

Indian Village Studies
Village Survey No. 14

HABRUBARI
(A Socio-Economic Survey of A Bodo-Kachari Village in Goalpara District of Assam)

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P R E F A C E

The present report on Habrubari embodies the results of the first point survey of a Bodo-Kachari village in the district of Goalpara, Assam. The study was undertaken in October/November, 1971 with a view to having a glimpse into the socio-economic life of the Bodo-Kachari Community, one of the most important tribal communities of Assam Plains.

The village Habrubari represents a homogeneous society with all its inhabitants belonging to one community viz. Bodo-Kachari. The village is well-served by communication and marketing facilities. Agriculture is the predominant source of income for the villagers and there are large number of families earning their livelihood from agricultural wages within the village. The presence of 22 agricultural labour families in a total of 80 families in such a tribal village is not a natural phenomenon of the tribal areas of this region. They are only seasonally employed and their economic condition is gradually deteriorating.

The study has revealed that a section of the villagers is reacting favourably to the planned efforts of change. The literacy rate is 41 per cent which may be said to be satisfactory. It is hoped that some more concentrated development efforts and sympathetic guidance will help these tribal people to emerge as a prosperous and progressive community.

Like all other reports, the present one is also a joint product of the Centre prepared under the general guidance and supervision of the Director. The names of the research staff associated with the project is given in an appropriate place. Sri D.Gohain, Research Officer, has gone through the report and made some helpful suggestions. Dr.A.N.M.I.Ali has contributed a sociological note on the Bodo-Kacharis which is given in the Appendix. The draft report and stencils were typed by Sri M.C.Dutta,

Stenographer and Sri N.Bora, Typist of the Centre, while the duplicating was done by Sri N.Deka, Gestetner Operator. I am thankful to my colleagues for their sincere cooperation in completing the report.

I am grateful to Sri B.Sarmah, A.E.O. of Dotma T.D. Block and Sri M.B.Chaudhury, a School Teacher of the village for their kind cooperation extended to our research staff during field investigation. I am also thankful to the villagers of Habrubari for extending their cooperation to our research staff at the time of field investigation.

It is hoped that the present Report will throw some light on certain aspects of socio-economic life of the Bodo-Kachari Community.

April, 1975.

P.D. Saikia,
Director.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introducing the Village

I. Location, Layout and Communication :

1.1. Habrubari is a Bodo-Kachari village in Kokrajhar Sub-division of Goalpara district of Assam. It is situated to the north-western side of Kokrajhar sub-division and the distance of the village from the sub-divisional headquarters is 88 km. To the north and south of this village there are two important marketing places named Serfunguri and Fakiragram, lying at a distance of 8 km. and 22 km. respectively from the village. A metalled P.W.D. Road runs across the village and public buses ply on this road from Bilasipara to Serfunguri all day long. One newly constructed P.W.D. road connects village with Tengai Gaon to the west. The villagers can avail the railway facilities at Fakiragram, a noted railway station of the district. The feeder roads leading to the main road of the village are not good and that is why during the rainy season they become muddy and slippery.

2. The People :

2.1. The village Habrubari is inhabited entirely by the Bodo-Kacharis, one of the important plains tribes of Assam. Although they are scattered throughout all the districts of lower Assam, their main concentration is found on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra river in the district of Goalpara. Besides Assam, they are found in Meghalaya, Tripura, North-Bengal and in Bihar also. The Garos of Meghalaya are said to be closely akin to the Bodo-Kacharis, particularly in respect of physical features and languages. The Bodo-Kacharis belong to the Indo-Mongoloid group in origin and in 2000 B.C., the Mongoloids living in Tibet

came to the North Eastern India and Assam along the Brahmaputra and its tributaries for trading silk (Endi & Muga) and some of them permanently settled in the Bank of the Brahmaputra. Therefore some similarities of the Bodo-Kacharis in appearance, culture and language are visible with other Mongoloid people living in Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Tripura etc. The Bodo-Kacharis are now being recognised as a sub-tribe originated from the "Kacharis". Other sub-tribes originated from this tribe are Dimasa-Kacharis, Sonowal-Kacharis etc.

3. Rainfall, Temperature and Soil :

3.1. The climate of Habrubari is, by and large, similar to the rest of the Brahmaputra valley. Broadly speaking, the village enjoys two seasons in a year - Summer and Winter. The summer season begins in May and lasts upto September. The maximum and Minimum temperature in summer and winter season is shown in Table 1.1. Between these two broad seasons, another two seasons i.e. Autumn and Spring prevails which are very pleasant as the climate is neither too hot nor too cold. Temperature is generally high in the month of July and low in the month of January.

3.2. The monsoon shower begins in the month of April and it lasts upto September. A monthly precipitation rate in the district is shown in Table 1.2. The precipitation rate varies from month to month and becomes heavy in the months of June and July and low in the months of December and January. The lack of uniformity in rainfall affects agricultural economy of the village.

3.3. The soil of the village is of alluvial origin and composed of varying degrees of clay, loam and sand. Its soils are fertile and suitable for cultivation of various food and cash crops such as paddy, wheat, jute, sugarcane and mustard etc.

4. Socio-Religious Activities :

4.1. As stated earlier, Habrubari is inhabited by Tribal Hinduised people and some of their traditional socio-religious

Table 1.1

Monthwise Average daily temperatures (Minimum and Maximum) in °C
recorded at Subdivisional Agriculture Office, Kokrajhar.

(i) Average minimum temperatures in °C

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1968	14°	15°	20°	24°	26°	29°	27°	29°	27°	25°	20°	17°
1969	15°	17°	22°	25°	27°	28°	29°	29°	28°	25°	21°	17°
1970	15°	17°	21°	26°	28°	27°	29°	29°	28°	25°	21°	16°
1971	14°	16°	22°	23°	27°	27°	28°	29°	27°	24°	--	--

(ii) Average maximum temperatures in °C

1968	24°	23°	29°	31°	33°	30°	34°	33°	31°	31°	28°	26°
1969	23°	25°	30°	33°	33°	33°	34°	32°	31°	33°	29°	26°
1970	23°	25°	29°	32°	34°	32°	33°	34°	33°	32°	30°	26°
1971	25°	26°	30°	33°	33°	34°	35°	34°	34°	32°	--	--

Table 1.2

Monthly Rainfall in mm. as recorded at Subdivisional Agricultural Office, Kokrajhar.

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1968	--	--	--	--	--	439	480	412	428	305	2	10
1969	10	Nil	85	136	311	621	413	393	209	10	23	Nil
1970	11	18	25	220	247	643	332	247	515	54	Nil	Nil
1971	2	3	33	174	141	540	279	249	363	--	--	--

ceremonies are very colourful. Every Bodo-Kachari village has a common prayer place known as "Garrza Sali" which is generally situated in the midst of thick forests. After completing all other festivals and ceremonies of the year, the villagers organise the "Garrza Puja" in order to purify the people who commits improper works knowingly or unknowingly during the year. "Garrza Puja" is performed by collecting subscriptions from all the villagers.

The most important festival of the Bodo-Kacharis is "Kheray Puja". It represents traditional Bodo-culture and it prolongs usually for 12 hours or more. Dance and few instrumental music continues in this puja from beginning to end, which demonstrates traditional Bodo-culture.

4.2. The "Kheray Puja" is performed thrice a year on three different occasions, e.g. (1) 'Ashu Kheray' is performed in the month of July or August on the occasion of successful cultivation of Ahu Paddy (Summer Paddy) and other Kharif crops of this season, (2) 'Sali Kheray' is celebrated in the month of November or December for the success of Sali Paddy (Winter Paddy) cultivation and other Rabi crops cultivated in this season. (3) Over and above Ahu and Sali Kheray there is another type of Kheray Puja which is performed in order to cure any person suffering from such acute diseases which could not be cured by the use of medicines or other treatment. Principal articles required for performance of "Kheray Puja" are fowls, pigeons, pigs and eggs and these are voluntarily donated by the villagers.

4.3. Of the plains tribals, the Bodos are very rich in their folk-dances. They have more than a dozen exquisitely colourful and rhythmic dances and majority of them are connected with their "Kheray Puja". For preservation and development of traditional Bodo-culture some enlightened persons living in and around Habrubari organised a cultural society known as "Sorkhibonai

Kheray Affat" long ago. In 1950, this Kheray Affact represented kheray dances in Delhi on the occasion of the Republic Day celebration.

4.4. Besides, the Bodo-Kacharis observe various ceremonies and festivals on the occasion of birth and death of human beings and of some agricultural activities such as sowing, weeding and harvesting etc. Like Bihu festival of the Assamese in the plains which is celebrated thrice a year (Mid April, mid-October and mid-January), the Bodo-Kacharis also observe this festival thrice a year in the name of Baisagu, Katigas and Domahi at the same time and in the same manners. But unlike Bhogali or Magh Bihu of the Assamese, the Bodo-Kacharis sing and dance in a body from door to door in their Domahi festival. Thus they collect some money and arrange a feast.

4.5. According to a legend, the Bodo-Kacharis were originated from Siva, the third power of the Hindu Trinity, and therefore they are worshipper of Lord Siva(Bathow) as the supreme creator of the Universe. Besides, they worship many other Gods and Goddesses. On the other hand, some traditional floktales and folksongs make the Bodo-Kacharis stern believer in magic and witchcraft which make their social life more complex. They believe in ghosts and spirits too.

4.6. The social structure of the Bodo-Kacharis is characterised by few matriarchal elements. As regards marriage system prevalent among them, monogamy is the general rule, although polygamy is also allowed in the case of a woman. There are five main systems of marriage among the Bodo-Kacharis including the marriage by capture. But now the marriage by capture is not socially recognised and it is regarded as an offence. Child marriage is unknown to them. Widow marriage is not prohibited. Divorce is not common in the village. Although

the method of divorce is very simple, it should be approved by the village elders before execution.

4.7. The death ceremony among the Bodo-Kacharis is also an elaborate affair. The dead bodies are generally buried. On the 10th day a simple ceremony is performed followed by an elaborate ceremony on the 11th or 13th day when a feast with meat and rice-beer is given to the villagers and relatives. The performance of death ceremony depends on the financial condition of the bereaved family. The poor families generally perform the ceremony in a very simple manner. The neighbours also help the poor families in all possible ways (Details may be seen in the sociological Note in the Appendix).

5. Educational Facilities :

5.1. Educational facilities upto High School level are available in and around Habrubari. There is one Junior Basic School within the village. The pupils can have education in this school both in Assamese and Bodo-medium. At the time of the bench-mark survey in Oct./Nov. 1972, there were 90 pupils in this school, of which 79 were in the section of Bodo-medium and the rest were in Assamese medium. There were only two teachers including the Head Pandit in the Junior Basic School at the time of survey.

