

Socio-Demographic Status of The Fishing Community of Nalbari District :

A Socio-Economic Survey

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Abstract

A community is generally given a name according to its occupation. Accordingly the community which depends on the fisheries as its occupation is known as fishing community. Fishing community is one of the earliest and most ancient communities of Assam as well as of India .The Vedas and the Purans have references to this community. According to the Federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, a fishing community is defined as a community that is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community.

Fishing communities are an important part of Assamese heritage and economy and its wetland ecosystems. Fishing communities in Assam are not homogenous , as they belong to different six communities like Kaibartas, Jal-Keots, Patnis, Jhalo-Malos,Namasudras and Hiras. These communities have their distinct social , cultural governance structures and traditional practices ,depending upon the geographical location where they inhabit.

Both in Assam and in Nalbari district the people of the fishing community depends on fisheries as their livelihood .According to the S.Cs and S.Ts. List Modification Order, 1956 there are sixteen Scheduled Castes in Assam. Among these, six communities namely Kaibartas, Jal-Keots, Jhalo-malos, Patnis, Namasudras and a section of the Hiras are also known as fishing communities. Though the fishermen and fisher women are distributed throughout Assam from Dhubri in the west to Sadia to the east, yet their concentration in terms of number of community is found to be more in the Nalbari district. So in the given context, the Nalbari district provides us the appropriate backdrop for a comprehensive and empirical analysis of their fishing activities in fisheries. For this purpose we have made a detailed survey over 10 per cent villages having fishing communities out of total ones located at Nalbari district and 20 per cent households of the total number of each fishing community of the sample villages

Key words : Fishing community , socio-economic survey ,Nalbari district

Introduction

The article is basically based on primary data derived from 202 sample households of Nalbari district . Of course census reports of different periods have been taken to serve the purpose of our study . On the basis of census reports of 1971,1991, 2001 and 2011 and field investigation conducted in 2011 in this article an attempt is made to discuss the socio-demographic traits of the fishing community like 1. demography of the folk people-,sex ratio 2.occupational status of folk fishermen , 3.literacy ,4.shelter : residential pattern and houses,5. landholding and 6.transportation and communication.

Results and Discussion

I. Demography

On the basis of three census reports of India viz.1971,1991,2001 and 2011, Table 1 explains the demographic traits of fishermen of the sample villages. Table 1 reveals that in 1971 the population of the fishing community was 2,610 which increased upto 6,470 in 1991 and then increased to 7,213 in 2001..So during the first two decades (1971-1991) their growth rate was estimated 7.4 per cent per annum .In the next decade of 1991-2001 the annual growth rate of population of fishing community was about 0.1 per cent per annum .The growth rate of the fishing community was high during first two decades of 1971-1991 because of their migration from Bangladesh into Assam during pre and post independent period .

Community-wise during the first two decades (1971-91) the annual growth rate of population of the Jal-Keots was as high as 19.6 per cent which fell to 1.7 per cent during the next decade of 1991-2001.This high growth rate of them was not because of migration but because of the tendency of the Keots to record themselves as the Jal-Keots placing their the documents to the authority concerned, where their forefathers identified themselves as the Kaibartas.

Next to it during the first two decades of 1971-1991 the annual growth rate of population of the Jhalomalos in the village Borikadanga was as high as 19.7 per cent against 4.8 per cent during the next decade of 1991-2001 due to their immigration from East Bengal into Assam after independence .

With regard to the growth of population of the Kaibartas it has been observed the Kaibartas of the Nowakhat village had the highest growth rate i.e. 430.0 per cent per annum which fell to 2 per cent during the next decade of 1991-2001.This abnormal growth rate has not been because of their natural growth rate but because of immigration of their population from East Bangle into Assam during the pre and post independence.But the lowest growth rate of their population was estimated at 0.9 per cent per annum in the village Kaihati which increased to 1.0 per cent during the next decade of 1991-2001.

As regards growth rate of population of the Namasudras in the sample villages it has been observed that during the first two decades (1971-1991) it decreased from 4.9 per cent to 0.1 per cent during the next decade of 1991-2001.

In case of the growth rate of population of the Hira community it has been observed that it declined from increased 2.2 per cent during 1971-1991 to 3.4 per cent during the decade of 1991-2001. The population of the sample households was 1035 in 2011.

