

**Socioeconomic Status of the People residing in
the Rural Area: A Study in Barhampur
Development Block of Nagaon District of
Assam**



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PREFACE

Socio-economic status is the field of study that examines social and economic factors to better understand how the combination of both influences something. Socio-economic status basically refers to economic and sociological combined total measures of an individual's or a family's social and economic position based on income, education, occupation, wealth etc. The socio-economic characteristics pertaining to demography, means of production and investment of income and expenditure pattern of people living in a particular location strongly influence their standard of living and level of human development. Different socio-economic factors have huge impact on economic development as it affects health, education, mortality, fertility, income etc. Socio-economic characteristics are the important tools to the measures of human development. Socio-economic factor is the most important determinant of the livelihoods as it influences levels of knowledge, skill and income conditions which mean for their living. Research work as revealed by our literature survey relating to the socio economic status of the rural people in Nagaon district of Assam is very scanty. So in order to assess the level of development of the people living in the rural area it is quite important to assess the socio economic status by using different standard socio economic indicators. This will help the policy makers to have a grass root level idea about the real picture of development and accordingly they can adopt policy implications for the all-round development of the people. This research work is carried out with the help and support of the 3rd Semester (Honours) students of the department, especially in the field survey and data entry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives us immense pleasure to express our deep sense of gratitude and respectful thanks to the respected Principal of Dr. B.K.B. College, our mentor, Dr. Nripen Ch Das, who had given us permission and guided us, without which, we would not have been able to carry out this research work. His invaluable advices and contribution not only helped us immensely to carry forward the study but also enriched our understanding in the concerned field. We, the entire Department of Economics can never forget his generous help and support while undertaking the work.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Kamal Saikia, Vice Principal of Dr. B.K.B. College, Puranigudam for his support and help to complete the work. We are thankful to all other faculty members of the different Departments of Dr. B.K.B. College, Puranigudam who inspired us with their valuable advices during the course of my work. We owe to the office staff also for their cooperation and support.

We are immensely grateful to the simple villagers of Barhampur Development Block of Nagon District without their cooperation this study would have not materialized. All through the field work we were in an incomparable comfort zone nourished by the warmth and innocence of the natives. The list goes on. But their non-inclusion in this page does not in any way downgrade my heartfelt gratitude to them.

Place: Puranigudam

Department of Economics

Dr. B.K.B. College

CONTENTS

Serial Number	Chapters	Page Number
1	Chapter 1	1-7
2	Chapter 2	8-10
3	Chapter 3	11-25
4	Chapter 4	26-29

List of Tables

The first digit of the table number stands for the chapter to which the particular table belongs, while the second digit indicates the serial number of that table in the chapter

Table No.	Title of the Table	Page No.
3.1	Distribution of Households by Religion	11
3.2	Distribution of Sample Households by Family Type	12
3.3	Distribution of the Sample Population by their Education Level	14
3.4	Distribution of the Sample Population by the Nature of Occupation	15
3.5	Possession of Assets by the Sample Households	18
3.6	Distribution of Sample Households on the Basis of Treatment of Drinking Water	22
3.7	Distribution of Sample Households on the Basis of Land Holdings	23
3.8	Respondent's Behaviour on Agricultural Practices	24
3.9	Health Status of the Sample Households	25

List of Figures

The first digit of the table number stands for the chapter to which the particular figure belongs, while the second digit indicates the serial number of that figure in the chapter

Table No.	Title of the Table	Page No.
3.1	Distribution of Households by Monthly Income	16
3.2	Distribution of Sample Households by Monthly Consumption Expenditure	17
3.3	Distribution of the Sample Households on the basis of Housing Type	19
3.4	Availability of Living Rooms	20
3.5	Source of Lighting	20
3.6	Distribution of Sample Households by source of Cooking Fuel	21
3.7	Source of Drinking Water	22
3.8	Distribution of Households on the basis of Toilet Facility	23

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AHDR	-	Assam Human Development Report
AMSS	-	Assam Mahila Samata Society
APHDR	-	Arunachal Pradesh Human Development Report
BPL	-	Below Poverty Line
DB	-	Development Block
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GMI	-	Gender Empowerment Index
GNI	-	Gross National Income
GNP	-	Gross National Product
HDI	-	Human Development Index
HDR	-	Human Development Report
HPI	-	Human Poverty Index
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
MPI	-	Multidimensional Poverty Index
NHDR	-	National Human Development Report
NSSO	-	National Sample Survey Organization
PCI	-	Per Capita Income
RC	-	Revenue Circle
UNDP	-	United Nation Development Programme
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	-	World Health Organization

CHAPTER 1

Introduction:

Socio-economic status is the field of study that examines social and economic factors to better understand how the combination of both influences something (Masudkar et al., 2017). Socio-economic status basically refers to economic and sociological combined total measures of an individual's or a family's social and economic position based on income, education, occupation, wealth etc. Mueller and Paral (1981) have defined socio-economic status as the relative position of a family or an individual within hierarchical social structure, based on their access to prestige, power and wealth. The socio-economic characteristics pertaining to demography, means of production and investment of income and expenditure pattern of people living in a particular location strongly influence their standard of living and level of human development. Different socio-economic factors have huge impact on economic development as it affects health, education, mortality, fertility, income etc. Socio-economic characteristics are the important tools to the measures of human development. Socio-economic factor is the most important determinant of the livelihoods as it influences levels of knowledge, skill and income conditions which mean for their living. Peoples' way of living is differ from one income group to another as their consumption power is also differ among income groups of population. According to Dutton and Levine (1989), socio-economic status is "a composite measure that typically incorporates economic status, measured by income; social status, measured by education; and work status, measured by occupation" . Rathod & Ningshen (2012), noted that Socio-economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of family's economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation. Krieger et al. (1997) define socio-economic position as 'an aggregate concept that includes both resource-based and prestige-based measures, as linked to both childhood and adult social class position'. Socio-economic status refers to the position of individuals, families, households, or other aggregates on one or more dimensions of stratification. These dimensions include income, education, prestige, wealth, or other aspects of standing that member of society deem salient. Socio-economic status is often considered a personal demographic variable; however, Socio-economic status can also reflect aspects of an individual's broader environment. As a result, it can be measured at the individual level or the area level (Lynch, J., & Kaplan, G., 2000).

Modern India stands as one of the most diverse countries in the world in terms of socio economic condition, a subcontinent that is home to over 100 languages, over 700 different

tribes, every major religion in the world, and to some of the world's largest cities as well as remote regions with almost no people. India's socio economic diversity is reflected in its religions, ethnicities, customs, and social structures across a population of 1.3 billion people and the country's secular and pluralist approach since its inception has arguably helped India being to realise a "Diversity Dividend". In addition to democracy (India being the world's largest) and demographics (it has the world's largest population of young people), diversity is a key asset in India's favour which adds a crucial qualitative layer to propel India's development and rise in global significance, which is expected to see the country cross US\$5tn of GDP by 2025. India is predominantly a rural country with two third population and 70% workforce residing in rural areas. Rural economy constitutes 46 per cent of national income. Despite the rise of urbanisation more than half of India's population is projected to be rural by 2050. Agriculture is an important sector of Indian economy as it contributes about 17% to the total GDP and provides employment to over 60% of the population. Indian agriculture has registered impressive growth over last few decades. Thus growth and development of rural economy and population is a key to overall growth and inclusive development of the country (Arjun, Kekane Maruti, 2013).