5.2. Besides this Junior Basic School in the village, there are one M.E. School at Serfunguri and one M.E. School at Ramfalbill and the distance to these two schools from the village is 2 km. and 4 km. respectively. Both these schools are of mixed medium - Bodo and Assamese. Total enrolment as on 1.11.71 in these two schools were 189 and 385 respectively. In the M.E. School there were 105 pupils in the section of Bodo medium while 64 pupils in the Assamese section. But in the H.E. School, the enrolment - strength in the section of Assamese medium was

greater than that in the Bodo-section. The number of pupils in the Assamese section was 255 and the rest in the Bodo-section. The position of teaching staff in both these schools was satisfactory at the time of survey being 8 in the M.E.School and 21 in the H.E.Schools respectively.

5.3. The condition of the school buildings mentioned above were somewhat satisfactory at the time survey. All these school-buildings were C.I. Sheet roofed. The M.E. School and the H.E. School are being administered under Deficit Grant Scheme of the State Govt. and the Junior Basic School is controlled by the Basic Education Board. The boys and girls of Habrubari can avail higher educational facilities upto college level at Bilasipara and Kokrajhar.

6. Other Public Institutions :

6.1. A small library was established in the village in 1960, by some enlightened youths. But the condition of the library is not good at present due to lack of proper management. Only few books were seen in the library at the time of investigation.

6.2. Besides there is a Mohila Samity in the village and it was originally organised for weaving and crafts. It was formed on 26th December, 1967 and throughout all the years from its inception upto the time of investigation, the Samiti could receive only Rs.400/- as grants from the Government. Besides this cash assistance, Government provided 2 fly shuttles and 1 throw shuttle looms to the Samiti as kind assistance. In the middle of the year of 1971, this Samiti produced some clothes such as towels, mufflers etc. for sale.

6.3. Recreation facilities within the village are very limited. Badminton, volley-ball, football, carrom etc., are the various outdoor and indoor games in which the young boys and girls of the village can occasionally participate. As told earlier, "Kheray Affat" is a popular festival in the village in which all the

villagers irrespective of age and sex participate.

6.4. There is no co-operative institution in the village, but one "Krishak Sahayak Samabai Samiti (K.S.S.S.)" is functioning at Serfunguri and the needy poor cultivators from the village Habrubari can derive credit from this Samiti. The Secretary of the Samiti is selected from this village. Only one cultivator from the village Habrubari took agricultural loan from this Samiti upto the time of investigation. Generally the villagers do not like to disclose their burden of loans for the sake of social prestige and that is why it is difficult to determine the number of actual loanee.

7. Village Leadership and Village Administration :

7.1. Village leaders generally have immense influence in a tribal society. But in Habrubari the influence of such leaders in the village administration is not so noteworthy. The Panchayat administration has become an accepted factor. There is one village headman or "Gaonbura" who generally negotiate minor village disputes with the help of village elders and offer necessary guidance in cases of social tensions.

7.2. The village Habrubari falls within the jurisdiction of Serfunguri Gaon Panchayat which is affiliated to Dotma Anchalik Panchayat. Two members from this village including the President represent the Gaon Panchayat. The Panchayats offer all possible helps to the villagers in socio-economic developments. The Dotma Community Development Block which is recognised as Tribal Development Block is availing some special grants-in-aid from the State Government for implementing various socio-economic development schemes in tribal areas. It is learnt from the Block Development Authority that every year several lakhs of rupees thus received as special grants were spent for socio-economic upliftment of the tribal people. High Yielding Variety seeds, chemical fertilisers, poultry birds and piglings of

improved breeds are being distributed among the villagers from T.D. Block.

8. Veterinary Facilities :

8.1. The villagers can avail required veterinary facilities both at Ramfalbill and Dotma T.D. Block. It is reported that no epidemic of livestock had occurred in the village during the last few years. But the epidemic of poultry birds has frequently occurred and in 1970 large number of poultry birds of the village died of epidemic. Almost all the livestock population and a majority of the poultry birds in the village are of local breeds. Few families have kept some poultry birds of improved breeds and these birds were distributed among them by the T.D. Block in March/April 1971 at the cost of Rs.6.00 per pair.

9. Tenancy System and Land Revenue :

9.1. Land tenancy system of Goalpara district is somewhat different from other plains districts of Assam. The land tenancy system of this district is being governed by the Goalpara Tenancy Act of 1929 with some recent reforms. The village Habrubari is also not exception to this. At the time of enactment of the Tenancy act of 1929, the Jamindari system of land tenure system prevailed in the district in full swing. Under this Act, the tenants were divided into four groups - (i) Permanent tenure holders, (ii) Jotedars, (iii) Raiyats and (iv) Under-raiyats.

9.2. The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaries Act 1951 which came into force on 9.6.54 had made some reforms to the permanently settled areas of Goalpara district. But even then most of the revenue rates still being prevailed in the district were fixed by the Zaminders. But now the Revenue Department of the Government of Assam has modified some of the rules in classifying the gradation of land and in fixation of revenue rates. Those Khas lands in which settlement is given on permanent basis by the Government the revenue rates has been fixed at Re.1.00

per bigha. As collected from the S.D.C.'s office, Kokrajhar, the revenue rates per bigha of land in the district at the time of investigation are as follows :-

Bhal Bari	Rs.1.30
Bari	Re.0.97
No-Bari	Re.0.54
Sali land	Re.0.86
Lahi land	Re.0.76
Ahu (Sowing land)	Re.0.54
Bisesh Faringati	Re.0.97
Faringati	Re.0.43
Tolatak	Re.0.27

9.3. In the village Habrubari also, land is held under two systems - Periodic Khiraj and Annual Khiraj. Under periodic khiraj, land is held as full revenue-paying, permanent, heritable and transferable land. In Annual Khiraj, there is no permanent right and the land cannot be transferred. The land holders of both the types may sublet their land. In subletting of agricultural land Adhi system (share-cropping on 50.50 basis) is still prevalent. Cash rent and fixed kind rent are also practised.

10. Cropping Pattern and Agricultural Method :

10.1. The general cropping pattern of Habrubari is traditional, but some improved methods are being partly accepted by few progressive cultivators in the village. Hybrid paddy seeds and improved methods are being adopted by one cultivator family in the village at the of investigation. Winter paddy or Sali paddy is transplanted in June-August and harvested in November-December. Some families grow Autumn or Ahu Paddy which is sown in March-April and harvested in June-July. Jute is also sown in March/April and harvested in July/August. Vegetables are cultivated both for sale and home consumption. Much efforts have been made by the Dotma T.D.Block in changing the mono-cropping pattern of the village but could not achieve much success in it.

11. Marketing Facilities :

11.1. Two weekly markets (Hats) at Serfunguri and Dotma which are at a distance of 2 km. and 8 km. from the village offer regular marketing facilities to the villagers of Habrubari. Rice and Jute are two main agricultural crops which the villagers offer for sale at the markets. Other products which the villagers bring for sale in the markets are vegetables like brinjal, arum, papaya etc., fruits such as orange, pineapple, lemon, juckfruits and fish, poultry birds, eggs etc. The sellers of these articles generally purchase their necessary articles from the markets. The villagers usually have to depend on these weekly markets for meeting all their essential requirements. Besides, there are two grocery shops in the village which provide some facilities to the villagers for meeting some urgent day-to-day needs. The price of some essential commodities prevalent in the village in October/November, 1971 is given in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3

Prices of Certain Essential Commodities
In Habrubari, 1971

<u>Commodities</u>	<u>Standard Unit</u>	<u>Prices (Rs.)</u>
1. Paddy	Per quintal	77.00
2. Rice	Per quintal	150.00
3. Salt	Per Kg.	0.50
4. Kerosene	Per Litre	0.58
5. Arahar	Per Kg.	1.90
6. Masur	Per Kg.	2.00
7. Matikalai	Per Kg.	1.50
8. Mastard Oil	Per Litre	6.00
9. Sugar	Per Kg.	2.60
10. Gur	Per Kg.	2.00
11. Potato	Per Kg.	1.25
12. Onion	Per Kg.	1.00
13. Saon	Per Kg.	3.00
14. Tea	Per Kg.	6.50
15. Match Box	Each	0.10

CHAPTER TWO
Demographic Features

1. Population by Family Type :

1.1. Habrubari, a Bodo-Kachari village in Goalpara district of Assam, consists of 80 households with total population of 544 (268 male and 276 female) at the time of investigation in October/November, 1971. The village is entirely inhabited by people of one community i.e. Bodo-Kachari and therefore, the prevailing social and economic conditions in the village is almost of similar nature. The average size of household is 6.8.

1.2. There are 52 nuclear and 28 joint or special families in the village. A nuclear family consists of the husband (the Head of the household), wife and their unmarried children. In a joint family the husband, wife and married children reside together. A special family generally conforms to a joint family; but unlike a joint family a special family consists of relatives or servants who live together as members of the family.

1.3. The distribution of households and population by size and family type of the village Habrubari is shown in Table 2.1. From this Table it appears that the average size of a family in the village is 6.8 i.e. 5.6 for the nuclear and 9.0 for joint and special families. The biggest family in the village consists of 20 members.

2. Distribution of Population by Age and Sex :

2.1. The distribution of population by age and sex in the village Habrubari is shown in Table 2.2 which shows that there are 261 persons (47.97% of the total) below the age of 15 years. In the village Habrubari the early-age and old-age dependency (below the 15 years and above 60 years of age) together constitute more than 50 percent of the total population and the rest in the age group 15-60 years are considered as labour force. Tribal

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Table 2.1

Distribution of Households and Population by Size and Type of Families, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Family Type	Nuclear		Joint and Special		Total (all type)								
	No. of H.H.	Population		No. of H.H.	Population								
		Male	Female		Male	Female	Total						
3	10	16	14	30	--	--	10	16	14	30	(2.94)	(2.57)	(5.51)
4	10	23	17	40	2	4	12	27	21	48	(4.96)	(3.86)	(8.82)
5	8	22	18	40	--	--	8	22	18	40	(4.04)	(3.30)	(7.34)
6	6	20	16	36	2	5	8	25	23	48	(4.30)	(4.22)	(8.52)
7	8	28	28	56	1	4	9	32	31	63	(5.83)	(5.70)	(11.53)
8	5	20	20	40	7	27	12	47	49	96	(8.64)	(9.01)	(17.65)
9	2	8	10	18	7	21	9	29	52	81	(5.33)	(9.56)	(14.89)
10	2	9	11	20	4	22	6	31	29	60	(5.70)	(5.33)	(11.03)
11	1	5	6	11	2	11	3	16	17	33	(2.94)	(3.13)	(6.07)
12	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	6	6	12	(1.10)	(1.10)	(2.20)
13	-	-	-	-	1	9	1	9	4	13	(1.35)	(0.74)	(2.09)
20	-	-	-	-	1	8	1	8	12	20	(1.47)	(2.21)	(3.68)
Total	52	151	140	291	28	117	80	238	273	511	(49.27)	(50.73)	(100.00)
Avg. family		2.9	2.7	5.5	4.2	4.8	9.0	3.1	3.1	6.2			

Figures within brackets are the percentages to the grand total.

people are generally strong and stout and therefore some workers below the age of 15 years (Table 2.6) are found in the village.