. Sex ratio

As regards sex ratio it has been observed from Table .2 that in 1991 the highest sex ratio were found in Charia village (1000) which declined to 956 in 2001 and then it rose up to 967 in 2011 as our survey report.

2.Occupational status of folk fishermen

Occupational status of a community bears its inheriting cultural traits from generation to generation . But due impact of globalisation there has been diversification of occupations . In order to study the occupational status as well as occupational mobility of two generations of fishermen viz. father generation and the son generation of sample heads,that is, to study inter-generational mobility or to study intra-generational mobility here we have used a single index of socio-economic status,viz. Occupational Index.

In Assam since the inception of human civilization occupational mobility has taken place among the different sections of the fishing community along with other communities and tribes both horizontally and vertically. On the basis of duration of time vertical mobility taking place among the fishermen is of two types: inter-generational mobility and intra-generational mobility.Mobility in terms of occupation within two generations viz. father generation and son generation is known as inter-generational mobility and mobility in terms of occupation within one generation is known as intra-generational mobility .

Table .4 presents the occupational status of two generations - father generation and the son generation. Community-wise in 2001 sex ratio was as high as 959 females per 1000 males among the Jhalo-malos which declined to 941 females per 1000 males in 2011 and in 2001 Patnis had the lowest sex ratio i.e 882 females per 1000 males which increased to 933 in 2011 .The sex ratio of the fishing community under study decreased from 951 females per 1000 males in 1991 to 948 females per 1000 males in 2001 and then it increased to 960 in 2011.

Table 3 presents sex-wise size of population of the sample households . Table 8.3 reveals that the highest percentage of population is found in Bori village (23.6%) while the lowest percentage of population is found in Kaihati and Gobaradal villages (2.6% each) .

Inter-generational occupational mobility

Table 84 reveals that out of 202 heads of the households 73.3 per cent are engaged in primary occupation,but 26.7 per cent have not followed the father's occupation of fishing,rather have upgraded from fishing either to the occupation of secondary sector or tertiary sector.It indicates that there has been occupational mobility within two generations, father generation and son generation.This is what is called the

inter-generational occupational mobility that has taken place within two generations of the members of the fishing community.

Table 4 also reveals that 100 per cent father of the sample heads of three communities like Kaibartas, Jhalo-malos and Patnis were engaged in primary occupation of fishing, while 71.9 per cent heads of the Kaibartas have engaged in the same occupation of fishing. The remaining sample heads have upgraded from the occupation of fishing to the occupation of secondary sector or tertiary sector. The degree of inter-generational occupational mobility in the ladder of occupation has been high among the Namasudras (22.93%), while it has been 21.9 per cent among the Kaibartas and then it has been 21.7 per cent among the Hiras .

Intra-generational occupational mobility

Out of 202 sample heads of the fishing community, 54 heads are seen to have upgraded from the low status of occupation to the high status of occupation. In other words mobility within one generation of the 54 sample heads has taken place in the ladder of occupation . This is what is known as intra-generational occupational mobility. Community-wise out of 54 sample heads, 9 heads belong to Kaibartas, 5 belong to Jal-Keots, 24 Namasudras, 16 heads belong to Hiras. Among the Jhalo-malos and the Patnis no intra-generational occupational mobility has taken place.

From this analysis we come to the conclusion that the socio-cultural status of the fishing community increases with the mobility of their members either within two generations or one generation from the primary occupation to the occupation of secondary sector or tertiary sector on the ground that :i. social status is low because of their attachment in traditional occupation and ii. there is too little income from traditional occupation to maintain their family.

3.Literacy

Literacy is very much essential to every one and the government is trying hard to reach 100 per cent literacy level in the country. As a result after independence there has been considerable progress in the field of education not only in the sample villages but also in different states of the country. Literacy rate among the male and female has also increased steadily after independence .

Table 5 reveals that out of 202 heads of the sample households 66.8 per cent are found literate only 33.2 per cent of them are illiterate which are lower than the 1991 census figures of Nalbari district, i.e. 46.5 per cent and of the state i.e. 53.9 per cent. Of the literates of the them 38.6 per cent are only of primary standard, 17.3 per cent are secondary standard , 10.9 per cent have achieved higher

education . But literacy level among the different fishing. communities is not the same . This is much higher among the Namasudras (73.5%) and the lowest rate of 50.0 per cent is among the Jhalo-Malos.