Socio Economic Status of Assam:

Assam, the North-Eastern sentinel of the frontiers of India, is a state richly endowed with different natural resources. Assam is the largest state considering its population & geographical area among the eight Sister States of North East India. The state Assam is sharing her border with 7 states like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and West Bengal. Assam with her geographical area of 78,438 sq. kms. i.e. about 2.4 percent of the country's total geographical area, provides shelter to 2.58 percent of the population of the country. The population of Assam is about 31,169,272 as in 2011 census, of which 15,954,927 are males and 15,214,345 are females. The sex ratio (females per 1000 males) is 954 and the female literacy ratio is 73.18 percent (Census, 2011).

Assam is predominantly a rural based state, almost 86 per cent of its population still living in rural areas. The socio-economic position among the people in rural areas is very pathetic compare to urban area & all India figures. Assam exhibits all the characteristics of an underdeveloped economy. Assam is one of the most backward states of India. This is evident from the wide spread poverty, very poor productivity, high rate of unemployment, inequality in the distribution of income and wealth, high infant mortality rate, high maternal mortality rate, low literacy rate and low per capita income. Though rich in natural resources, Assam's

level of resource use is very poor. Rural poverty is more than twice that of urban poverty. The population growth in Assam also implied that there has hardly been any reduction in the absolute number of the poor over the years. Demographically, the state Assam is characterized by with her population, which is 31 million compare to all India total 1210 million as per 2011 census. Population density of Assam is calculated as 397 per sq. km which is little high compare to national figure 382 per sq. km.

According to Assam Human Development Report, 2003 the HDI value of that state as a whole was only 0.407. Only seven districts had HDI values higher than the state average. The remaining 16 districts had HDI values lower than the state average reflecting considerable inequality. The progress and level of human development in Assam is not satisfaction (AHDR 2003). Assam published its second Human Development Report in 2014. According to this report the HDI value for the state was 0.557 which vividly points out that, in terms of the level of human development Assam is the half waypoint in achieving the desired goal (AHDR 2014). In this report, it is found that progress is half way in all the three key dimensions. There is a high degree of inequalities and disparities among the different districts of the state as reflected in the levels of human development. Inequalities in opportunities with regard to three key dimensions of human development have been prevailing in Assam and it results in loss in potential human development attainments to a considerable extent in the state.

Brief Description about the Study Area

The present study is conducted in the Nagaon district of Assam. The old Nagaon district with its headquarter at Puranigudam was known as Khargarijan in the past. The recent research activities show that the whole of Nagaon district consisted of different independent kingdoms ruled by different rulers such as the king of Kamrupa, the Jaintias, the Kacharis, the Bara-Bhuyans, the Koches, the Ahoms etc. (District Census Hnadbook, 2011).

During the early period of British rule Nagaon district was first administered with Kamrup and Darrang districts. But in 1835 it was formed into a separate district with headquarters of Puranigudam. The headquarters was shifted to Rangagora in 1835. But in 1839 the headquarters was again transferred to Nagaon due to the unhealthy nature of the place. Nagaon district played very important role in the Quit India Movement. Some of the important episodes of the Nagaon district: during the struggle for independence mention may be made of Gandhi's visit to Nagaon in 1921, organization of Santi Sena, dislocation of

railway lines in 1942, Bebejia firing, Jangalbalahu firing, Barpujia firing, Barhampur firing, etc. In this firing many persons lost their lives for the cause of independence. The people of Nagaon continued to play a vital role in the freedom movement till India achieved independence on August 15th, 1947.

Presently the district shares the common boundaries with Golaghat & karbi anglong district on the east; Morigaon district on the west; Hojai & Dima Hasao District on the south and Bharmaputra River and Sonitpur District on the North.

Nagaon district has two Sub Divisions namely Kaliabor and Nagaon. Again Nagaon district possesses seven revenue circles with thirteen development blocks. The development blocks are Khagorijan, Pakhimoria, Dolonghat, Raha, Batadraba, Juria, Ruphihut, Bajiagaon, Pachim Kaliabor, Kaliabor, Lowkhowa, Barhampur and Kathiatoli. Goalpara district occupies 169 Panchayats, 2 municipal boards and 2 town committees. The total geographical area of the district is 2287 square kilometers (District Census Handbook).

According to 2011 census the total population of Nagaon district was 1892550 of which 1,439,112 were male and 1,384,656 were female. The population density of the district is 711 and sex ratio is 962. The child sex ratio of the district is 964. The district has a literacy rate of 72.37 percent which is slightly higher than the state average of 72.19 percent (census of India). According to 2011 Indian Census, the Muslims form a slight majority in the district with 55.36%, with Hindus accounting for 43.4%, followed by 0.95% Christians. Small populations of Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains also reside in the district. According to the 2011 census, 62.84% of the population speaks Assamese, followed by 28.61% Bengali, 3.9% Hindi and 0.79% Bodo speakers. 3.86% of the population speaks other minority languages. Agriculture is the backbone of the district and of Assam state. Rice is the principal crop and is the staple food. Fisheries are another major economy of Nagaon.

Importance of the Study:

A study on the socio economic status of the people residing in the rural area of Nagaon district is important because of the following reason –

Research work as revealed by our literature survey relating to the socio economic status of the rural people in Nagaon district of Assam is very scanty. So in order to assess the level of development of the people living in the rural area it is quite important to assess the socio economic status by using different standard socio economic indicators. This will help the

policy makers to have a grass root level idea about the real picture of development and accordingly they can adopt policy implications for the all-round development of the people.

Objective:

1. To examine the present socio economic status of the people living in the rural area of Barhampur Development Block of Nagaon District of Assam.

Methodology

Data Source

The study is mainly based on primary data. However, some amounts of secondary data are also used in the study. The secondary data are collected from government sources and reports of research organizations dealing with socio economic development. The main sources of secondary data are-

1. Census of India, 2011.
2. Assam Human Development Report 2014.
3. UNDP's Human Development Reports.
4. National Family Health Survey (2015-16).
5. Economic Survey, 2017-18.
6. District Census Handbook of Nagaon District.

The required primary data are collected through sample survey. By following multistage sampling technique (random and purposive), the samples for the study have been drawn. The sample design involves the following stages –

1. Selection of District

The first stage involves the selection of appropriate district for the collection of the samples. For the present study Nagaon district of Assam has been selected as the sample district as Nagaon district is situated in the middle part of the state of Assam. This district has its own socio economic diversity in terms of religion, caste, language and economy.