2.2. The sex-ratio in Habrubari is 103 females per 100 males (Table 2.2). This rate cannot be said to be normal for this region. In Goalpara District ^{where} the village is situated, there are 93 females per 100 males, according to 1971 Census (Provisional). The number of females is proportionately higher than that of the males in all the age-groups of below 20 years. From this, it seems that birth rate of female is higher than that of males in the village.

3. Marital Status :

3.1. The distribution of population by age, sex and marital status is shown in Table 2.3. It is significant to note that not a single person in either sex above the age of 35 years has remained unmarried in the village Habrubari. Early marriage is generally disliked by the people and there is only one early-married woman below the age of 15 years, which is considered quite exceptional. The common age for marriage appears to be between 25 to 35 years amongst the males. There are 90 married females in the village as against 85 married males, and it is due to the fact that few persons in the village possess two wives. There are 9 widowers and 12 widows in the village mostly in the higher age group. Most of the widowers or widows fall in the age group of 45 years and above. Widowers or widows in the younger age are generally got re-married and that is why widowers or widows in the younger age-group is almost nil. Divorce cases are almost rare in a Hindu society. There was only one case of divorce in the village at the time of bench-mark survey.

4. Educational Status :

4.1. Table 2.4 shows the distribution of population in the village Habrubari by sex and educational status. As stated earlier, there is one Junior Basic School within the village. Although there is no High School in the village, the children of Habrubari are

Table 2.3

Distribution of Population by Age, Sex and Marital Status, Habrubari, 1971-72.

Age Groups	Unmarried		Married		Widower/widow		Divorced		Total of all categories	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Below 10 years	94	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	109
10 - 15	24	33	-	1	-	-	-	-	24	34
15 - 20	28	25	1	5	-	-	-	-	29	30
20 - 25	16	2	5	14	-	1	-	-	21	17
25 - 30	7	4	11	20	-	-	-	-	18	24
30 - 35	4	1	17	15	1	1	-	-	22	17
35 - 45	-	-	24	19	-	2	-	-	25	21
45 - 55	-	-	13	11	5	4	-	-	21	15
55 - 65	-	-	8	4	3	2	-	-	11	6
65 and above	-	-	3	1	-	2	-	-	3	3
Total	173	174	85	90	9	12	1	-	268	276

Table 2.4

Distribution of Population by Sex and Educational Status, Habrubari, Goalpara 1971 -72.

Educational Status	Children (Below 15 years)		Adult		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Illiterate	71	92	57	100	320 (58.83)
Just literate	-	-	22	8	30 (5.51)
Primary Standard	35	44	18	11	108 (19.85)
M.E.Standard	9	6	24	8	47 (8.64)
Matric Standard	1	--	4	3	8 (1.47)
Matriculate	2	1	21	3	27 (4.96)
I.A.& P.U.	-	--	4	--	4 (0.74)
Graduate	--	--	--	--	--
Total	118	143	150	133	544 (100)

not deprived of high school education due to location of several High Schools around the village.

4.2. The total population of the village has been divided into 8 groups ranking from illiteracy to graduation. About 59 percent total population in the village are illiterate and the rest 41 percent are literate or just literate. The literacy percentage of the village in the year 1971-72 was much higher than that of the district as a whole (28.81% in 1971 Census-Provisional). Just literate persons are those who can simply read and write. Although there is not a single graduate in the village at the time of investigation, but several students were studying in P.U. classes.

4.3. The number of school-going children in the village at the time of survey is shown in Table 2.5. Out of 261 children upto the age of 14 years in the village only 93 were attending schools at the time of survey. Out of total 120 students who were attending school and colleges, 74 or 61.67% were in the primary school.

Table 2.5

Distribution of Students According to Age Groups and Educational Status, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Age Groups	Primary		Upto M.E.		Matric standard		P.U./H.S.		Graduate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Below 5 Years	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	22	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	12	12	7	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	6	1	10	3	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
25 - 30	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total :	35	39	14	7	16	6	2	-	1	-

5. Economic Status :

5.1. The total working force and labour force of the village population are shown in Table 2.6. The economic status of the villagers is divided into three categories viz. worker, helper and non-worker. A person who participated actively in economically gainful activities as wholtimeer is considered as worker and who is partly engaged in such activities is termed as helper. Those people who are not engaged in economic persuits are considered as non-workers. Most of the helpers are school-going students. Some minor school-going children and incapable and dependent persons are also included in the category of non-workers.

5.2. Table 2.6 reveals that the total number of workers and helpers in the village is 255 & 56 respectively. The total number of non-workers is 233. Sex distribution by economic status shows that the number of female workers is more than that of the male workers and it is due to the fact that in a tribal society generally the females take more active part in economic persuits than the males.

5.3. The distribution of working force and labour force in the village Habrubari is shown in Table 2.7. Working force consists

Table 2.7

Working Force by Economic Status and Labour Force, Habrubari, Goalpara.

Category	Distribution of Sex		
	Male	Female	Total
A. Working Force:			
1. Workers			
(a) Number	127	128	255
(b) Percentage of total working force	(40.82)	(41.16)	(81.99)
2. Helper :			
(a) Number	33	23	56
(b) Percentage of working force	(10.61)	(7.39)	(18.00)
3. Total working force			
(a) Number	160	151	311
(b) Percentage of total	(51.45)	(48.55)	(100.00)
B. Labour Force			
(a) Number	141	127	268
(b) P.C. of working to labour force	(114.18)	(118.90)	(116.04)
C. Average working force per family of average size 6.8	2.0	1.9	3.9

Labour force includes all the persons within the agegroup 15-60 yrs.

Table 2.6

Distribution of Population According to Age Groups and Economic Status, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Age Groups	worker		Helper		Non-worker		Total of all Types	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Below 15 years	127	9	16	16	101	118	118	143
15 - 30	43	64	17	7	3	-	63	71
30 - 45	47	33	-	-	-	-	47	38
45 - 60	23	17	-	-	-	1	26	18
60 and above	5	-	-	-	4	6	9	6
Total	(23.34)	(23.53)	33	23	108	125	268	276
			(3.07)	(4.23)	(19.85)	(22.93)	(49.26)	(50.74)
								(100.00)

Figures in the brackets indicate percentages to the total.

The agricultural occupations have covered 89.89 per cent of the total population in the village. Out of the 89.89 per cent of the total population in the agricultural occupations, 64.34 per cent are owner cultivators. Most of the agricultural labourers in the village are employed within the village. Most of them are casual and some are attached. The male and female agricultural labourers are known as 'Dhana' and 'Dhani' respectively in Bodo-dialect. Among the occupations in the non-agricultural group, "Trade, Commerce & Transport" has covered 7 households out of the total 9, and the total number of population covered by these households is 41 or 7.53 per cent of the total.

6.4. From the economic point of view the association of occupations in a particular village is also important as it indicates the occupational structure of the village. It is to be noted that in addition to the primary occupation, a person may directly or indirectly be associated to one or more other occupations which are termed as secondary. A picture relating to the distribution of households according to the number of occupations associated in the village Habrubari is presented in Table 2.9. From the Table it

Table 2.9

Distribution of Households According to Number of Occupations Associated, Habrubari, Goalpara - 1971-72.

<u>Occupation Combination</u>	<u>No. of H.H.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Single occupation	20	25.00
Association of one occupation	40	50.00
Association of two occupations	19	23.75
Association of three occupations	1	1.25
Total :	80	100.00

appears that only 20 households (25%) of the village have single occupation which is agriculture. The remaining 60 households (75%) have associated with one or more subsidiary occupations including the primary ones. Salaried job, Profession & Services, Trade & Commerce are the subsidiary occupations stated above.

CHAPTER THREE

Economic Resources

I. Introduction:

1.1. The primary economic resources of the village Habrubari viz. land resources, livestock and tools and implements possessed by the villagers are discussed in this Chapter. Some other economic resources such as labour & capital have been discussed in different parts of the Report.

2. Village Land : Its Ownership and Utilization :

2.1. Being governed by the Permanently Settled Area Act, the land in major parts of Goalpara district cannot be classified like those of the other districts of Assam. The village Habrubari is also not exception to this. But now this old system has been changed to a great extent and land classification of such permanently settled areas has taken the shape of other temporarily settled districts of Assam. The total land of the village Habrubari has been classified into two broad categories - Myadi (Khiraj periodic or settlement of 30 years lease) and Aksona (Khiraj annual - land under annual lease). There is no Nispi-Khiraj (half revenue paying) or Lakhiraj (Revenue free) land in the village. It is to be noted in this connection that about 95 per cent of the total land of the village are Khiraj periodic.

2.2. The distribution of land ownership and utilization of owned land according to size of holdings is shown in Table 3.1 which reveals that out 80 households in the village, 55 households or 70 per cent of the total have possessed 2 hectares or below 15 bighas of land. Only 9 families have owned land above 4 hectares. Out of the total 141.34 hectares of land owned by the villagers, the above mentioned 55 families have possessed only 38.71 hectares and the average holdings of land per family is slightly above 0.5 hectares. Two families in the village are landless.

Table 3.1

Utilization of Owned Land According to Size Group,
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Size Groups (in hectares)	No. of house- holds	Total area owned	Total cropped area	Area sown more than once	Net area sown	Homestead and orchard	Leased out
Landless	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Below 0.5 hectares	22	4.21	0.47	0.13	0.34	3.87	--
0.5 - 1.00	14	10.06	6.41	2.97	3.44	4.32	2.30
1.01 - 2.00	17	24.44	19.85	6.42	13.43	7.09	3.92
Sub-total	55	38.71	26.73	9.52	17.21	15.28	6.22
2.01 - 3.00	12	29.70	32.81	10.33	22.48	5.71	1.43
3.01 - 4.00	4	13.97	14.58	3.44	11.14	2.33	--
4.01 and above	9	59.46	32.34	13.73	49.06	10.40	--
Sub-total	25	103.13	110.23	27.55	32.68	18.97	1.43
Total	80	141.84	136.96	37.07	99.89	34.25	7.70

2.3. Almost all the land in the village are cultivable. Only 7.54 hectares or 5.31 per cent of total land are occupied by homesteads which are considered as non-cultivable. There are no current fallow or cultivable waste land in the village. Out of 141.84 hectares of total area owned, the total net area sown is 99.89 hectares. Only 37.07 hectares are sown more than once. Almost all the double-cropped areas are covered by Ahu paddy and Jute.