(4) Shelter : Residential pattern and houses

Shelter is equated with food and clothing and are the basic necessities of human life. Shelter with other factors reflect the social conditions at a given time. It also plays a significant role in the socio-psychological development of the individual ,and encouraging economic activity, generating employment opportunities and facilities and facilitating a hygienic and healthy environment conducive to wholesome social life. The need for improved housing is most acutely felt among rural poor who are unable to generate needed resources and are forced to live in condition of abject poverty. The World Bank Housing Sector policy paper has rightly observed, " Housing is important to development in both economic and welfare terms". One of the most important features of the housing condition of the S.C. people is that a good number of houses of them are without possession of any land .These landless S.C. people generally build up their houses on land of their 'Guru' a preceptor a higher class people or land allotted to them by the government .So to say in the Kaihati village the Kaibartas and the Hiras are residing on the land of their 'Gosains'. And in other villages say in Kheluwa ,Dahudi ,Ghilajari , Barhelasha , the S.C. people are building their houses either on their own land or on land allotted to them by the government.In the compact area the housing condition of the S.C. people is very bad.

So far as residential pattern is concerned, the villages of the fishing community are nucleated. In this type the residential area of the village is at one place and settlement pattern is strictly on caste basis.Houses of each caste are built close to one another and clustered together The agricultural fields are around the clustered houses .In such villages the dwellings are not always as such concentrated in one single area ,but frequently in two or more distinct centres . Of course this pattern is of a new origin. Table 8.6 presents community-wise percentage distribution of sample households by types of houses.

Table 6 reveals that out of 202 sample households 44.6 per cent households have single roofed tin sheeted, 34.2 per cent households have thatched houses and only 21.3 per cent households which belong either big landholding households or small landholding households have Assam Type houses . The roofs , the walls of the thatched houses are either made of bamboos, thatches and ikaras .These houses are not well-built and the walls are broken . If we observe the community wise the sample households by types of houses then we can discern the fact that the Jalkeots have the highest percentages of sample households with Assam type houses (42.9%) by the Hiras and the Namasudras

have the smallest percentage of sample households with Assam Type houses (about 13.0 per cent each).

5. Landholding : Land is only the basic asset with emotional attachment with rural people. Its ownership, size, distribution, and use determine the socio-cultural life of the households. Table 7.11 presents community-wise percentage distribution of the sample households by four landholding categories viz. i. LL-Landless households (0-0.05 hectare of land), ii. ML-Marginal landholding households (0.05-1 hectare); iii. SL-Small landholding households (1-2 hectares); iv. BL-Big landholding households (2 hectares and above).

Table 7 reveals that out of 202 sample households 133 i.e. 65.8 per cent are landless, 15.3 per cent are marginal, 10.9 per cent are small landholders and only 7.9 per cent are big landholders. Community-wise both the Namasudra and the Hiras sample households have more landless households. Out of 23 Hira sample households 78.3 per cent are landless, 8.8 per cent are marginal, 8.7 per cent are small and there is no big landholders among them at all.

6. Infrastructural facilities : The study area is highly rich in infrastructural facilities with respect to transport and communication, electricity, irrigation facilities, marketing facilities, public health and sanitation facilities, educational, cultural and religious institution which play a vital role in the socio-economic development of any community.

(i) Transport and communication : In the sample villages no railway and airway are available, there is no waterway also. Roadway is the only means on which road transports would ply. In the study area there are only about 3-4 km. of pucca road - the Palla road that connects Nalbari and Barpeta passing through the study area. There are four other P.W.D. mettle roads from Ghilajari to Barhelasha, Kendubari, Lachima, Tihu and Belsor of which the road length to be about 24 km. of which again a third may be within the compact area. Non-mettle P.W.D. road is about three and half km. in length. Of course, there are some village roads which are all weather, while some others are seasonal and very narrow which are called 'Gopta'. Most of these roads are now constructed or reconstructed by the village Panchayats under the I.R.D.P. scheme or Jawahar Rojgar Jajana under the heading of Scheduled Caste Component Plan. Table 8.5 reveals that of the total sample villages 5 or 45.5 per cent have both kaccha road (KR) and footpath (FP) while 54.5 per cent villages have pucca road (PR) and Kaccha road (KR).