2. Selection of Revenue Circle

The selected district has been further stratified into seven Revenue Circles. They are Kaliabor, Samaguri, Raha, Nagaon, Kampur, Dhing and Rupohi. From these seven Revenue Circles Nagaon Revenue Circle has been selected as a sample Revenue Circle as it is situated in the center of the district.

3. Selection of Development Blocks

Nagaon Revenue Circle has four development blocks namely Barhampur, Khagarijan, Dolong Ghat and Pakhimuria of which Barhampur Development Block has been selected as sample development block randomly.

4. Selection of Villages

From the selected development block three sample villages namely Gayan Bairagi village, Majgaon and Na Ali Mur are selected randomly in order to carry out the study.

5. Selection of Households

The last stage of the sample design involves the selection of the sample households from each sample village. For this purpose 10 percent of the households from each sample village are randomly selected as sample households. Finally, a total of 60 households from the sample villages are selected for the purpose of the study. The necessary data to fulfill the objectives of the study have been collected through direct interview with the help of structured questionnaires prepared for the study.

Methods

To fulfill the objective of the study primary data have been collected relating to the socio economic condition of the sample households which are analyzed by using simple statistical technique of percentage and presented in tables and diagrams.

Topical Organization of the Study

The present study has been organized into four chapters. The chapterization scheme is mentioned below –

Chapter – 1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the concept of socio economic status; the present socio economic status of India and Assam. After that brief description about the study is provided followed by the importance of the study; objectives of the study and methodology of the study.

Chapter – 2 Review of Literature

This chapter reviews the exiting literature relating to human Socio Economic status.

Chapter – 3 Socio Economic and Demographic Characteristics of the Sample Population

This chapter analyses the different demographic and socio economic characteristics like religion, sex ratio, educational status, occupational status, level of income, consumption pattern, housing condition etc. of the sample households in details.

Chapter - 4 Summary and Conclusion

This is the last chapter of the study which includes the major findings of the previous chapters. It also includes certain suggestions which have been made on the basis of the findings.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature helps us to understand the different dimensions of an issue. It also helps us in recognizing the methodological and conceptual issues relevant to the study. Review of literature will make it possible for the researcher to collect information and subject them to sound reasoning and provide meaningful interpretation. The different issues that have been found during the literature survey can be used for the formation of research objectives and research questions. Further it helps in identifying the research gap too.

This chapter focuses on the review of different research literatures relating to socio economic status carried out at state, national and international levels by both individual scholars and institutions. Here literature survey has been divided into two parts – firstly, review on the concept of socioeconomic status and secondly, review of studies made by individual researchers on the impact of the socioeconomic status on the different development indicators. Taussig (1920) conceptualized socioeconomic status as the occupational status of the father. Later, Cuff (1934) adopted a score card proposed by Sims (1927) as a measure of socioeconomic status; this included questions about items possessed by the home, parents' education, father's occupation, and other relevant information.

Liberatos et al. (1988) argued that there was no one best measure, because the choice of the socioeconomic status measure depended on the conceptual relevance, the possible role of social class in the study, the applicability of the measure to the specific populations being studied, the relevance of a measure at the time of study, the reliability and validity of the measure, the number of indicators included, the level of measurement, the simplicity of the measure, and comparability with measures used in other studies.

By the 1980s, one general agreement had emerged: socioeconomic status should be a composite variable, typically measuring education, income, and occupation, since these three indicators reflect different aspects of family background (Brese and Mirazchiyski 2013).

The American Psychological Association (APA) defines socioeconomic status as “the social standing or class of an individual or group”. Socioeconomic status has been commonly used as a latent construct for measuring family background (Bornstein and Bradley, 2014). However, among empirical studies, there is no consensus on how to best operationalize the concept. In many studies, the measurement of socioeconomic status does not receive much

attention, with very limited discussion over why certain indicators were used rather than others (Bofah and Hannula 2017).

Recently a huge numbers of studies have been conducted by different research organizations and individual researchers which show the impact of socioeconomic status on the different development indicators.

Theoretical and empirical work has emphasized that family socioeconomic status has an impact on children's educational outcomes, examined mechanisms through which family socioeconomic status is related to children's achievement, and identified potential pathways behind this relationship, one of which uses three forms of capital: economic, cultural, and social capital (Bourdieu 1986; Coleman 1988, 1990).

Billings et al (1993) in their study titled "Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Hospital Use in New York City" examines the potential impact of socioeconomic differences on rates of hospitalization, based on patterns of hospital use in New York City in 1988. The research suggests that lack of timely and effective outpatient care may lead to higher hospitalization rates in low-income areas. For certain conditions identified as ambulatory care sensitive, hospitalization rates were higher in low-income areas than they were in higher-income areas where appropriate outpatient care was more readily available.

Adler and Ostrove (2011) in their study examine the data regarding the SES–health gradient, addressing causal direction, generalizability across populations and diseases, and associations with health for different indicators of SES. There are multiple pathways by which SES determines health; a comprehensive analysis must include macroeconomic contexts and social factors as well as more immediate social environments, individual psychological and behavioral factors, and biological predispositions and processes.

Shah et al (2012) in their study titled "Impact of Socioeconomic Status of Family on the Academic Achievements of Students" examines two important aspects. Firstly, it studies the relationship between Socio-Economic Status (SES) of the family and academic achievements of their family members. Secondly, it investigates the impact of SES on the academic achievements of the children. For this study eight colleges and two Higher Secondary Schools were selected from D I Khan District. A sample of 20 students was selected from each college and school. Rank correlation and Chi Square test have been used to test the

hypothesis. The findings show positive and strong correlation between SES and academic achievements of the children.

Daraei and Mohajery (2013) in their study aim at describing the problems of female domestic workers, the relationship of their employers with them, and exploring the impact of socioeconomic status mainly, occupation, education, and income on life satisfaction. The results of the observation and interview indicate that domestic workers suffer from various problems inside and outside their homes. The relationship between domestic workers and employers is a master–servant relationship. Domestic workers remain as an unorganized job group though in 2004 the Karnataka Minimum Wage Act was passed. The quantitative findings reveal that there is a positive correlation between socioeconomic status and life satisfaction. This type of study displays that enacting law is not sufficient; it necessitates implementing and monitoring properly. This study suggests measures for supporting female domestic workers.

CHAPTER - 3

SOCIO ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE POPULATION

Socio-economic status basically refers to economic and sociological combined total measures of an individual's or a family's social and economic position based on income, education, occupation, wealth etc. Mueller and Paral (1981) have defined socio-economic status as the relative position of a family or an individual within hierarchical social structure, based on their access to prestige, power and wealth. Different socio-economic factors have huge impact on economic development as it affects health, education, mortality, fertility, income etc. Every society has certain unique socio-economic-cultural characteristics. This chapter provides some of the noteworthy socio-economic features of the sample population of Barhampur Development Block of Nagaon district of Assam.

Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Sample Households –

3.1. Religion

Religion can influence the economic growth and population growth of a society. If people of a society are more religious, then it will have an adverse impact on economic development (Fanfani. A, 1993; Grier, 1997). Again Campante and Drott (2003) find that more religious beliefs have a negative effect on output growth in courtiers but increases subjective well being among them. Barro and Mc Cleary (2003), however, after empirical investigation finds that religious belief is positively related to economic growth. But economic growth is negatively related to more church attendance. The below table shows the distribution of sample household on the basis of religion.

Table 3.1

Distribution of Households by Religion

Religion	No. of households	Percentage
Hindu	38	63.33
Muslim	22	36.67

Total	60	100
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Source: Field Survey

In the present study it is found that 38 households (i.e. 63.33 percent) are Hindu and the rest 22 households (i.e. 36.67 percent) are Muslim.

3.2 Type of Family

Family, which is a primary social group, universally recognized to be the basis of all human endeavors and activities. In India, the joint family system is more popular from year to year. However, with the passage of time, changes in different factors like beliefs, norms, attitude towards life etc. have made changes towards the family from a joint to nuclear family system. Nuclear family is a family consisting most commonly of father, mother and children. In this type of family there are only children and two parents and it can be any size, as long as the family can provide the basic needs of the members of the family. On the other hand, in joint family many generations of a family live together under the same roof and use the same kitchen.

In the past, the rural people of Assam lived in joint family consisting of many generations. The eldest male of the family is usually the head of the family whom the other members are obliged. There is love and cooperation among the members and everybody participate in household activities for smooth functioning of the family.

However, the family structure of the rural people of Nagaon district of Assam has undergone change over the years. According to this study nuclear family is becoming more common among them. Table 3.2 shows that as many as 81.67 percent of the sample households (i.e. 49 households) have nuclear family and 18.33 percent of the sample households (i.e. 11 households) have joint family.

Table 3.2

Distribution of Households by Family Type

Family Type	No. of Households	Percentage
Nuclear	49	81.67
Join	11	18.33

Total	60	100
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Source: Field Survey

3.3 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio indicates the extent of equality between male and female. The sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males. The sex ratio of the sample population has been calculated and it is found that sex ratio of the sample population is 1048 which is higher than the state average and national average according to both 2001 and 2011 census. According to 2011 census, the sex ratio of Assam is 954 and 940 for the entire country. Again, according to 2001 census, the sex ratio for the state was 935 while for India it was 933.

3.4 Educational Status

Education is one of the very important socio-economic indicators that has huge impact on the demographic characteristics of the population of a society, on economic development and on the level of human development of any community. Education like other form of investment in human capital can contribute to economic development and rise the income of the poor just as much as investment on physical capital , such as transport, communications, power or irrigations etc. (Woodhall and Psacharopoular, 1985). The various functions of education are –

1. Promotion of economic growth and development.
2. Increase in productivity and promotion of social equity.
3. Modernization of attitudes and mentalities in societies.
4. Contribute to the important development goals such as improved health status, increase in life expectancy and reduction in fertility.
5. Reduce gender and different other social inequalities and increase social mobility.

Thus education is very important not only for economic development of a country or community but also very important for the expansion of the level of human development. Recognizing the importance of education in the society an attempt has been made to study the educational attainments among the sample population. According to the census of India, a person whose age is 7 years or more than 7 years who can read and write with understanding in any language is called a literate person (Census of India). A person who can merely read

but cannot write is not categorized as literate. To consider a person as literate any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary. From table 3.3 it can be seen that the literacy rate among the sample population is 98.72 percent which is higher than the national average of 80.9 percent and 78.81 percent of Assam (According to census 2011).

Table 3.3

Distribution of the Sample Population by Their Education Level

Level of Education	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	3	1.19
Primary (I to V)	17	6.74
M. E (VI to VII)	31	12.30
High School (IX to X)	97	38.49
H S (XI to XII)	43	17.06
Above HS	44	17.46
Doesn't arise (child)	17	6.74
Total	252	100

Source: Field Survey

It can be observed from the above table that among the sample population, the maximum numbers have received the education up to HSLC level. On the other hand, population having education above higher secondary is low i.e. 17.46 percent among.

3.5 Occupation

The living condition of a family mainly depends on the nature of occupation. Again, the nature of occupation has also impact on the status of health, income and education. The development of a particular community can be judged from the pattern of occupation of the community.

The rural people are also predominantly agriculturalists. They cultivate their own agricultural fields and also work as agricultural labours. However, recently a trend has been

noticed where rural people have shifted their occupation from farm to nonfarm activities. Table 3.4 shows occupational pattern of the sample population.

Table 3.4

Distribution of the Sample Population by the Nature of Occupation

Occupation	Numbers	Percentage
Govt. Employee	33	13.09
Private Employee	15	5.95
Business	35	13.88
Agriculture	14	5.55
Daily Wage Earner	2	0.79
Unemployed	10	3.96
Not in Workforce	143	56.74
Total	252	100

Source: Field Survey

From table 3.4 it can be seen that only 5.55 percent of the total sample population are agriculturalists; 13.09 percent of sample population are government employees; 5.95 percent are private employees and 13.88 percent sample population do business. Apart from that only 0.79 percent sample population are daily wage earners; 3.96 percent are unemployed and 56.74 percent sample population are not in the workforce.

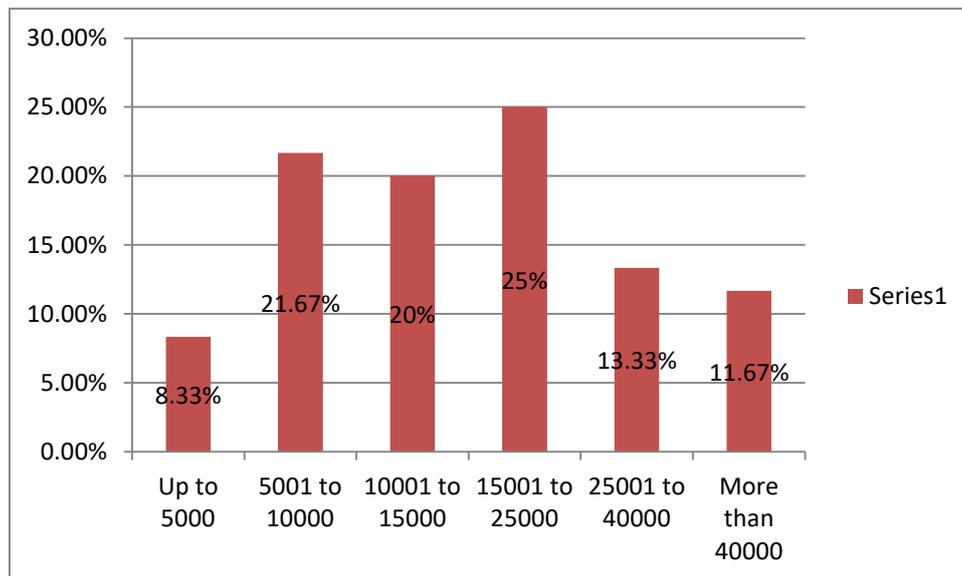
3.6 Family Income

Income is a very important socio-economic factor which affects the life style or standard of living of the people. Family income also has huge impact on the demographic behaviour of a population. Without adequate income, a family can not enjoy a decent standard of living. Many factor like educational attainment, consumption pattern, health status, use of family planning devices etc. depend on the income of the households. However, it is not easy to calculate the personal income of the family members. Here in calculating the monthly family income, the daily, weekly and monthly money wages received by the all the members of the family have taken it to consideration. Again the market prices of the agricultural products of the family are taken into consideration to calculate the income of the family. The figure 3.1