2.4. The use classification of owned land by occupational class is shown in Table 3.2. It is seen from the Table that 87.60 per cent of the total land in the village are owned by the owner

Table 3.2

Use Classification of Land Owned by the Villagers by Occupational Class, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Occupational classes	Households		Land not available for cultivation			(area in hectares)	
	No.	P.C. age	Home-stead	Orchard	Total	Total cultivable land	Total land owned
Owner cultivator	45	56.25	4.79	19.35	24.14	100.18	124.32 (87.66)
Tenant cultivator	1	1.25	0.14	0.68	0.82	0.94	1.76 (1.24)
Agricultural labour	22	27.50	1.45	2.63	4.08	0.54	4.62 (3.26)
Trade, Commerce and Transport	7	8.75	0.68	2.16	2.84	1.75	4.59 (3.23)
Salaried jobs	2	2.50	0.14	0.54	0.68	2.02	2.70 (1.90)
Agricultural Rent Receiver	3	3.75	0.34	1.35	1.69	2.16	3.85 (2.71)
Total :	80	100.00	7.54 (5.31)	26.71 (18.83)	34.25 (24.14)	107.59 (75.86)	141.84 (100.00)

cultivators. 22 families of agricultural labour class have possessed only 4.62 hectares or 3.62 percent of land in the village. Most of the agricultural labourers of the village are

employed by the owner cultivators within the village. The area under orchard though shown as non-cultivable is actually not so as different garden crops are grown in such lands.

3. Operational Holdings :

3.1. Operational holdings include the land owned by the villagers plus land taken on lease and mortgaged in, minus land leased out to others. The distribution of operational holdings by size group is shown in Table 3.3. Only 46 households out of 80,

Table 3.3

Distribution of Operational Holdings by Size Group, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Size Groups (Hectares)	Households		Area under operation		Average operational holding
	No.	Percentage	Area (Hectares)	Percentage	
Below 0.5 ha.	2	4.35	0.74	0.65	0.37
0.5 - 1.00	7	15.22	4.73	4.12	0.68
1.01 - 2.00	14	30.43	19.44	17.19	1.39
Sub-total	23	50.00	24.91	22.02	1.03
2.01 - 3.00	9	19.56	13.09	15.99	2.01
3.01 - 4.00	4	8.70	14.51	12.83	3.63
4.01 and above	10	21.74	55.62	49.16	5.56
Sub-total	23	50.00	88.22	77.98	3.84
Total	46	100.00	113.13	100.00	2.46

have operational holdings. From Table 3.3 it is seen that 50.00 per cent of the total households in the size group of 0.5 to 2 hectares in the village have owned only 22.02 per cent of the total land under operation, and the rest 50.00 per cent of the households in the size group of holdings 2.01 hectares to above 4.00 hectares have owned 77.89 per cent of the total operational holdings in the village which indicates uneven distribution of holdings under

Table 3.4

Ownership and Operational Holdings by Occupational Classes,
Hebrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Occupational Classes	No. of house- holds	Cultivable land (Area in Hactares)				Average operational holdings		
		Total owned	Owned land under per- sonal cultivation	Leased out	Taken on lease in		Total operati- onal holdings	
Owner Cultivator	45	100.13 (90.59)	98.42 (89.00)	1.76 (1.59)	6.35 (5.74)	5.81 (5.25)	110.53 (100.00)	2.45
Tenant Cultivator	1	0.94 (46.52)	0.94 (43.52)	--	1.08 (53.46)	--	2.02 (100.00)	2.02
Agricultural Labour	22	0.54	--	0.54	--	--	--	--
Trade, Commerce and Transport	7	1.75	--	1.75	--	--	--	--
Salaried Jobs	2	2.02 (331.16)	0.53 (100.00)	1.49 (231.15)	--	--	0.53 (100.00)	0.27
Agricultural Rent Receiver	3	2.16	--	2.16	--	--	--	--
Total	80	107.59 (95.10)	99.89 (88.29)	7.70 (6.30)	7.43 (6.56)	5.81 (5.13)	113.13 (100.00)	1.41

Note : Figures in the brackets are the percentages of of total operational holdings.

operation. The average size of operational holding of the village as a whole is ^{1.91}2.46 hectares.

3.2. The distribution of operational holdings by occupation is shown in Table 3.4 which reveals that operational holding is the highest among the owner cultivators with 2.45 hectares as the average size., followed by the tenant cultivators with 2.02 hectares. It is significant to note that out of 6 occupational classes in the village, 3 occupational classes have leased out their entire cultivable land. Main reason for leasing out the entire cultivable land by these occupational classes is lack of suitable working lands and bullock powers for cultivation. Out of 107.59 hectares of owned land under operation, only 7.70 hectares are leased out. Only few households in the occupational classes of Owner and Tenant cultivators have taken land on lease for cultivation. The economic condition of the owner cultivators is generally good and their working lands and bullock powers for cultivation are also sufficient.

4. Tools and Implements :

4.1. Traditional method of cultivation is being followed by all the farmers in Habrubari and hence the agricultural tools and implements used by them are of traditional type except 2 improved iron ploughs possessed by two families of owner cultivators.

4.2. Important agricultural tools and implements possessed by the cultivators are ploughs, spades, hoes, harrows and sickles etc. Number and value of different kinds of agricultural tools and implements by occupational classes are shown in Table 3.5. Out of 80 households, 45 households belonging to the occupational class of Owner cultivator possess the highest number of tools and implements. In contrast to this, 22 households of agricultural labour class have the smallest number of such tools and implements. The two improved iron ploughs as stated above were supplied by the Dotma T.D. Block at subsidised rate with a view of making an experiment among the cultivators for its successful use. It is interesting to note that all the households in the occupational

Table 3.5

Number and Value of Agricultural Tools and Implements
By Occupational Classes, Habrubari, Goalpara,
1971-72.

Occupational Classes	Owner culti- vator	Tenant culti- vator	Agril. labour	Trade, comm- erce & Trans.	Salaried jobs	Agril. rent recei- ver.	Total
No. of H.H.	45	1	22	7	2	3	80
Desi plough							
No.	74	1	-	-	1	1	77
Value	1315	12	-	-	20	20	1373
Improved plough							
No.	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Value	60	-	-	-	-	-	60
Spade							
No.	82	1	15	5	2	2	107
Value	1088	10	134	60	20	20	1382
Hoes							
No.	56	-	-	1	-	1	58
Value	145	-	-	3	-	3	151
Seeddril							
No.	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
Value	118	-	-	-	-	-	118
Harrow							
No.	43	1	-	-	1	-	45
Value	304	6	-	-	6	-	316
Seythe Sickle							
No.	133	2	15	1	2	4	157
Value	274	3.50	26.50	1.75	3.25	5.50	314.50
Tral							
No.	80	2	22	9	3	3	119
Value	1052	22	243	104	39	32	1492
Khanti							
No.	22	-	1	-	-	-	23
Value	39	-	2	-	-	-	41
Bullock Cart							
No.	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
Value	5850	-	-	-	-	-	5850

classes of 'Agricultural Labour' and 'Trade, Commerce and Transport' of the village are without any plough as most of them are either landless or possess little cultivable land. Those households

Table 3.5

Agricultural Tools and Implements by Size-group of Land Holdings
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Size-groups (Hectare)	No. of H.H.	(Value in Rupees)											
		Plough		Spade		Hoes		Seeddrill					
		No.	Value	Desi	Improved	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value		
Landless	2	--	--	--	--	1	14	--	--	--	--	--	--
Below 0.5 hectare	22	3	66	--	--	13	212	4	8	--	--	--	--
0.5 - 1.00	14	6	98	--	--	8	114	2	5	1	10	--	10
1.01 - 2.00	17	14	250	--	--	20	269	10	25	2	24	--	24
Sub-total	55	23	414	--	--	47	609	16	41	3	34	--	34
2.01 - 3.00	12	20	350	1	30	21	276	10	28	2	28	--	28
3.01 - 4.00	4	10	179	--	--	10	128	7	17	2	22	--	22
4.01 & above	9	24	430	1	30	29	369	25	65	3	34	--	34
Sub-total :	95	54	959	2	30	30	773	42	110	7	34	--	34
Total :	80	77	1373	2	60	107	1382	58	151	10	118	--	118

Contd. (2)

Table 3.5

Agricultural Tools and Implements by Size-group of Land Holdings
Hebrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72

(Value in Rupees)

Size-groups (Hectare)	No. of H.H.	Harrow		Scythe sickle		Ural		Khanti		Bullock Cart	
		No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
Landless	2	--	--	2	3.50	2	22	--	--	--	--
Below 0.5 hectare	22	2	12	18	27.75	24	261	1	2	1	300
0.5 - 1.00	14	4	29	10	19.00	14	169	--	--	2	600
1.01 - 2.00	17	6	43	27	51.75	25	307	4	8	3	700
Sub-total :	55	12	84	57	102.00	65	759	5	10	6	1500
2.01 - 3.00	12	9	64	27	59.50	25	329	6	11	5	1450
3.01 - 4.00	4	7	46	22	43.00	10	142	2	4	1	350
4.01 & above	9	17	122	51	107.00	19	262	10	16	8	2450
Sub-total :	25	33	232	100	212.50	54	733	18	31	14	4250
Total :	80	45	316	157	314.50	119	1492	23	41	20	5850

possessing little of cultivable land have either leased out their land to others or used to cultivate them with the spade.

4.3. Buffalo or bullock carts and 'Ural' are two important tools and implements possessed by the villagers. Carts are generally used for carrying the produce from the fields and for marketing them in nearby weekly markets. For processing the rice, the 'Ural' (an indigeneous wooden husking implement) is considered essential by every household. So the average number of 'Urals' in every household of the village is more than two.

4.4. The number and nature of agricultural tools and implements bear a close relationship with the size of holding. Table 3.6 shows the distribution of tools and implements according to the size group of operational holdings. It is seen from the Table that the households in the higher size-groups possess considerable number of tools and implents as compared to those of the lower size group. 25 households in the size groups of holdings from 2.01 hactares to 4.00 hactares and above have more than two ploughs in average. So is the case with other tools and implements.

