnath, 2010). They also speak in Bengali and other local language such as Rajbanshi and Nepali.

The villagers' of Adma, Chunabati, and few of Sankosh and Santrabari, who are Dukpa/Bhutia, are speaking Dzongkha as prime conversation language. Besides this they are speaking various language of the Tibeto-Burman branch of Sino-Tibetan language family group and have got a relation with other language including Khowa, Hruso (Karmakar, 2011). They also speak in Nepali and Hindi, some of them able to speak in Bengali and Sadri.

#### **4.2.2 Educational status**

Educational qualification is one prime indicator of the levels of living standard and development. A minimum level of education is necessary to acquire knowledge, to perceive and to solve daily day social problems. It is admitted that education and occupations are always interrelated with poverty, and it also proved that the jobs requiring the most education have high income opportunity and low poverty incidence. So richness/ poverty concentrated among employment with high/ low educational requirements. It can be said that education and literacy have a real bonding to change socio-economic status and also to increase the level of participation in developmental activities in the society. Since the state and central governments have been initiated numerous education related project for the development of backward class peoples such as Govt. running tribal residential schools exclusively meant for the Scheduled Tribes. The students are also provided with boarding and lodging facilities. The schools are established within respective backward class habitat area.

Hence, analyzing the education level of the forest villagers is one of the important variables to know the socio-economic conditions. The education scenario of the sample households were given in table 4.13 (Appendix D). Out of 4071 total inhabitants, 25.59 % are illiterates of which males constitute 13.31 % and female constitutes 12.28 %. About 48.87 % are primary school educations of which 25.79 % of the male and 23.07 % of the female, it is also mentioned that each every forest village have a primary education institution or school but for secondary, higher secondary and higher education there is not a single educational institute is noticed nearby any villages. Therefore in secondary, higher secondary and graduate level it is only 16.80 % (8.35 % male and 8.45 % female), 7.61% (3.59 % male and 4.03 % female) and 1.13% (0.59 % male and 0.54 % female) respectively which is too poor. It is also noticed that not a single villager has occupied P.G or other technical diploma.



**Figure 4.5** Educational level.

#### 4.2.3 Educational level of the head of the households

Among the total 878 households, 70.73 % of the household's heads are illiterate and only 29.27 % are literate in which about 22.89 % of the total literate household head have studied to the primary school education, 5.24 % have touched their education up to secondary level and only 1.14 % household's head educated up to higher secondary and graduate (table 4.14). From the observation it is also noticed that among literate household's head, about 78.21 % of the head household have only primary education which had direct effect in their family and surrounding socio-economic activities.

**Table 4.14** Educational level of the head of the sampled households

Sl. No.	Forest village	Illiterate Households	Literate Households	Literate			Total Households
				Primary (I-V)	Secondary (VI-X)	H.S (XI-XII) & Graduate	
1	Lehra	15	7	5	2	-	22
2	Suni	17	11	7	2	2	28
3	Garo Basti	51	21	16	4	1	72
4	Gadhadhar	45	18	14	3	1	63
5	Poro (N)	45	16	13	3	-	61
6	Nimati & Dabri	49	19	15	4	-	68
7	Gangutia H.A	39	16	14	2	-	55
8	Adma H.A	41	14	14	-	-	55
9	Raimatang H.A	34	21	15	4	2	55

10	Bhutri F. basti H.A	30	15	13	2	-	45
11	Gudamdabri	46	17	15	2	-	63
12	Chunabati H.A	41	13	10	3	-	54
13	Bhutiabasti	21	9	6	3	-	30
14	Sankosh	41	19	15	2	2	60
15	Lapraguri	35	12	9	3	-	47
16	Santrabari H.A	45	20	14	5	1	65
17	Balapara	26	9	6	2	1	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>621</b> <b>(70.73 %)</b>	<b>257</b> <b>(29.27 %)</b>	<b>201</b> <b>(22.89 %)</b>	<b>46</b> <b>(5.24 %)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(1.14 %)</b>	<b>878</b> <b>(100 %)</b>

H.A=High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017).



