

Preface

This work is the first of its kind studying the poverty scenario among the Scheduled Castes people of Assam in general and in particular of Dhubri district of Assam. In this study, an attempt has been made to describe 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.

In order to arrive at the concrete form of the work (study), the whole analysis has been organized into seven chapters. The First Chapter (Chapter-1) gives an introduction to the work, its scope and objectives, its location as well as the research method and techniques adopted for the study. Chapter-2 contains the Review of Literature. Chapter-3 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-4 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-5 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-6 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-7 summarizes the findings of the above chapters and suggests measures for improvement of the socio-economic and demographic life of the Scheduled Castes people.

Apart from studying the socio-economic and demographic life of the Scheduled Castes people, this thesis also discusses various economic issues relating to socio-economic characteristics, traditional occupational pattern, existing occupational pattern, demographic behaviour of Scheduled Castes people, adoption behaviour of family planning measures, various poverty alleviation programmes and their implementation, problems of poverty and unemployment, etc. are dealt with in detail.

The study is based mainly on primary data collected through personal survey of the sample households of twelve villages by filling up of questionnaire. Of course, secondary sources of data like Census of 2001 and 2011, etc. were also used to analyse the various economic parameters of the study area. Therefore, I hope that this work will serve the purpose of reference to research scholars as well as fellow colleague in teaching communities of rural economics.

In the light of the findings of the study, various suggestions are put forward for the improvement of the socio-economic condition and demographic life of the scheduled castes people of Dhubri district of Assam. Besides these, a whole-hearted effort of the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Gaon Panchayats, dynamic role of the educated youths, Mahila Samities, etc are required for a drastic change in the socio-economic and demographic life of the Scheduled Castes people of Assam.

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