During the summer season, the study area is mostly bounded by beels. So the S.C. people use to move from one village to another village by boats. The study area being connected by good pucca road and metalled one with Nalbari and Barpeta, transportation is much improved. State transport buses and public buses ply through the Palla road, which is said to be life line of the area. Besides some buses are plying through the other linked roads. There are seven bus stoppages in the sample villages and other measures of modern transportation are very common in the area like rickshaw, bicycle, scooter and motorcycle, bullock carts and thela. But by-cycle is the most common mode of transportation among people fishing community. The government has given a bicycle and aluminum bucket to most of the adult fishermen for trade and commerce.

Communication system is not very much developed in the study area. Besides eight post offices, no other modern communication facilities like Telegraph, Telephone, P.C.O. with STD and ISD; Fax and Telex services are there. Of course, radio and television sets are used by the people in the locality, some of which are among the S.C. fishermen. All these facilities of transportation and communication media have been provided to the people after independence.

The sample villages have enjoyed electricity for domestic purpose, while only one village namely Bori has used electricity for all-purpose. Thus the number of villages having the amenities of power supply is quite honourable by the state standard.

(ii) Public health and sanitation facilities

For a decent and healthy life of the people, public health measures like (i) availability of pure drinking water (ii) latrine (iii) drainage facilities, (iv) medical facilities, including the availability of open space for children and other measures to protect the lives of the people from epidemics and other vital diseases, construction of common urinal and latrines in market places are very essential. They play vital role in maintaining a healthy and eco-balancing system in the locality. But the areas or the villages under study are not very well-placed in this regard.

(iii) Drinking water supply: Drinking water supply is a major problem in most of villages of the fishermen. Table 8.9 reveals that out of the total villages, 9.1 villages per cent villages depend upon tube-well water (TW), 36.4 per cent depend on Tube-well water and water well, 9.1 per cent depend on water well (W), Tank Water (TK) and Canal (C), another 9.1 per cent depend on water well (W), Hand pump (HP), 27.3 per cent depend on Tape water (T), water well (W), tube-well water (TW) and 9.1 per cent depend on water well (W) tube-well water (TW), R (River water).

Problem of health arising out of drinking water is noticed in those villages where water is used from 'Khal' or kaccha wells or rivers. Incidentally diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea and water-borne diseases are more in these villages. It has been observed that drinking water in most of the villages, where there are no piped water supply facilities is not at all satisfactory. Most of the public tube-wells lying unused for long because the local villagers do not take care to repair those at their own cost. Besides the water of the tube well contains much iron for which the people prefer river water or ring well-water. The people of the villages are not in the habit of taking any scientific measures for purification of drinking water except the traditional method of filtration. Due to non-availability of safe drinking water the people have to spend a considerable amount of their income for medical treatment and in this process their economic conditions deteriorate further.

(iv) Latrine: Latrine condition in the country and so also in the state of Assam as a whole is very disastrous. Our survey leads to the conclusion that 90 per cent of the rural households do not have any latrine and use fields, banks of rivers as their latrines.

(v) Drainage: The sample villages under study are not generally not situated on high land. There are a number of beels and rivulets surrounding the area and so water logging in the villages is not very extensive. So drainage system is still natural but not becoming manmade. People use to keep the frontage with a drain by the side of the road and so drainage is not becoming a problem. The revulated passing through the area becoming natural waterways for drainage.

(vi) Medical facilities: Provision of medical facilities both the curative and preventive measures is one of the principal social services, which need to be developed in order to improve the quality of the labour force. Judged by the needs the available medical facilities are quite inadequate in the villages under study. Table 8.7 reveals that out of 11 villages under study, three villages namely Goboradal, Sathikuchi and No.1 Nathkuchi have public health centre one each, one village namely Jalkhana has one Public Health Sub-Centre. The people of the remaining villages enjoy these facilities by visiting near about a distance of 5 kilometers from their villages.