shows the distribution of the sample households on the basis of monthly family income. In the figure it can be seen that 8.33 percent (5 households) have annual income up to rupees 5000. On the other hand, 21.67 percent households (12 households) have monthly income between 5001-10000 rupees; 20 percent households (12 households) have monthly family income between 10001-15000 rupees; 25 percent households (15 households) have monthly family income between Rupees 15001-25000; 13.33 percent households (8 households) have monthly family income between 25001-40000 rupees and 11.67 percent households (7 households) have monthly income above 40001 rupees.

Figure 3.1

Distribution of Households by Monthly Income



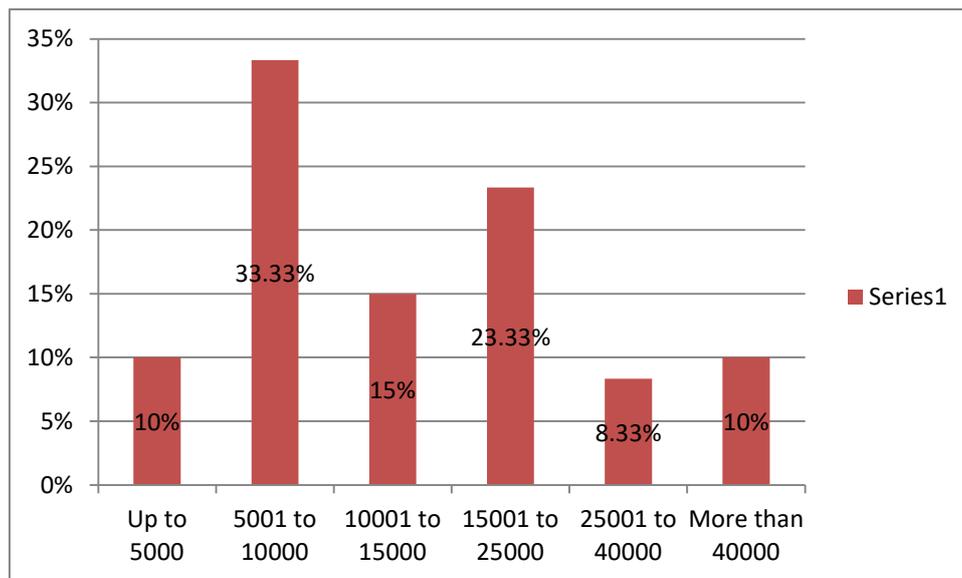
3.7 Consumption Expenditure

Consumption is a very important component of economics. Consumption occurs through Institutions and Industry as well as individuals. Increase in individual consumption leads to increase in aggregate demand. Aggregate demand leads to increase in production and thus brings back its return to the consumers in the form of wages and profits (ICMR, 2006). However, it is very difficult to calculate family consumption expenditure in social science. In the present study, respondents are asked to report the likely consumption expenditures on various items like food, health, education, cloth, fuel, transportation, electricity, telephony and expenditures on other items during the last 30 days. By adding these expenditures,

consumption expenditure of the sample households has been calculated. The consumption expenditure reflects the standard of living of a household. It is also used as a proxy of development instead of PCI. The figure 3.2 shows the distribution of sample households on the basis of monthly consumption expenditure.

Figure 3.2

Distribution of Sample Households by Monthly Consumption Expenditure



It is observed from figure 3.2 that 10 percent households have monthly consumption expenditure up to Rupees 5000. Again, 33.33 percent households have monthly consumption expenditure between rupees 5001 to 10000; 15 percent sample households have monthly consumption expenditure between rupees 10001-15000 and 23.33 percent sample household have monthly consumption expenditure between rupees 15001-25000. Again 8.33 percent sample households belong to the group of rupees 25001-40000 and only 10 percent sample households have monthly consumption expenditure up to rupees 40001 and above.

3.8 Possession of Assets

We have tried to look at the possession of the assets by the sample households after analyzing their income and consumption level. The table 3.5 gives us an overview of the different assets possessed by the sample households. It can be seen that possession of the assets by the sample households is quite satisfactory. It is observed that 86.67 percent of the households have TV and 96.67 percent of the sample households have mobile phones. Again 56.67 percent households have refrigerator; 20 percent households have computer; 73.33

percent households have different means of transportation including bicycle, motorcycle, car etc. and 20 percent households have other forms of assets. The detail of the possession of assets is shown in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5

Possession of Assets by the Sample Households

Types of Assets	Nos. of Households	Percentage
TV	52	86.67
Mobile	58	96.67
Refrigerator	34	56.67
Computer/Laptop	12	20
Transportation	44	73.33
Other	12	20

Source: Field Survey

3.9 Housing Condition

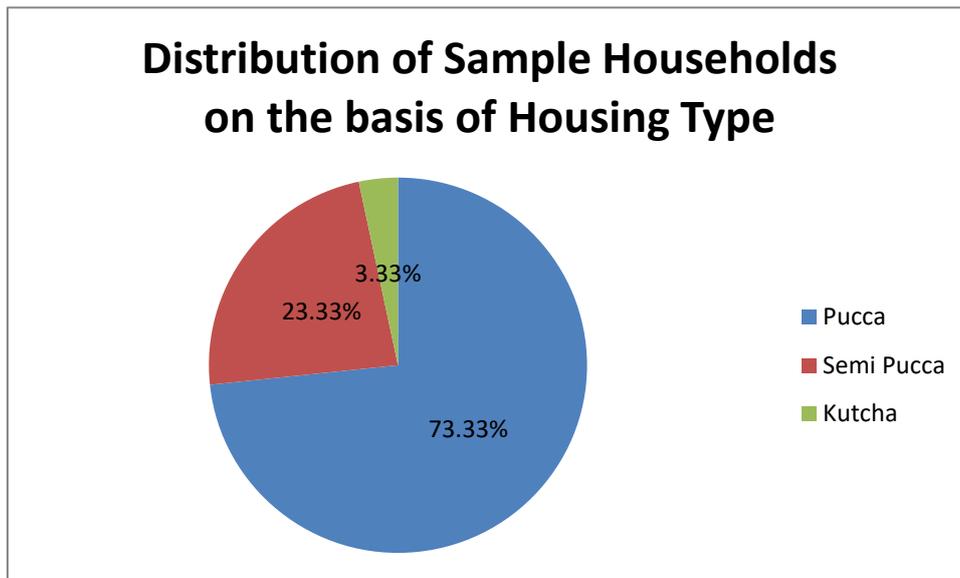
Housing is a very important basic human need. It is the place where the members of the family grow and develop. Better living condition and better housing is very important for better quality of life. Better housing condition increases working capacity of the people as it provides a healthy disease free environment.