5. Livestock :

5.1. In rural agricultural economy of Assam, where the traditional method of cultivation is being practised, the importance of cattle and buffaloes can hardly be over-emphasised. Cattle, buffaloes and pigs are important livestock of the village. Bullocks and buffaloes (both he-buffaloes and she-buffaloes) are used in drawing ploughs and carts. The livestocks, i.e. bullocks and buffaloes in the village are of local breed, and therefore, are small in size. Few households have kept few goats also. Important poultry birds of the village are fowls, ducks and pigeons. Excepting 54 fowls and 10 ducks of improved breed, all other birds are of indigenous breed. Table 3.7 shows the distribution of livestock population and poultry birds of Habrubari by occupational group. Out of the total 226 cattle population in the village, the

Table 3.7

Distribution of Livestock Population According to Occupation Groups,
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Occupational Classes	No. of H.H. stock	Bullock		Cows		Buffaloes		Goats	Pigs	Fowls		Ducks	Pigeons	Peacock	
		Young	Adult	Young	Adult	Young	Adult			Desi	Impro-Desi				
		stock	stock	stock	stock	stock	stock			Desi	Improved				
Owner Cultivator	45	20	89	20	67	2	32	19	57	1021	54	25	10	20	1
Tenant Cultivator	1	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	1	40	--	--	--	--	--
Agricultural Labour	22	--	2	2	2	--	--	--	13	34	--	--	--	--	--
Trade, Commerce & Transport	7	--	2	--	2	--	--	--	2	33	--	--	--	--	--
Salaried Jobs	2	--	2	2	4	--	--	3	1	70	--	--	--	--	--
Agricultural Rent Receiver	3	2	3	--	3	--	--	--	5	9	--	--	--	--	--
Total	80	22	102	24	78	2	32	19	84	1242	54	25	10	20	1

Table 3.3

Distribution of Livestock Population According to Size Group of Land Holding,
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Size Groups (Hectares)	No. of house- holds	Bullocks		Cows		Buffaloes		Goats Pigs		Fowls		Ducks	Pigeons	Pea Cock		
		Young Stock	Adult	Young stock	Adult	Young stock	Adult	Desi	Impro- ved	Desi	Impro- ved	Desi	Impro- ved			
Landless	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Below 0.5 hectare	22	--	4	1	1	--	3	1	1	21	96	--	--	--		
0.5 - 1.00	14	--	8	2	5	--	3	1	1	8	51	--	--	--		
1.01 - 2.00	17	6	26	1	13	--	2	2	--	14	169	--	--	--		
2.01 - 3.00	12	3	21	7	13	--	7	3	8	20	333	9	10	--		
3.01 - 4.00	4	1	11	-	3	--	5	3	--	8	104	--	--	1		
4.01 and above	9	7	32	13	43	2	12	9	6	13	489	16	20	--		
Total :	80	22	102	24	78	2	32	19	16	84	1242	54	25	10	20	1

owner cultivators have owned 196 numbers. The number of bullocks in work, per household, is highest in this occupational group. Besides, the owner cultivators have possessed the highest number of other livestock animals such as goats, pigs etc. and poultry birds too. On the other hand, the number of these animals and birds per household is the smallest in the occupational group of "Agricultural Labour".

5.2. Distribution of livestock according to various size groups of land holding is given in Table 3.8. This Table shows that bigger the size group of holdings, higher the number of animals and birds is kept. Purchase and sale of livestock animals and poultry birds by the villagers is discussed in the next Chapter.

CHAPTER FOUR
Economic Activities

1. Introduction :

1.1. In the preceding chapter some ideas about economic resources possessed by the villagers of Habrubari are given. This chapter mainly relates to the crops grown in the village and their yields and pattern of disposal, their input - output relationship and some other economic activities such as handicrafts etc.

2. Crop - Pattern :

2.1. Paddy (both Winter and Summer) as food crop and Jute as cash crop are the main field crops dominating the crop-pattern of the village Habrubari. Apart from these two crops, the village produces some other field and garden crops such as mustard, potatoes, sugarcane and vegetables to some extent. The relevant statistics regarding cropped area, production and value of some important crops grown in the village are given in Table 4.1. This Table shows

Table 4.1

Area, Production and Value of Crops, Habrubari, 1971-72.

Crops	Area (Hectares)	Output (Quintals)	Value in Rupees
1. Sali Paddy			
(a) Local Variety	100.84 (73.63)	2,164.12 (83.92)	138,127
(b) H.Y.V.(I.R.-8)	1.08 (0.79)	35.83 (1.39)	2,400
2. Ahu Paddy	21.85 (15.95)	246.93 (9.57)	14,337
3. Jute	10.93 (7.98)	112.08 (4.34)	12,174
4. Mustard	1.09 (0.80)	8.59 (0.33)	1,112
5. Potatoes	0.75 (0.55)	8.17 (0.32)	1,272
6. Vegetables	0.35 (0.25)	3.02 (0.12)	1,155
7. Sugarcane	0.07 (0.05)	0.19 (0.01)	50
Total :	136.96 (100.00)	2578.94 (100.00)	1,70,627

that the area under Sali and Ahu paddy is 131.20 hectares or 80.37% of the total cropped area of the village. Of this the Ahu paddy cultivation covers 21.85 hectares (15.95%) which are entirely double-cropped area. Next to paddy, the cultivation of Jute covers 10.93 hectares of land in the village.

2.2. Although Jute is cultivated as the second crop in the Sali Paddy land by most of the cultivators in the village, yet some lands are used only for Jute cultivation as mono-cropped area by some cultivators. Almost all the field crops are of local varieties except a small area of 1.08 hectares under high yielding variety of paddy (I.R.-8) cultivated as Winter paddy by one household only. Besides the crops as shown in Table 4.1, the villagers also grow some quantity of other garden crops such as betel-nuts, betel-vines banana, jackfruits, guava, mango, papaya etc. In the case of these garden crops, the area could not be given due to difficulties of assortment.

3. Production and Yield of Crops :

3.1. Agriculture in the village is traditional. Bullock and buffaloes are the draught animals used in agriculture. Agricultural tools and implements used by the cultivators are also traditional. Only one household in the village has cultivated H.Y.V. of paddy at the time of investigation, but it has not followed the necessary package of practices fully. Of course, the cultivation of Sali paddy is more labourious than that of Ahu paddy as it requires more human and animal labour than that of Ahu paddy cultivation.

3.2. Data relating to area, yield and value of major crops grown in the village according to size-groups of operational holdings are given in Table 4.2. Paddy is cultivated by all the households. Total yield of paddy of local varieties per hectare is 21.46 quintals. The per hectare yield of H.Y.V. of paddy is 32.18 quintals which is quite satisfactory. It shows the bright prospects of H.Y.V. paddy in the village. Few years ago only the poor

Table-4.2

Area, Production and value of Crops by Size groups of Operational holdings
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Area - In hectare.
Yield - In Quintals (Total)
Value - In Rupees.

Size Groups (No. of in Hectares) (H.H.)	Local			Sali			H.V.V.			Ahu		
	Area (Hectare)	Yield (Qtl.)	Value (Rs.)	Area (Hect.)	Yield (Qtl.)	Value (Rs.)	Area (Hect.)	Yield (Qtl.)	Value (Rs.)	Area (Hectare)	Yield (Qtl.)	Value (Rs.)
Below												
0.5 hectare	2	0.74	16.79	1,125	-	-	0.41	4.10	254			
0.5 - 1.00	7	4.73	80.20	5,375	-	-	1.21	13.79	974			
1.01- 2.00	14	19.44	370.02	24,800	-	-	4.39	32.82	1,904			
2.01- 3.00	9	17.32	364.79	24,700	-	-	3.33	35.44	2,055			
3.01- 4.00	4	14.51	257.74	17,275	-	-	2.31	15.67	903			
4.01 & above	10	43.60	1,074.59	34,852	1.08	35.83	2,400	142.11	8,242			
Total :	46	100.84	2,164.13 (21.46)	138,127 (63.83)	1.08	35.83 (33.18)	2,400 (63.93)	246.93 (11.30)	14,337 (58.06)			

Contd./ - -

Table 4.2 (-2 -)

Area, Production and value of Crops by Size groups of Operational holdings
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Size Groups (No. of H.H.) in Hectares	Jute		Mustard		Potato and Vegetables etc.		Area - In hectare.	Yield IN Quintals (Total) Value- In Rupees.
	Area (Hectare)	Yield (qtl.)	Area (Hect.)	Yield (qtl.)	Area (Hectare)	Yield (qtl.)		
Below 0.5 hectare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0.5 - 1.00	0.20	3.73	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.01- 2.00	1.62	11.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.01- 3.00	1.82	12.31	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.01- 4.00	1.62	20.14	0.41	2.24	-	-	-	-
4.01 & above	5.67	64.15	0.27	1.87	0.13	1.68	271	2,055
Total :	10.93	112.08 (10.25)	1.09	8.59 (7.88)	1.17	11.38 (9.73)	2,326 (204.39)	

Figures in the brackets indicate average Production per Hectare and Value per quintal.

Table- 4.3

Per Hectare Output of paddy according to Farm Size.

<u>Farm Size</u> <u>(Hectare)</u>	<u>Total area under</u> <u>Xpaddy (Hectare)</u>	<u>Xpaddy Out-</u> <u>Xput. (Qtl.)</u>	<u>XOutput per</u> <u>XHectare (Kgs.)</u>
Below 0.5 Hectare	1.15	20.89	1,816.5
0.5 - 1.00	5.94	96.99	1,632.8
1.01- 2.00	23.83	402.84	1,690.5
2.01- 3.00	21.20	400.23	1,837.8
3.01- 4.00	17.32	273.41	1,573.5
4.01- 5.00	33.40	319.62	2,453.9
5.01 & Above	20.93	432.91	2,063.4
<hr/>			
Total :	123.77	2,446.89	1,976.9

cultivators who were deficit in food production used to cultivate Ahu paddy (summer paddy) as the second food crop to meet the domestic requirements. But today due to high prices of foodgrains, all the cultivators irrespective of rich or poor cultivate Ahu paddy according to their conveniences. Per hectare yield of Jute is 10.25 quintals which also bears some economic significance. The soils and climate of the village are quite congenial for paddy and Jute cultivation. It is seen from the Table that the crop-intensity is higher in higher size groups of operational holdings than in lower size groups.

3.3. The per hectare yield of paddy according to farm size is shown in Table 4.3. Total average yield of paddy per hectare is above 20 quintals in the size groups of farms of 4.01 hectares and above.

4. Relative Preference of Crops :

4.1. As stable food crop, the villagers invariably prefer the cultivation of paddy to other crops. Cultivation of paddy by all the villagers has a common tradition and soil and climatic conditions are also favourable for its cultivation. Next to paddy, the cultivation of jute as a cash crop occupies a prominent place in the whole Goalpara district due to the existence of some technical and situational advantage of land for its satisfactory growth. Raw jute always finds a good market and therefore it is cultivated entirely for sale by the rural cultivators. Other crops such as potato, mustard, vegetables, fruits etc. are grown partly for home consumption and partly for sale. The Bodo-Kacharies seldom purchase vegetables from the market for domestic consumption as they produce their domestic requirements in their own orchards.