(vii) Co-operative societies : Co-operative societies particularly fish co-operative societies could play significant role in ameliorating the poor living condition of the S.C. fishermen. Though in the sample villages there are some categories of co-operative societies, yet their functioning is hardly satisfactory. Out of 11 sample villages, only four villages have fishery co-operative societies. Besides, there are three other co-operative societies viz. Nimna Madham Bahumukhi Samabai Samiti in Borikandang village and Milan

Kumbhakar Samabai Samiti Ltd. and Anuchusita Jati Unnayan Samitee at the Charia village. Mahila Unnayan Samiti and Boa Kata Samabai Samiti play an important role in raising the income level of their families. Weaving is considered as subsidiary source of income of the womenfolk and in many villages of fishermen, the womenfolk help their men in running the family affairs with their income. Out of 11 villages, only one village namely Charia has a Boa Kata Samabai Samiti viz. Weaving Co-operative Society and two villages viz. Charia and Bartala No.4 have Mahila Samitee one in each. Almost all these societies are managed and controlled by their communities. The main lacunae however is that these societies are not running properly and most of the fishing societies are defunct.

(viii) **Education:** In the sample villages there are altogether 55 educational institutions, of which two villages viz. Borikadanga and Goboradal have 10 or 17.9 per cent each, Jalkhana village has as high as 23.2 per cent educational institutions, but three villages namely No.4 Bartala, Nawakhat and Harin Chara have L.P. school one each. Of these institutions there are 34 primary schools, 15 middle schools, two high schools.

(ix) **Socio-cultural organization:** In the sample villages under study there are some socio-cultural organizations like Mahila Samities, Youth Clubs, Kala Kristi Silpi, Sangha, Jana Kalyan Samiti, Libraries etc. which act as nuclear for recreation as well as educational and cultural uplift. These organizations also play active role in removing the age-old backwardness from among the scheduled caste fishermen. Out of 11 villages, 100 per cent villages have as Sanghas and temples, two cultural clubs, 12 libraries, one Dhulia Party, one Namparty, 13 Mahila Committees, 11 Gaon Unnayan Committees, 4 Mahila Unnayan Committees, 2 Manashamandirs, one Lakshmi Mandir and one Gopalthan. It shows that the study area is highly rich in cultural affairs.

Table-1
Size of Population and Growth Rate Fishermen in the Sample Villages

Name of Sample Village	Population of Fishermen			Annual Growth Rate	
	1971	1991	2001	1971-91	1991-2001
1. Kaihati	255	302	331	0.9	1.0
2. No.4 Bartala	44	89	-	5.1	-
3. Nowakhat	6	522	625	430.0	2.0
* Kaibartas	305	913	956	10.0	0.4
4. Sathikuchi	98	253	349	7.9	3.8

5. No.1Nathkuchi	189	1160	1301	25.7	1.2
* Jal-Keots	287	1413	1650	19.6	1.7
6. Harinchara: Patnis	--	657	367	-	-4.4
7. Borikadanga: Jhalo-malos	33	163	241	19.7	4.8
8. Goboradal	59	81	134	1.9	6.5
9. Jalkhana	369	1391	1103	13.8	-2.5
10. Bori	1258	1852	2119	2.4	1.4
* Namasudras	1686	3324	3356	4.9	0.1
11. Charia: Hira	299	432	577	2.2	3.4
Total	2610	6902	7207	7.4	0.4

Sources : (i) Hand Book of Census, S.Cs and Scheduled Tribes Population of Assam, Kamrup District,
(ii) 1971, II. Census of India, 1991 District Census handbook,

Table 2

Size of Population and Sex Ratio of Fishermen in the Sample Villages

Name of Sample villages	1991			2001			2011
	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio of sample households
1. Kaihati	156	146	936	202	189	909	929
2. No.4 Bartala	45	44	978	-	-	-	923
3. Nowakhat	274	248	905	333	292	877	966
* Kaibartas	475	438	922	535	481	944	953

4. Sathikuchi	130	123	946	182	167	918	956
5. No.1 Nathkuchi	601	559	930	666	635	953	970
Jal- Keots	731	682	933	848	802	946	967
6. Harinchara *Patnis	340	317	932	195	172	882	933
7.Borikadanga*Jhalo-Malo	85	78	918	123	118	959	941
8. Goboradal	41	40	976	65	69	1062	929
9. Jalkhana	700	691	987	557	546	980	974
10. Bori	950	902	949	1081	1038	960	968
* Namasudras	1691	1633	966	1703	1653	971	967
11. Charia :Hira	216	216	1000	295	282	956	967
Total	3538	3364	951	3699	3508	948	960