3.9.1 Type of House

The houses of the rural people are traditionally made of woods, bamboo, thatch and wall plastered with cow dung and mud. However, with times, they started constructing pucca houses with cement, stones and bricks. Their dwelling basically consists of 3 houses - main house, outer house and a cook shed. A granary and poultry house is also constructed separately.

The Figure 3.3 reveals that percentage of households having pucca houses is 73.33; again percentage of households having semi pucca houses is 23.33 and percentage of households having kutcha houses is 3.33.

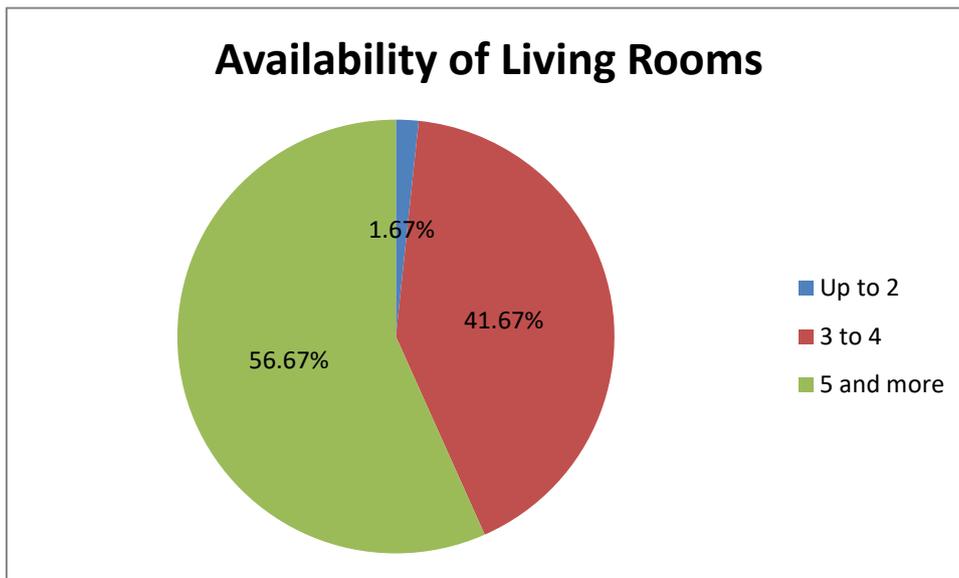
Figure 3.3



3.9.2 Availability of Living Rooms

Availability of sufficient numbers of living rooms is a basic housing facility. A separate living room increases one's privacy, freedom and peace. Buragohain (2013) mentioned that lack of sufficient numbers of living rooms reduce privacy of couples and affects educational attainments of children. The figure 3.4 shows the distribution of households by the number of living rooms. It can be observed that only 1.67 percent of the sample households have up to 2 numbers of living rooms, 41.67 percent sample households have 3 to 4 numbers of living rooms and 56.67 percent sample households have 5 and more number of living rooms.

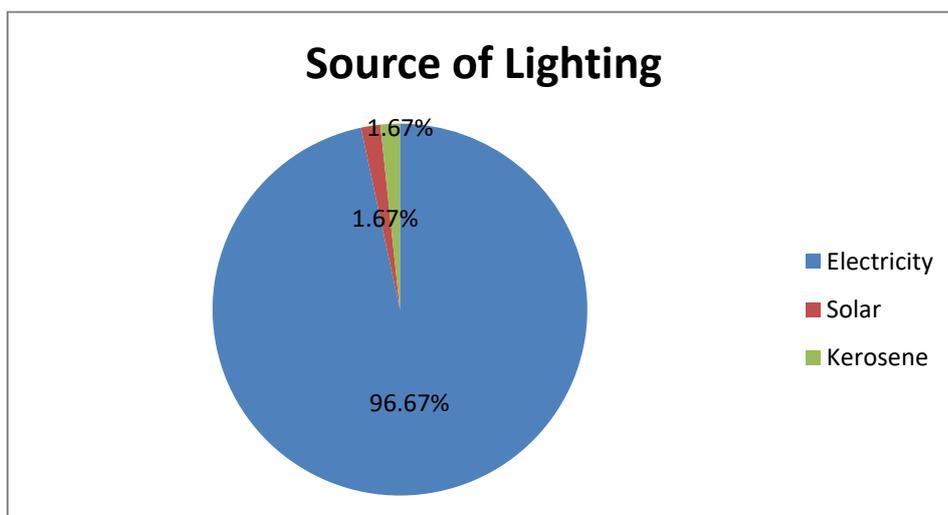
Figure 3.4



3.9.3 Source of Lighting

Use of electricity is a very important socio economic variable and sometime it is used as an indicator of socio economic progress. The figure 3.5 shows the source of lighting of the sample households. It can be seen from the below figure that most of the sample households use electricity. 96.67 percent i.e. 58 households use electricity as the main source of lighting. On the other hand, only 1.67 percent households i.e. one households use kerosene as the main source of lighting and 1.67 percent households i.e. one households use solar energy as the main source of lighting.

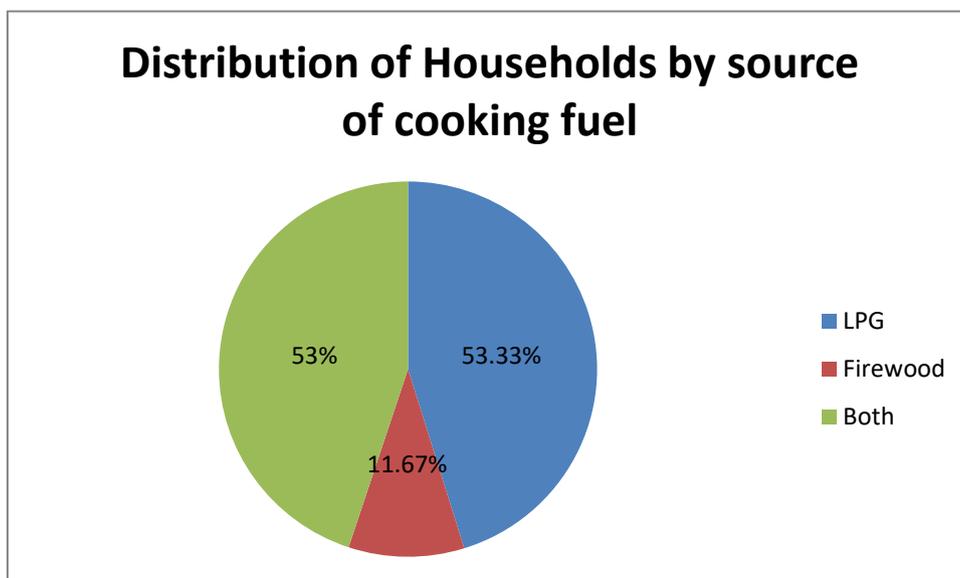
Figure 3.5



3.9.4 Use of Cooking Fuel

Another important socio-economic indicator is the source of cooking fuel as the use of any cooking fuel can cause risk of health of women and children in the form of air pollution. So it is necessary to use such kinds of cooking fuels that emit less smoke and not pollute the air. So here an attempt has been made to analyze the use of different cooking fuels among the sample households. The distribution of the sample households on the basis use of different cooking fuels is represented in Figure 3.6 It can be seen from the figure that 53.33 percent of the sample households use L.P.G as fuel for cooking. On the other hand, 11.67 percent households use firewood for their cooking purposes. Again, 35 percent sample households use both L.P.G and firewood as cooking fuel. Thus we can say that most of the people are still using firewood as a source of cooking energy.