**Plate 4.2** Educational institution for basic education at Gangutia forest village.

#### **4.2.4 Education with reference to occupation**

In this study, an attempt has been made to know how far the occupational structure helped for education and other development. From the table 4.15 (Appendix D) it is clear that out of 4071 inhabitants, 25.59 % are illiterates of which males constitute 13.31 % and female constitutes 12.28 %. Among both of them 10.71 % are employed as labour of agriculture and MFP (Minor forest product collection), 5.94 % in labour and MFP collection, 4.54 % in labour, livestock and MFP collection and 4.39 % are engaged in own agricultural field for cultivation. About 48.87 % are primary school educations of which 25.79 % of the male and 23.07 % of the female. Among them 15.82 % are engaged as labour of agriculture and MFP, 10.02 % in Labour and MFP collection, 8.72 % are students, 7.79 % are of in labour, livestock and MFP collection and 6.51 % are engaged in own agricultural field for cultivation. In secondary education it is only about

16.80 % (8.35 % male and 8.45 % female) of which 5.31 % belongs to labour of agriculture and MFP, 4.10 % in labour and MFP collection, 3.49 % in students, 2.46 % labour, livestock and MFP collection and 1.45 % are engaged for cultivation of own land. In case of higher secondary it is about 7.61 % (3.59 % male and 4.03 % female) of which 2.58 % employed to labour of agriculture and MFP, 1.57 % in labour and MFP Collection, 1.30 % labour, livestock and MFP collection, 1.20 % in students and 0.71 % are engaged for cultivation of own land. Besides only 0.25 % are employed as service job in different government sectors. About 1.13 % (0.59 % male and 0.54 % female) are graduate which is too poor. Among them 0.42 % are engaged as labour of agriculture and MFP, 0.19 % in labour and MFP collection, 0.17 % in service, 0.15 % are of in labour, livestock and MFP collection, 0.122 % in agriculture respectively. It is noticed that not a single villager belongs post graduate or other technical diploma.

#### **4.2.5 Religious and beliefs**

From the table 4.8, it is observed that about 162 (5.38 %) Oraon tribe of this study area followed the 'Sarna Dharma (Sarna religion) but due to influence of Hinduism and Christianity some of them started following Sarna in Hindu style. The Oraon believe in nature and its power. The Dharti (the earth), Chando (the moon) and Biri (the Sun) are its representative divine powers, which are the prime sources of supernatural powers. Most of inhabitants are Sarna Dharma, in which Dharmesh is the supreme almighty (Ghosh, 2003). They called the earth Dharti Aayo (Earth as mother), worship nature and believe that the consciousness or the God is nature itself. The Rava community occupies 1290 (42.87 %) inhabitants of total household of which all of them worship Kamakhsha Devi during Ambubachi. They sacrifice bamboo to Goddess Kamaksha. Besides, they worship an evil God for the good health and prosperity of the children and for having the grace of bearing child. The name of evil God is Tukini. The Nepalese are dominant ethnic group in Tarai and Duars region. They have different caste and dialect among them Tamang are dominant in this study area. Their social practices and customs are based on Buddhism and they have own language, tamang and 560 (18.62 %) villagers of the study household belief Buddhism principle. The Santals are an important inhabitant tribal who belongs to 7.41 % (223 villagers) of total sampled household. They believe in supernatural beings and ancestral spirits and rituals consist mainly of sacrificial offerings and invocations to the spirits, or bongas. It is believed by some scholars that bongas means the same as Bhaga (or Bhagavan). About 233 (7.74 %) Meches of this study area worship the following deities: Mohes tacur-This is

the God who watches the moral character of people and villagers believe that he punishes man who commits a fault. The Bato-according to the villagers, this God lives in the Siju tree. This tree is planted in the courtyard of every Mach homestead and is regularly worshiped. Mahakal-It is the God of good spirit and is believed to be ever watching the action of the people. Bisu-Hari-she lives in a small house of owner of east. Minao-this God remains in the north hut, and Grajjo-this God is known as Kali. The Bhutias live in only Chunabati village of Buxa in North Bengal. The Bhutias or Dukpa as they called belongs to the country of the Bhutan. In the sampled study they have 541(17.98 %) inhabitants who are Buddhist, and generally confine themselves to repeating the words Om-Mani-Padine-Horn. In their village, have a small temple at which Lama offers prayers daily for the people.