Sources : (i) Hand Book of Census, S.Cs and Scheduled Tribes Population of Assam, Kamrup District, 1971,II.Census of India, 1991 District Census Handbook, Nalbari and field survey in 2011

Table 3 : Sex-wise Size of Population of the Sample households

Sample villages & community	Sample heads	Total	%	Male	Female
i. Kaibarta	32	166	16.0	85	81
1.Kaihati	5	27	2.6	14	13
2. No.4 Bartala	4	25	2.4	13	12
3. Nowakhat	23	114	11.0	58	56
II.Jal-Keot	35	177	17.1	90	87

4.Sathikuchi	9	45	4.3	23	22
5.Nathikuchi	26	132	12.8	67	65
III. Patni: 6.Harinchara	17	87	8.4	45	42
IV. Jhalo-malo 7.Borikandanga	12	66	6.4	34	32
V.Namasudra	83	421	40.7	214	207
8.Gobaradal	5	27	2.6	14	13
9.Jal-khana	30	150	14.5	76	74
10.Bori	48	244	23.6	124	120
VI.Hira: 11.Charia	23	118	11.4	60	58
Total	202	1035	100.0	528	507

Source: First Point Survey

Table 4

Occupation Status of Two Generations - Father Generation and Son Generation

Communities	Father's Occupational Status of Sample Heads				Occupational Status of Sample Heads			
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	All	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	All

1.Kaibarta : T	32	-	-	32	23	2	7	32
%	100.0	-	-	100.0	71.9	6.3	21.9	100.0
2.Jal-Keot : T	30	-	5	35	30	1	4	35
%	85.7	-	14.3	100.0	85.7	2.9	11.4	100.0
3.Patni : T	17	-	-	17	17	-	-	17
%	100.0	-	-	100.0	100.0	-	-	100.0
4.Jhalo-malo: T	12	-	-	12	12	-	-	12
%	100.0	-	-	100.0	100.0	-	-	100.0
5.Namasudra: T	80	-	3	83	59	5	19	83
%	96.8	-	3.6	100.0	71.1	6.0	22.9	100.0
6.Hira T	4	19	-	23	7	11	5	23
%	17.4	82.6	-	100.0	30.4	47.8	21.7	99.9
All T	175	19	8	202	148	19	35	202
%	86.6	9.4	4.0	100.0	73.3	9.4	17.3	100.0

Source : Field Survey

Table 5 Educational Status of the Sample households

Community	Sample heads	Primary	Secondary	Higher	Literate	Illiterate
i. Kaibarta :T	32	13	4	2	19	13
:%	100.0	40.6	12.5	6.3	59.4	40.6

II.Jal-Keot : T	35	13	5	5	23	12
:%	100.0	37.1	14.3	14.3	65.7	34.3
III. Patni : T	17	10	1	-	11	6
:%	100.0	58.8	5.9	-	64.7	35.3
IV. Jhalo-malo : T	12	3	3	-	6	6
:%	100.0	25.0	25.0	-	50.0	50.0
V.Namasudra : T	83	32	17	12	61	22
:%	100.0	38.6	20.5	14.5	73.5	26.5
VI.Hira : T	23	7	5	3	15	8
: %	100.0	30.4	21.7	13.0	65.2	34.8
Total : T	202	78	35	22	135	67
: %	100.0	38.6	17.3	10.9	66.8	33.2

Source: First Point Survey

Table 6 :Community-wise Percentage Distribution of Sample Households by Type of Houses

Community	Single roofed	Thatched	Assam Type	All
i. Kaibarta :T	15	9	8	32
:%	46.9	28.1	25.0	100.0

II.Jal-Keot :T	9	11	15	35
:%	25.7	31.4	42.9	100.0
III. Patni :T	7	6	4	17
:%	41.2	35.3	23.5	100.0
IV. Jhalo-malo:T	6	4	2	12
:%	50.0	33.3	16.7	100.-0
V.Namasudra :T	40	32	11	83
:%	48.2	38.6	13.3	110.1
VI.Hira :T	13	7	3	23
:%	56.5	30.4	13.0	100.0
Total :T	90	69	43	202
:%	44.6	34.2	21.3	100.0