5. Input-Output Analysis :

5.1. Input in farming includes cost of seeds, fertilisers, family labours, irrigation, hired human and bullock labours and hired agricultural tools and implements. Inputs like cost of family

Table-4.4

Input-Output Analysis of field Crops Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72

Size Groups Hectares	Input (value in Rs.)	Output (Value in Rs.)	Area in Hectare	Input per Hectare (In Rs.)	Output per Hec- tare (In Rs.)	Productivity Co-efficient
Below 0.5 Hec- tare	55	1,379	1.15	47.83	1,199.13	25.07
0.5 - 1.00	339	6,659	6.14	55.21	1,084.53	19.34
1.01- 2.00	2,985	27,861	25.45	117.29	1,094.73	9.33
2.01- 3.00	3,353	28,297	23.43	143.10	1,207.73	8.44
3.01- 4.00	1,537	21,809	19.37	81.93	1,125.92	13.74
4.01 & Above	14,369	84,471	31.42	213.05	1,226.88	5.73
<hr/>						
Total :	22,988	1,70,476	136.96	167.84	1,244.71	7.42
<hr/>						

labours and cost of maintenance of owned bullocks are excluded from accounting because of non-availability of reliable informations from the villagers. In case of other information of inputs, there is some sort of doubt regarding their accuracy as they are collected on interview method. Similar is the case with output data.

5.2. Input-output analysis and productive co-efficient of different field crops mentioned above is given in Table 4.4. which shows that the total value of input and output are Rs.22,988 and Rs.1,70,476 and the productive co-efficient (i.e. output divided by input) works out to be 7.42. It is interesting to note that the lower the size of the farm lower is the input per hectare and vice-versa. It is due to the fact that the cultivators in the lower size group of holdings did not hire human and bullock labourers for cultivation and they have tried to minimise their expenditure in cultivation because of their poor economic conditions. On the other hand, as stated earlier it is quite difficult to collect data on the cost of their family labours or bullock labours employed in cultivation. That is why lower the size of the farms, higher is the productivity co-efficient. The rich cultivators usually have to employ hired human labours either casual or attached and hired bullock labours in cultivation, and therefore their cost of inputs as worked out in the Table is higher than those of the poor cultivators. And for this reason, their productivity co-efficient as shown in the Table is somewhat lower.

6. Disposal of Crops and Residual Income :

6.1. Habnubari has easy access to several marketing places for disposal of surplus production whenever necessary. Sale of agricultural crops includes surplus produce of paddy, entire production of jute and some portion of field and garden crops such as mustard, potatoes, vegetables, fruits etc.

Table- 4.5

Nature of disposal of Crops by size-groups of Operational holdings,
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Size Groups in Hectares	No. of H.H.	Production in Rs.	Value of Seeds (Rs.)	Rent in kind (Rs.)	Wages		Sale (Rs.)	Balance for consumption. (Rs.)
					Cash (Rs.)	Kind (Rs.)		
Below 0.5 hectare	2	1,379	55	-	-	-	-	1,324
0.5 - 1.00	7	6,659	339	-	-	-	780	5,540
1.01- 2.00	14	27,861	1,255	900	80	750	3,865	21,011
2.01- 3.00	9	28,297	1,161	800	80	1,312	4,630	20,234
3.01- 4.00	4	21,809	887	700	-	-	8,113	12,109
4.01 & above	10	84,471	3,267	1,275	840	9,287	34,379	35,423
Total :	46	1,70,476	6,934	3,675	1,000	11,349	51,797	95,391

6.2. It is generally difficult to find out the gross or net income from cultivation precisely. So an attempt is made to work out the residual income from cultivation which is arrived at by deducting the value of inputs such as seeds, rent paid to the land owners, wages to the hired labours and sale of crops from the value of total production by size-groups of operational holdings as shown in Table 4.5. It is seen that although the average income of cultivation per household is Rs.2,126.47, the average income is much lower in lower size-groups of operational holdings than higher size-groups.

7. Handloom Products :

7.1. Almost all the Bodo-Kachari women are expert in weaving. So in every household there is at least one either throw or fly shuttle loom in which necessary garments are produced both for home consumption and for sale as and when necessary. The women in the village produce their necessary dresses at their own looms and they hardly purchase them from the markets.

7.2. Handloom weaving provides regular part-time employment to the womenfolk of the village and it is linked with their cultural life. 'Dokhna' is a very important traditional dress of the womenfolk of the Bodo-Kachari community. The price of a piece of Dokhna depends upon its quality varying from Rs.15.00 to Rs.50.00. Urani is also an essential dress used by the Bodo-Kachari women. Dokhna is like a Sari used by the women in both upper and lower part of the body while the urani is used only in the upper part of the body like a chadder. Some handloom products like bed covers, towels, etc. are very decorative and they could fetch a very high price in the market for their decency and durability. The Bodo-Kachari women rear Endi worms at their homes and can prepare very fine Endi chadders in their looms. In addition to the Endi yarns prepared at home, mill-made yarns are purchased from the local markets for preparing various dresses.

Table - 4.6

Distribution of Production of Handloom Articles According to Occupational Classes, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72

Occupational Classes	No. of H.H.	Dokhna		Chaddar		Urani		Endi Chaddar		Bed Cover		Towel		Dhuti	
		Quantity (No.)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (No.)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (No.)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (No.)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (No.)	Value (Rs.)	Quantity (No.)	Value (Rs.)		
owner															
cultivator	45	201	4,477	25	246	94	357	35	1,425	91	332	7	25	7	125
tenant															
cultivator	1	4	120	-	-	4	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
agricultural labourer	22	14	310	-	-	14	99	2	80	3	30	2	8	-	-
trade, Commerce															
Transport	7	11	270	-	-	10	49	-	-	2	15	2	12	-	-
alaried															
obs	2	10	200	-	-	3	43	2	80	7	40	3	9	-	-
gril. Rent															
receiver	3	8	170	3	35	7	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	80	243	5,547 (22.37)	28	281 (10.04)	137	921 (6.72)	39	1,585 (40.64)	103	917 (8.90)	14	54 (3.86)	7	125 (17.36)

Figures within brackets are the average value per piece.

7.2. Distribution of handloom products according to occupational classes is shown in Table 4.6. It shows the quantity and value of handloom articles produced by the villagers for one year. Most of the articles thus produced are meant for domestic use by the members of the family. But in some families where surplus female labour is available, weaving is taken on a commercial basis. The nearby weekly markets provide an ample scope for disposal of their handloom products.

CHAPTER FIVE

Income, Expenditure and Levels of Living :

1. Introduction :

1.1. In the foregoing chapters, discussion on the socio-economic activities of the villagers has been made. In this chapter an account of their income, expenditure and levels of living are given. The pattern of income and expenditure of a community for a particular period gives a fair picture of the economic conditions of that community for that period.

1.2. It is to be noted in this connection, that the data on income and expenditure are collected from the villagers on interview method. On the other hand, the villagers seldom keep such accounts of income and expenditure and that is why it is difficult to make an accurate analysis of them. Besides, due to some socio-economic pressures, some of the villagers are in the habit of under-estimating income and over-estimating expenditure. Despite such limitations, attempts have been made to give a fair picture of income and expenditure and levels of living of the people of Habrubari.

2. Village Income :

2.1. The village income means the aggregate of the values of goods and services produced by the individual members or by their productive agents during a reference period. In calculating the village income, the value of crops grown by the villagers and the remuneration of professions and services are taken into account. But some items such as, firewood collected from the jungle for household consumption, fish caught and domestic or wild animals or birds killed for home consumption etc. are excluded from the assessment. Exclusion of these items from income would not affect the family budgets as they are excluded from expenditure

Table-5.1

Distribution of village Income by sources and Occupational classes, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971.

Sources of Income	Occupational Classes								(Figures in Rs.)
	Owner Cultivator	Tenant Cultivator	Agri. Labourer	Agri. Receiver	Trade, Comm. & Transport.	Salaried Jobs.	Total Village Income.		
1. Agriculture:									
(a) Cultivation	1,63,296.00	4,180.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,70,476.00	
(b) Horticulture	3,804.00	-	195.00	415.00	820.00	110.00	10,344.00		
(c) Livestock & Poultry	3,228.00	-	15.00	-	-	90.00	3,333.00		
(d) Agricultural Wages	1,790.00	-	20,194.00	-	-	-	21,984.00		
Sub-total of Agriculture	1,30,118.00 (37.38)	4,180.00 (2.02)	20,404.00 (9.90)	415.00 (0.20)	820.00 (0.40)	200.00 (0.10)	2,05,137.00 (100.00)		
2. Arts & Crafts	7,875.00	140.00	535.00	253.00	344.00	377.00	9,524.00		
3. Trade, Commerce & Transport	400.00	-	2,118.00	-	15,030.00	-	18,548.00		
4. Salary	2,280.00	-	-	-	-	4,039.00	6,369.00		
5. Rent & Lease	305.00	-	300.00	1,737.00	1,075.00	825.00	4,242.00		
6. Remittance	820.00	-	-	-	-	-	820.00		
Sub-total of Non-Agriculture	11,680.00 (29.57)	140.00 (0.35)	2,953.00 (7.43)	1,990.00 (5.04)	17,449.00 (41.17)	5,291.00 (13.39)	39,503.00 (100.00)		
Total :	1,91,798.00 (73.08)	4,320.00 (1.76)	23,357.00 (9.51)	2,405.00 (0.98)	18,269.00 (7.44)	5,491.00 (2.23)	2,45,640.00 (100.00)		

side too. The annual village income from various sources are gross income only. The net income could not be calculated as data on depreciation and other cost items are hardly available.

2.2. Distribution of village income by sources and occupational classes is shown in Table 5.1. This shows that 56.25 per cent of the total households in the village belonging to the occupational class "Owner Cultivator" covers 78.08 per cent of the total village annual income. The people belonging to this occupational class are economically enlightened people in the village as they possess sufficient cultivable land. In contrast to that, 27.50 per cent households of "Agricultural Labour" class in the village could contribute only 9.51 per cent of the total village income for a year, which is only due to their poor economic condition.

2.3. The percentage distribution of village income by sources and occupational classes is presented in Table 5.2. Cultivation (including horticulture) contributed 69.40 per cent of the total village income. Next to cultivation, agricultural wages holds a significant position contributing 8.95 per cent of the total village income. Although 27.50 per cent of the total households in the village are agricultural labours, but their contributing to the village income is very meagre. It is due to seasonal nature of employment in agriculture and low rate of wages. Among the non-agricultural occupations, "Trade, Commerce and Transport" holds some prominence contributing 7.55 per cent of the total village income.

2.4. Table 5.3 shows the income per household, per worker, and per capita according to occupational classes. The average household income of the agricultural occupations (Rs.3,125.07) is lower than that of the non-agricultural occupations (Rs.2,640.00). Although the "Tenant Cultivator" class has the highest household income, it is not significant because there is

Table - 5.2

Percentage distribution of village income by sources and Occupational Classes, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971.