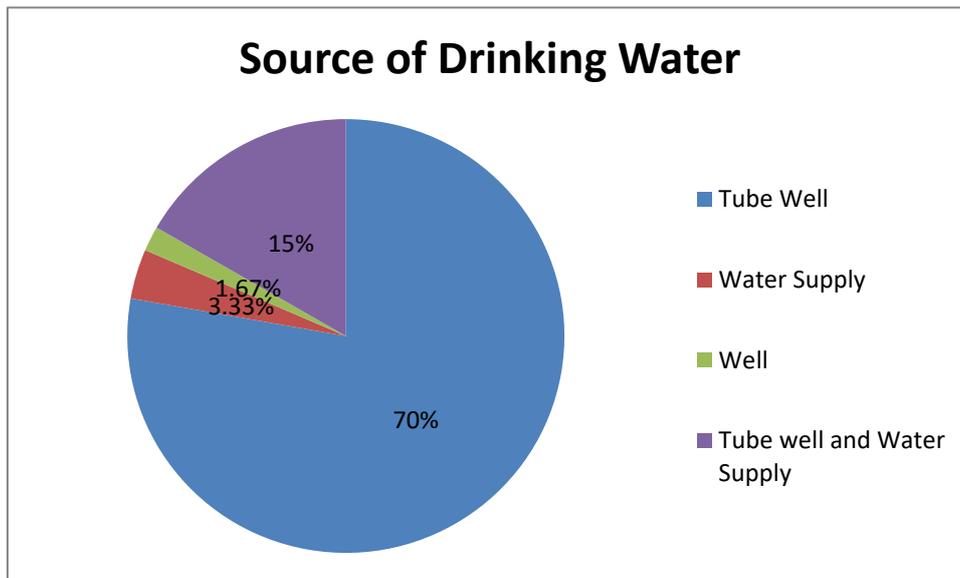
Figure 3.6



3.9.5 Source of Drinking Water

Survey data show that majority of the sample households i.e. 70 percent households (42 households) use Tube Well as the main source of drinking water while 3.33 percent i.e. 2 households use water supply as the main source of drinking water. On the other hand 1.67 percent households i.e. one households use well water as the main source of drinking water. Again, 25 percent households use both tube well and water supply water as the main source of drinking water. The figure 3.7 shows the distribution of sample households on the basis of sources of drinking water.

Figure 3.7



3.9.6 Treatment of Drinking Water

It has been observed that only 80 percent of the sample households i.e. 48 households treat the water before drinking. On the other hand, the remaining sample households i.e. 20 percent households don't treat the water before drinking.

Table 3.6

Distribution of Sample Households on the basis of Treatment of Drinking Water

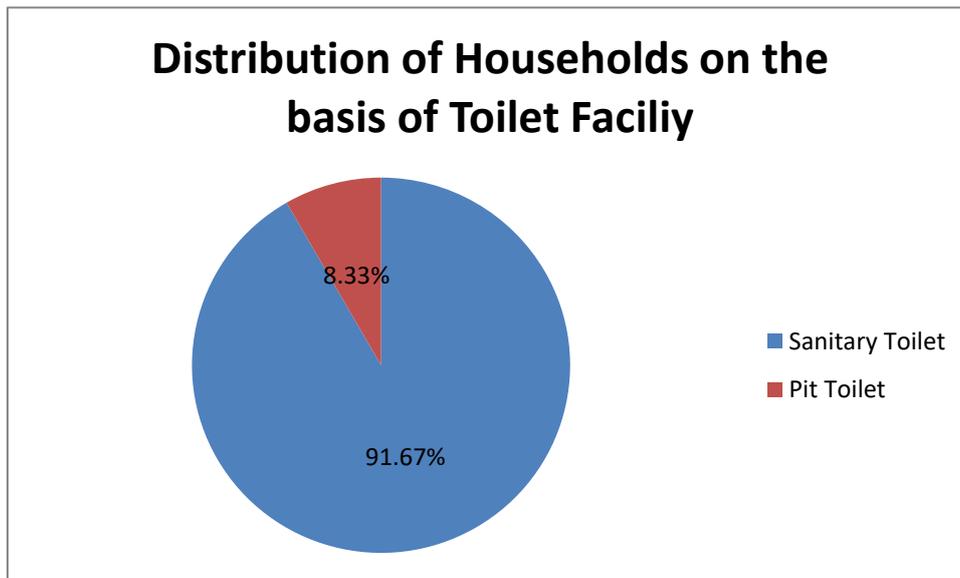
Treat Water before Drinking	Nos. of Households	Percentage of Households
Yes	48	80
No	12	20

Source: Field Survey

3.9.7 Toilet Facility

From the figure 3.8 it can be seen that only 91.67 percent households have sanitary toilet. On the other hand, the remaining households i.e. 8.33 percent households have pit toilet.

Figure 3.8



3.10 Land Holding

Amount of land holding influences not only the level of income of a family but also their social status. Land holdings of the sample households have been estimated in table 3.7 to have an idea about the possession of land. It has been found that 61.67 percent of the households hold land less than 5 Bighas; 20 percent households own land between 5 to 10 Bighas; 13.33 percent of the households own land more than 10 Bighas.

Table 3.7

Distribution of households on the basis Land Holdings

Land Holdings	Nos. of Households	Percentage
Up to 5 Bighas	37	61.67
More than 5 Bighas to 10 Bighas	15	20
More than 10 Bighas	8	13.33
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey

3.11 Modernization of Agriculture

Since the rural people are mostly agriculturalists therefore, an attempt has been made to look at the use of modern technology such as use of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, irrigational facility etc. in the agricultural field to increase agricultural productivity.

Table 3.8

Respondent's Behaviour on Agricultural Practices

Fertilizer Use	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
Use of only Chemical Fertilizers	15	25
Use of only Organic Fertilizers	45	75
Irrigation Facility	Nos. of Respondents	Percentage
Have Irrigation Facility	3	5
Doesn't Have Irrigation Facility	57	95

Source: Field Survey

The table 3.8 provides a glance at the respondents' behaviour on agricultural practices. It can be seen from the above table that 25 percent respondents use only chemical fertilizers in the crops, while 75 percent respondents don't use chemical fertilizers in the crops. Irrigational facility is also not adequate among the farmers. It can be seen from the above table that 5 percent of the total respondents have irrigation facility which can be regarded as a main factor of poor agriculture among the sample. Thus it can be concluded that the state of agricultural practices of is not satisfactory.