**Plate 4.3** Religious institutions at Poro (N) village.

#### **4.2.6 Marital Status**

To know the demographic status of any community, it is very important to examine the marital situation of population of the study area. Because the percentage of married, widow, divorce helps to study the reproductive population as well as important to examine how far this status is related with varied ecology and environment. From the table 4.16, it has been observed that the number of married person is more than unmarried person and number of widowed, divorce or separated persons are significantly low. Numerically the married persons account for 2942 (72.27 %) while 1022 (25.11 %) are unmarried of the total 4071 population. There are 1519

married persons, 54 unmarried person, 24 widowers and 18 divorces among the males constituting 37.31 %, 13.29 %, 0.59 % and 0.44 % of the total male population respectively. On the side there are 1423 married persons, 481 unmarried persons 37 widows and 28 divorces among the females constituting 34.95 %, 11.82 %, 0.91 % and 0.69 % of the total female population respectively.

**Table 4.16** Marital status of villagers (household-wise).

Sl. No	Marital Status	Unmarried			Married			Widow			Divorce			Total		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1	Lehra	14	12	26	31	28	59	3	4	7	1	-	1	49	44	93
2	Suni	21	17	38	45	38	83	2	3	5	1	-	1	69	58	127
3	Garo Basti	54	47	101	113	110	223	-	2	2	3	-	3	170	159	329
4	Gadhadhar	55	50	105	121	114	235	3	2	5	-	3	3	179	169	348
5	Poru (N)	48	43	91	104	96	200	1	4	5	2	3	5	155	146	301
6	Nimati and Dabri	50	47	97	136	124	260	-	6	6	5	-	5	191	177	368
7	Gangutia H.A	36	34	70	76	63	139	-	1	1	-	-	-	112	98	210
8	Adma H.A	22	19	41	71	66	137	2	-	2	-	4	4	95	89	184
9	Raimatang H.A	26	24	50	106	97	203	4	6	10	3	5	8	139	132	271
10	Bhutri forest basti H.A	19	23	42	94	82	176	-	2	2	-	1	1	113	108	221
11	Gudamdabri	27	22	49	99	95	194	3	-	3	-	5	5	129	122	251
12	Chunabati H.A	21	17	38	86	84	170	1	1	2	1	-	1	109	102	211
13	Bhutiabasti	20	17	37	48	48	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	65	133
14	Sankosh	40	38	78	127	121	248	2	3	5	-	-	-	169	162	331
15	Lapraguri	24	22	46	94	89	183	-	1	1	-	1	1	118	113	231
16	Santrabari H.A	44	31	75	112	114	226	3	2	5	-	4	4	159	151	310
17	Balapara	20	18	38	56	54	110	-	-	-	2	2	4	78	74	152
	<b>Total</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>1519</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>2942</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>4071</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>13.29</b>	<b>11.82</b>	<b>25.11</b>	<b>37.31</b>	<b>34.95</b>	<b>72.27</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>51.63</b>	<b>48.37</b>	<b>100</b>

H.A = High Altitude, (Prepared by the researcher based on field survey, 2017).

### 4.3 Conclusion

Here important aspects of the forest villagers' demography, social and culture life have been depicted. The various tables have been documented to have a very clear idea about demographic characteristics of forest villagers such as their age group, age-sex composition, ethnic variation, family size and family type; and social customs i.e. education, migration, occupation, language, marital status, religious festivals associated with agriculture and traits related with the forest environment have been describe carefully. The changes of family types have been noticed among

villagers and it is trends into joint to single/ nuclear family type. The situation of marital status is not indicates the good social condition of villagers and it is observed that early marriage is a common matter both for girls and boys in every community. In respect of occupation of the villagers it has been identified that only primary occupation is the main source of income which has been in a pinpointed situation. It has also been observed that occupation pattern of the villagers are not uniform. There is a variation of agricultural practices in respect of geographical settings which is clearly depicted between high altitude and plain area villages. The economy is still based on primitive agriculture to a great extent in the high altitude villages. The higher education is not having a good position and it is happened only for remote location as well as far distance of main transport line of villages. So residential/ ashram type high and higher secondary school are needed by which new generation will be in a position to complete all sorts of situations through education.

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