Source: First Point Survey

Table .7 : Community-wise Percentage Distribution of Sample Households by Landholding Categories

Community	Landless	Marginal	Small	Big	All
i. Kaibarta :T	19	5	4	4	32
:%	59.4	15.6	12.5	12.5	100.0

II.Jal-keot	:T	13	10	7	5	35
	:%	37.1	28.6	20.0	14.3	100.0
III. Patni	:T	10	3	2	2	17
	:%	58.8	17.6	11.8	11.8	100.0
IV. Jhalo-malo	:T	9	3	-	-	12
	:%	75.0	25.0	-	-	100.-0
V.Namasudra	:T	64	8	7	4	83
	:%	77.1	9.6	8.4	4.8	99.9
VI.Hira	:T	18	2	2	1	23
	:%	78.3	8.8	8.7	4.3	100.0
Total	:T	133	31	22	16	202
	:%	65.8	15.3	10.9	7.9	99.9

Source : Field Survey

Table 8 :

Sample villages with Respect to Communication, Approach to Village, Nearest Station
and Distance in km and power supply

Name of the Sample	Post &	Communicati	Approach to	Nearest station &	Supply of
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villages	Telegraph	on: Bus stop	village	Distance (in km)	power
1. Kaihati	5 km	5 km	KR,FP	Sarthebari ,4 km	ED
2..No.4 Bartala	5 km	BS	KR	Nalbari , 37 km	ED
3.Nawakhat	5 km	B.S	PR,KR	Rangia 31 km	ED
4.Sathikuchi	5 km	B.S.	KR	Tihu , 8 km	ED
5. Nathkuchi	P.O	B.S	PR,KR	Tihu , 4 km	ED
6.Harin Chara	5 km	5 km	KR	Rangia , 48 km	ED
7.Barikadanga	5 km	B.S	KR	Nalbari , 64 km	ED
8.Gobaradal	P.O.	B.S	KR	Tihu ,8 km	ED
9.Jalkhana	P.O	B.S	KR	Tihu ,4 km	ED
10.Bori	P.O.	5 km	KR,FP	Sarthebari , 11 km	ED,EA
11.Charia	P.O	5 km	KR, FP	Nalbari , 13 km	ED

Source : Field Survey : Note : M=Monday, T=Tuesday, W= Wednesday, S=Saturday, D= Daily, H.C. =Health Centre, PHS = Primary Health Sub-centre, PHC = Public Health Centre, ED = Electricity for domestic purpose, EA = Electricity for all purpose, KR = Kuccha Road
PR=Pucca Road ,FP = Footpath,Km =Kilometre

Table 9

Percentage Distribution of Villages by Sources of Drinking Water

sources of drinking water	Nos. of villages	%
1.Tube-well water (TW)	1	9.1
2. Watwer well (W) ,TW	4	36.4
3.W,Tank Water (TK) and Canal (C)	1	9.1
4.W.Hand pump (HP)	1	9.1
5. T,W,TW	3	27.3
6.W,TW,R(River watrer)	1	9.1
	11	100.1

Source : Derived from 10

Table 10 :Infrastructural Facilities Available in the Sample Villages with Respect to Education, Medical, Drinking Water, Post and Telegraph

Name of the	Education	Drinking	Medical
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Sample villages		water	
1.Kaihati	P(2)	T,W,TW	5km
2.No.4 Bartala	P	T,W,TW	5 km
3. Nawakhat	P	W,TK,C	5-10 km
4. Sathikuchi	P(4),M(2)	W,TW	PHC
5. No.1 Nathkuchi	P,M,H	W,TW	PHC
6. Harin Chara	P	W,HP	5 km
7. Borikadanga	P(7),M(3)	W,TW	5-10 km
8. Goboradal	P(3),M(6),H	W,TW,R	PHC
9. Jalkhana	P(9), M(4)	TW	PHS
10. Bori	P(5),M	T,W,TW	5km
11. Charia	P(2),M	W,TW	5 km

Source : Field Survey

Note : P=Primary or Elementary school,M=Middle school, H=High school ,P.U.=Pre-versity

TW=Tube Well Water, T=Tape water, W=Watwer well,TK=Tank water ,HP=Hand

Pump,RW=River water, C=Canal, Km=Kilometre, PHC=Public Health Centre,
PHS=Public Health Sub-Centre