3.12 Health Status:

The WHO defined health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Poor health leads to capability deprivation and poverty. Again poverty leads to low standard of living, malnutrition and lack of basic amenities. So good health is very important for all round development of the people. Health indicators are quantifiable characteristics which describe the health status of a particular population. These indicators are basically used by governments to guide health policy. In this section an attempt has been made to analysis the health status of the sample households.

Table 3.9

Health status of the sample Households

Indicators	Number of Households	Percentage
Nearby Health Centers	49	81.67
Physically or Mentally handicapped members	4	6.67
Acute Diseases	24	40
Chronic Diseases	20	33.33

Source: Field Survey

From the above table it can be seen that 81.67 percent households have nearby health centers, 6.67 percent households have physically or mentally handicapped members; 40 percent have acute diseases and 33.33 percent have chronic diseases.

Conclusion

Socio-Economic factors have huge impact on Human Development as it affects health, education fertility, mortality etc. Like other communities, the sample households also have some unique socio economic characteristics which might influence their development status. In the present chapter it is observed that socio economic status of the sample households is adequate in most of the aspects like access to electricity, access to pure drinking water, literacy rate, sex ratio etc. On the other hand, in some aspects such as per capita income, health status, irrigational facility etc. it is not satisfactory.

CHAPTER - 4

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This chapter reviews the major findings of the present research and suggests certain policy measures. Section 4.1 reviews the major results obtained in the previous chapters. Again section 4.2 provides the policy suggestions.

4.1 Summary of the Major Findings –

Chapter wise major findings of the study are outlined below –

The first chapter is an introductory one. It summarizes the concept of Socio Economic Status. After that a brief description about the study area under the study is provided followed by the importance of the study, objectives of the study and methodology of the study. The second chapter reviews the exiting literature relating to Socio Economic Status and its relationship with different development indicators.

The third chapter is related to the socio economic and demographic features of the sample households. The major findings of this chapter are –

1. In the present study it is found that 38 households (i.e. 63.33 percent) are Hindu and the rest 22 households (i.e. 36.67 percent) are Muslim.
2. According to this study nuclear family is becoming more common among the sample population. As many as 81.67 percent of the sample households (i.e. 49 households) have nuclear family and 18.33 percent of the sample households (i.e. 11 households) have joint family
3. The sex ratio of the sample population has been calculated and it is found that sex ratio of the sample population is 1048 which is higher than the state average and national average according to both 2001 and 2011 census.
4. It is found in the study that the literacy rate among the sample population is 98.72 percent which is higher than the national average of 80.9 percent and 78.81 percent of Assam (According to census 2011).

5. It is found that only 5.55 percent of the total sample population is agriculturalists; 13.09 percent of sample population is government employees; 5.95 percent are private employees and 13.88 percent sample population do business. Apart from that only 0.79 percent sample population are daily wage earners; 3.96 percent are unemployed and 56.74 percent sample population are not in the workforce.

6. It is found in the study that 8.33 percent (5 households) have annual income up to rupees 5000. On the other hand, 21.67 percent households (12 households) have monthly income between 5001-10000 rupees; 20 percent households (12 households) have monthly family income between 10001-15000 rupees; 25 percent households (15 households) have monthly family income between Rupees 15001-25000; 13.33 percent households (8 households) have monthly family income between 25001-40000 rupees and 11.67 percent households (7 households) have monthly income above 40000 rupees.

7. It is observed from the present study that 10 percent households have monthly consumption expenditure up to Rupees 5000. Again, 33.33 percent households have monthly consumption expenditure between rupees 5001 to 10000; 15 percent sample households have monthly consumption expenditure between rupees 10001-15000 and 23.33 percent sample household have monthly consumption expenditure between rupees 15001-25000. Again 8.33 percent sample households belong to the group of rupees 25001-40000 and only 10 percent sample households have monthly consumption expenditure up to rupees 40001 and above.

8. It is observed form the present study that 86.67 percent of the households have TV and 96.67 percent of the sample households have mobile phones. Again 56.67 percent households have refrigerator; 20 percent households have computer; 73.33 percent households have different means of transportation including bicycle, motorcycle, car etc. and 20 percent households have other forms of assets.

9. The study reveals that percentage of households having pucca houses is 73.33; again percentage of households having semi pucca houses is 23.33 and percentage of households having kutcha houses is 3.33.

10. It can be observed that only 1.67 percent of the sample households have up to 2 numbers of living rooms, 41.67 percent sample households have 3 to 4 numbers of living rooms and 56.67 percent sample households have 5 and more number of living rooms.

11. It can be seen from the study that most of the sample households use electricity. 96.67 percent i.e. 58 households use electricity as the main source of lighting. On the other hand,

only 1.67 percent households i.e. one households use kerosene as the main source of lighting and 1.67 percent households i.e. one households use solar energy as the main source of lighting.

12. It is found in the study that 53.33 percent of the sample households use L.P.G as fuel for cooking. On the other hand, 11.67 percent households use firewood for their cooking purposes. Again, 35 percent sample households use both L.P.G and firewood as cooking fuel.

13. Survey data show that majority of the sample households i.e. 70 percent households (42 households) use Tube Well as the main source of drinking water while 3.33 percent i.e. 2 households use water supply as the main source of drinking water. On the other hand 1.67 percent households i.e. one households use well water as the main source of drinking water. Again, 25 percent households use both tube well and water supply water as the main source of drinking water.

14. It has been observed that only 80 percent of the sample households i.e. 48 households treat the water before drinking. On the other hand, the remaining sample households i.e. 20 percent households don't treat the water before drinking.

15. From the study it is found that only 91.67 percent households have sanitary toilet. On the other hand, the remaining households i.e. 8.33 percent households have pit toilet.

16. It has been found that 61.67 percent of the households hold land less than 5 Bighas; 20 percent households own land between 5 to 10 Bighas; 13.33 percent of the households own land more than 10 Bighas.

17. From the above table it can be seen that 81.67 percent households have nearby health centers, 6.67 percent households have physically or mentally handicapped members; 40 percent have acute diseases and 33.33 percent have chronic diseases.

4.2 Policy Recommendations

The following suggestions are given for the development of the community –

1. Though literacy rate of the sample population is higher than the national and state average, percentage of population having higher education is negligible.. Therefore, the government should take necessary steps to improve the standard and quality of education among the sample households

2. As we know that most of the rural people are agriculturalists and they are using the traditional methods of cultivation. Therefore provisions must be created to develop the

agricultural sector. It is not possible to develop the rural people without developing the agricultural sector.

3. Provisions of irrigational facility is not adequate among the sample households. Provisions of such irrigational facility should be provided to all the needy people of the community.

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