Sources of Income	Occupational Classes						Agril. Rent Receiver	Trade, Com. & Transport	Salaried Jobs	Total Village Income
	Owner Cultivator	Tenant Cultivator	Agril. Labourer	Agril. Receiver	Trade, Com. & Transport	Salaried Jobs				
No. of Households	45	1	22	3	7	2	80			
1. Agriculture:										
(a) Cultivation	86.70	93.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.40
(b) Horticulture	4.59	-	0.84	17.85	4.49	2.00	4.21	-	-	4.21
(c) Livestock & Poultry	1.68	-	0.06	-	-	1.64	-	-	-	1.36
(d) Agricultural Wages	0.93	-	86.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.95
Sub-total :	93.90	96.76	87.35	17.26	4.49	3.64	83.92			
2. Arts & Crafts	4.11	3.24	2.29	10.52	1.83	6.87	3.88			
3. Trade, Com. & Transport	0.21	-	9.07	-	37.75	-	7.55			
4. Salary	1.19	-	-	-	-	71.47	2.59			
5. Rent & Lease	0.16	-	1.28	72.22	5.88	15.02	1.73			
6. Remittances	0.43	-	-	-	-	-	0.33			
Sub-total :	6.10	3.24	12.64	82.74	95.51	96.35	16.08			
Total :	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			

Table - 5.3

Distribution of Village Income, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971.

Occupational Classes	(Figures in Rs.)		
	Household	Annual Income per Worker	Capita
1. Owner Cultivator	4,262.17	1,102.28	547.99
2. Tenant Cultivator	4,320.00	1,440.00	480.00
3. Agricultural Labourer	1,061.68	440.70	210.42
4. Agril. Rent Receiver	801.57	343.57	126.57

Sub-total :	3,125.07	936.20	453.74

5. Trade, Commerce & Transport	2,609.85	1,074.64	445.58
6. Salaried Jobs	2,745.50	1,372.75	392.21

Sub-total :	2,640.00	1,131.42	432.00

Total :	3,070.50	963.29	451.54

only one household in this occupational group. The per capita income of the village as a whole is Rs.451.54 which is much lower than the State average of Rs.534.8 at current prices in 1971-72. The main reason behind the low per capita income in the village is due to presence of a large number of small farmers and agricultural labourers. Per capita income of the people in the class of "Owner Cultivator" is Rs.547.99 and it is much higher than that of the village average and a little higher than that of the State per capita income in the year of 1971-72.

3. Expenditure :

3.1. The quantum of income alone does not signify the standard of living of a particular community if the level and pattern of consumption expenditure are not taken into consideration. It is also necessary to examine that how and to what extent the earned income is utilized for consumption purposes.

3.2. A short account of the volume of household expenditure is presented in Table 5.4. Although the data represent annual expenditure on different heads, the original data in case of certain items of consumption relate to expenditure in a particular month. For the sake of uniformity these monthly expenditure have been converted into annual expenditure by multiplying it by twelve. This method is erroneous to some extent, but considered inevitable because of the fact that the villagers cannot be expected to recollect in details the daily or monthly expenditure for a complete year. In calculating the annual expenditure in this way, care has been taken to sort out those items which are not commonly used for the whole year and those which are used for the year as a whole.

3.3. Table 5.4 shows that food item covers 76.74 per cent of the total annual expenditure of the village Habrubari. Next to food item expenditure on intoxicants holds a significant position. The tribal people generally are habituated in taking

Table - 5.4

Annual Expenditure in Different Heads Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72

Heads of Expenditures	Value in Rupees	Percentages
1. Food:		
(a) Cereals	1,41,413.80	62.90
(b) Non-Cereals	31,104.00	13.84
Sub-total :	1,72,522.80	76.74
2. Fuel & Lighting	11,551.80	5.14
3. Intoxicants	14,736.00	6.55
4. Luxuries & Comfort	3,747.00	1.67
5. Clothing & foot-wear	13,081.00	5.32
6. Education	2,297.00	1.02
7. Medical	1,575.00	0.70
8. Entertainment	4,270.00	1.90
9. Services	274	0.12
10. Building & House repairing	760.00	0.34
Sub-total :	52,291.80	23.26
Total :	2,24,814.60	100.00

6932

4540

83184

41592

124776

2,545

125321

2,545

128,049

83256

bidhi, cigeratte, tobhaco, betel-nuts and leaves, rice-beer and other wines irrespective of age and sex. But in calculating the expenditure on the head "intoxicants", rice-beer prepared at home is excluded. Other important items of expenditure are 'Clothes and Footwear' and 'Fuel and Lighting'. Expenditure on "Fuel and Lighting" means expenditure on kerosene, match and fuels purchased but the fuels collected from the jungles free of cost are excluded.

3.4. Table 5.5 shows the annual expenditure under different heads according to occupational classes. This shows that the occupational class of "Owner Cultivator" accounts for 69.43 per cent of the total annual expenditure of the village, followed by the "Agricultural Labour" class accounting for 15.47 per cent. The percentage distribution of annual consumption expenditure by occupational classes as shown in Table 5.6 reveals that the "Owner Cultivator" class being economically well-to-do, satisfactorily shares all the major heads of expenditure which signifies their higher standard of living in the village.

3.5. Data relating to per household, per-worker and per capita annual expenditure of the Habrubari are presented occupationwise in Table 5.7. The per capita expenditure in all the occupational classes except "Agricultural Labour" and "Trade, Commerce and Transport" is above the village average of Rs.413.26. The per capita expenditure is the highest in the "Salaried Job" class, followed by the "Owner Cultivators". But in the distribution of expenditure per house-hold the "Tenant Cultivator" class occupies the top position. The agricultural labourers in the village have got the lowest per capita expenditure (Rs.313.37).

3.6. Data presented in Table 5.8 shows the units of per capita consumption of essential commodities per year and per day. Rice being the main staple food, per capita consumption is 127.4 kgs. per years or 354 grams per day. Per capita consumption of foodgrains in the village (361.91 grams) is much lower than that of

Table - 5.3

Per Capita consumption by items and units amount,
Habrubari, Goalpara, (Assam), 1971.

Consumption goods	Per Capita	
	Per Year	Per Day
1. Rice	127.4 Kgs	351.00 grams
2. Other Cereals	0.33 Kgs.	0.91 "
3. Pulses	2.43 "	7.00 "
4. Green vegetables	3.55 "	24.00 "
5. Fish	4.15 "	12.00 "
6. Eggs	3 Nos.	Negligible
7. Meat	2.3 Kgs.	3.00 grams.
8. Milk	0.69 Litre	1.9 mls.
9. Sugar	0.53 Kgs.	1.5 gms.
10. Gur (Mlasses)	0.075 "	0.2 "
11. Mustard Oil	1.15 Litres	3.2 mls.
12. Salt	3.34 Kgs.	9.3 grams
13. Tea	0.49 "	1.4 "
14. Kerosene	4.57 Litres	13 mls.

Table - 5.7

Distribution of annual expenditures per household, per worker and per capita by Occupational Classes.
Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971.

Occupational Classes	Number of		Population	Total Expenditure (Rs.)	Expend		Capita (Rs.)
	Household	Worker			Household	Worker	
Owner Cultivator	45	174	350	1,56,087.60	3,468.31	897.03	445.93
Tenant Cultivator	1	3	3	3,937.40	3,937.40	1,312.46	437.48
Agril. Labourer	22	53	111	34,784.00	1,581.09	653.30	313.37
Agril. Rent Receiver	3	7	19	8,163.20	2,721.07	1,163.17	429.64
Trade, Com. & Transport	7	17	41	14,553.20	2,079.45	853.24	355.03
Salaried Jobs	2	4	14	7,286.20	3,643.10	1,321.55	520.44
Total	80	255	544	2,24,814.60	2,810.18	881.33	413.23

Table - 5.5 (2)

Annual Expenditures in different heads according to occupational classes, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72

Occupational Classes	No. of H.H.	Education	Medical	Entertain- ments	Services	Building & house repairing	(Value in Rs.)	
							Total	Total
Owner Cultivator	45	2,062.00	1,095.00	3,770.00	246.00	760.00	1,53,087.60	
Tenant Cultivator	1	-	300.00	-	-	-	3,937.40	
Agril. Labourer	22	-	-	-	-	-	34,784.00	
Trade, Commerce & Transport	7	50.00	-	-	-	-	14,556.20	
Salaried Jobs	2	100.00	30.00	100.00	12.00	-	7,286.20	
Agril. Rent Receiver	3	85.00	150.00	400.00	13.00	-	8,133.20	
Total	: 80	2,297.00	1,575.00	4,270.00	274.00	760.00	2,24,814.60	

Handwritten calculations and corrections:

- 2630.00
- 1545
- 3990
- 280
- 274
- 1034
- 1034

Table 5r5

Annual Expenditures in different heads according to Occupational Classes, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72

Occupational Class	No. of H.H.	Food		Fuel & Lighting	Intoxicants	Luxuries & Comforts	(Value in Rupees)	
		Cereals	Non-cereals				Clothing	and Footwear
Owner Cultivator	45	95,920.80	21,773.40	8,018.40	9,943.00	2,439.00	10,055.00	
Tenant Cultivator	1	2,448.00	475.20	241.20	180.00	180.00	113.00	
Agril. Labourer	22	24,786.00	4,059.30	1,841.40	2,496.00	343.00	1,253.00	
Trade, Commerce & Transport	7	8,976.00	2,376.60	687.60	1,260.00	336.00	870.00	
Salaried Jobs	2	4,794.00	940.20	324.00	372.00	240.00	374.00	
Agril. Rent Receiver	3	4,494.00	1,479.00	439.20	480.00	204.00	416.00	
Total :	80	1,41,418.80	31,104.00	11,551.80	14,736.00	3,747.00	13,181.00	

141208.80
 x 210

 141418.80

30541.80
 x 562020

 46.85

11900.28

 14424.

3495.00

 1252

 12

348.48

 29.04

1020

 76

 60

108

Contd./- (2)

the country (445 grams) as a whole, in the year 1971. The per capita consumption of other items such as meat, fish, milk etc. is quite small in the village as these are consumed mainly by these persons with better economic conditions.

4. Housing Conditions :

4.1. The residential houses in Habrubari have a common structural pattern and most of them are of very simple type made of bamboo, thatch and mud. Distribution of house units by occupational classes in the village Habrubari is shown in Table 5.9. Out of the total number of 316 house units in the village, residential houses have covered 152 numbers. Total number of granary in the village were 43 at the time of investigation. Poor farmers who have insufficient cultivable land generally do not possess separate granary and they use a part of their residential houses for storing paddy. Another important type of houses which the villagers are very eager to keep is cowshed. Housing units under the item "others" include some small houses being used as prayer house, guest house, poultry-shed and fodder store etc.

4.2. Table 5.10 shows the nature of residential houses and their distribution by occupation. Only few residential houses in the village have roofs covered with C.I. Sheets and tiles. The houses constructed with bamboo, thatch and mud have insufficient provisions for light and air as there are no windows and ventilators in them.

4.3. The floor space per household varies from 26.00 sq. metre in the "Salaried Job" class to 52.00 sq. metres in the "Tanant Cultivator" class. The average floor space per family and per capita is 37.05 sq. metres and 5.6 sq. metres respectively which is considered normal.

5. Durable Consumer Goods :

5.1. The quality and quantity of durable consumer goods possessed by the villagers also indicate their standard of living.

Table - 5.9

Distribution of House-units by Occupational classes Habrubari, Goalpara, Assam, 1971-72.

Occupational Classes	No. of		Number of Housing Units			No. of Units per	
	H.H.	Residential	Cowshed	Oranary	Others	Total	Per household.
1. Owner Cultivator	45 (55.25)	97	28	36	67	228 (72.15)	5.1
2. Tenant Cultivator	1 (1.25)	3	-	1	2	6 (1.90)	5.0
3. Agril. Labourer	22 (27.50)	32	2	1	11	46 (14.56)	2.8
4. Trade, Commerce & Transport	7 (8.75)	12	-	3	5	20 (6.33)	2.8
5. Salaried Jobs	2 (2.50)	3	-	-	1	4 (1.25)	2.0
6. Agricultural Rent Receiver	3 (3.75)	5	1	2	4	12 (3.80)	4.0
Total :	80 (100.00)	152	31	43	90	316 (100.00)	3.9

Table 5.10

Occupationwise square metre distribution of Residential units, Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971-72.

Occupations	No. of H.H.	Population	Residential Area in square metre				Total	Per Household	Per Capita
			Bamboo, Mud & Thatch	Bamboo, mud & C.I. Sheets	Bamboo, mud & Files	Wood, bamboo & c.l. Tiles			
1. Owner Cultivator	45	350	1,180	566	252	38	2,033	45.24	5.8
2. Tenant Cultivator	1	9	34	-	13	-	52	52.00	5.8
3. Agril. Labourer	22	111	524	-	-	-	524	23.32	4.7
4. Trade, Commerce & Transport	7	41	224	18	-	-	242	34.56	5.9
5. Salaried Jobs	2	14	22	-	30	-	52	26.00	3.7
6. Agril. Rent Receiver	3	19	94	23	8	-	130	43.33	6.8
Total	80	544	2,078	612	308	38	3,033	37.95	5.6

Table 5.11 shows the number of durable consumer goods possessed by the villagers. The possession of radio, watch etc. signifies that modern civilization has made an inroad into the tribal life. The occupational class of "Owner Cultivator" possesses the highest number of durable consumer goods in the village.

6. Indebtedness :

6.1. Indebtedness has become a common characteristic of rural life in Assam due to growing economic hardship. But it is difficult to collect accurate data on indebtedness as the people do not like to disclose their burden of loans for the sake of social prestige. But in the village Habrubari, it is not widespread which might either be due to their self-sufficient economic condition or social consciousness as stated above.

6.2. Table 5.12 shows the amount of indebtedness by sources and rate of interest for the last 5 years preceding the year of first point survey. Both the village and town Mahajans supplied more than 70 per cent of the total loans to the villagers. The rate of interest charged by these Mahajans is very high, varying from 50.00 per cent to 75.00 per cent. Loans supplied by the Government Agencies to the villagers for economic upliftment during the period of 5 years is quite negligible. Almost all the loans were utilized in domestic consumption.

7. Purchase & Sale of Assets & Livestocks :

Table 5.13 shows the extent of purchase and sale of assets and livestock etc. during the years 1969-70 and 1970-71 by different occupational classes. The items purchased are more than items sold and the amount utilized in purchasing these items is more than treble the amount they received by selling the items. Economically affluent families generally like to invest their savings in productive purposes. Out of Rs.39,131.00 spent

Table - 5.12

Indebtedness by years and sources of borrowings Habrubari, Goalpara, 1971.

Years	Sources of borrowing								Total
	Co-operatives	Village Mahajan	Town Mahajan	Neighbour	Co-operatives	Village Mahajan	Town Mahajan	Neighbour	
	Amount bor- rowed (Rs.)	Rate of Interest (Rs.)	Amount borrowed (Rs.)	Rate of Interest (Rs.)	Amount borrowed (Rs.)	Rate of Interest (Rs.)	Amount borrowed (Rs.)	Rate of Interest (Rs.)	
1967	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	75%	-	-	1,000.00
1969	-	-	500.00	50%	1,000.00	75%	-	-	1,600.00
1970	200.00	3%	-	-	-	-	1,500.00	75%	1,700.00
1971	-	-	824.00	50% to 75%	1,000.00	75%	-	-	1,824.00
Total	200.00 (3.27)		1,424.00 (23.25)		3,000.00 (48.99)		1,500.00 (24.49)		6,124.00 (100.00)

Table - 5.13

Purchase and sale of Assets during 1969-70 & 1970-71, Habrubari, Goalpara.

Occupational Classes	Purchase		TOTAL	Sale		TOTAL			
	Land (In Rs.)	Livestock (In Rs.)		Land (In Rs.)	Livestock (In Rs.)				
1. Owner Cultivator	28,100.00	161.00	5,850.00	4,900.00	39,011.00	1,875.00	1,491.00	3,363.00	
2. Tenant Cultivator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3. Agril. Labourer	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,400.00	15.00	
4. Agril. Rent Receiver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5. Trade, Commerce & Transport	-	25.00	-	-	25.00	25.00	5,400.00	5,400.00	
6. Salaried Jobs	-	95.00	-	-	95.00	95.00	-	-	
Total :	28,100.00 (71.81)	281.00 (0.72)	5,850.00 (14.95)	4,900.00 (12.52)	39,131.00 (100.00)	39,131.00 (100.00)	9,675.00 (86.53)	1,503.00 (13.47)	11,181.00 (100.00)

in purchasing various assets, Rs.33000.00 or more than 84 per cent of the total, have been utilized either in purchasing or mortgaging in cultivable lands. On the other hand, in the sale of assets too, land covers 86.53 per cent of the total amount of sale. Among all the occupational classes in the village, the "Owner Cultivators" hold a predominant position in all the transactions.

CHAPTER SIX

Conclusion

1. In the foregoing chapters, an attempt has been made to depict a comprehensive picture of the different aspects of socio-economic life of the villagers in Habrubari. Habrubari is a plains tribal village of Assam, having 80 households with a total population 544. The village represents a **homogeneous** society with one community - Bodo-Kachari and therefore, a close harmony in some aspects of their socio-economic life is noticeable.
2. The average size of family in the village Habrubari is 6.8 persons. About two-third of the total households in the village are nuclear families. The sex-ratio is 103 females per 100 males, which cannot be said to be a normal feature. Early marriage is generally disliked by the villagers and the common age for marriage appears to be between 25 to 35 years amongst the males and 15 to 25 years amongst the females. Nearly 41 per cent of the total population in the village are literate which is higher than that of the district or State as a whole in the year 1971.
3. Working force in the village (311) is higher than that of labour force (268) and it is due to the fact that there are some full-time workers below the age of 15 years. About 88.75 per cent of the total families are engaged ^{or indirectly} directly/in agricultural occupations while only 11.25 per cent are in non-agricultural occupations. On the other hand, the agricultural occupations have covered 89.89 per cent of the total population in the village, of which 64.34 per cent are

owner cultivators. Only 20 households out of 80 in the village Habrubari have single occupation which is agriculture and the rest 60 households have one or more subsidiary occupations in addition to the primary ones.

4. The method of cultivation practised by the villagers in Habrubari is traditional but the yield rate is at par to other plains villages of Assam. Modernisation of agriculture is yet to make a headway in the village Habrubari due to several factors. First, majority of the villagers are accustomed to a 'subsistence level' of living and that is why their urge for economic development, by and large, is lacking. Secondly, these cultivators who are willing to improve their lot through agricultural development could not make satisfactory progress due to financial or organisational problems.

5. Out of 141.84 hectares of total area owned by the villagers, the total net area sown is 99.89 hectares. The area under double cropping in the village is 37.07 hectares which are covered entirely by Ahu paddy and Jute. The average size of operational holding of the village as a whole is ^{1.41} 2.51 hectares. In a village of 80 households, only 46 households are cultivators. There are 22 agricultural labour families in the village and they possess only 4.62 hectares or 3.62 per cent of land in the village. The future of the 22 agricultural labour families seems to be bleak. They are only seasonally employed in the agricultural farms and the scope for employment in non-agricultural sectors is also very limited. The rest of the 13 families are engaged in non-agricultural occupations.

6. Paddy (both winter and summer) as food crop and jute as cash crop are the main field crops dominating

the crop-pattern of the village Habrubari. Paddy cultivation covers 80.37 per cent of the total cropped area. Next to paddy, the cultivation of jute covers 10.93 hectares of land in the village. Only one household has cultivated H.Y.V. of paddy at the time of investigation. The per hectare yield of paddy is satisfactory being 33.18 quintals. The per hectare yield of local varieties of paddy is 21.46 quintals.

7. Handloom weaving provides a regular part-time employment to the women-folk of the village and it is associated, with their cultural life. The women in the village produce their necessary dresses at their own looms and they hardly make any purchase from the market. Some poor families have taken it as a source of income for living.

8. The per capita income of the village as a whole is Rs.451.54 which is lower than that of the State average during 1971-72. But on the average the **villagers could maintain a** balanced family budget. Major portion of surplus income of the farmers is invested in the purchase of land.

9. The economic development in the village shall have to be ushered in through agricultural development. To bring about agricultural development, introduction of H.Y.V. seeds in large scale and ^{popularization} of improved methods of cultivation through demonstration, discussion and training etc. are the urgent needs of the day. For it, adequate provisions for easy agricultural credit and irrigation facilities should be made available to the villagers.

10. The villager is totally free from havocs created by floods. But what is needed is introduction of adequate irrigation facilities for the development of both kharif and rabi crops in the village. Only then, the villagers will be

encouraged to invest their surplus incomes in agriculture. As there is no stream or river in or near the agricultural fields, the system of canal irrigations will be costly and therefore introduction of well irrigation (either deep or shallow) will solve the problem to a great extent.

11. Introduction of Dairy and Poultry farming on a commercial line can also be recommended as a potential source of income and employment to the agricultural labourers in the village. Plans may also ^{be} taken to rehabilitate the poor agricultural labour families by allotting land in the Government Reserve Forests, in a phased basis.

12. Most of the educated persons in the village, at present, are observed to be interested in political activities rather than economic development. For the economic betterment of the villagers the educated persons in the village must take active part in the development activities.

APPENDIX

A SOCIOLOGICAL NOTE ON THE BODO-KACHARIS OF ASSAM

By

Dr. Abu Nishar Md. Irshad Ali.

A SOCIOLOGICAL NOTE ON
THE BODO - KACHARIS OF ASSAM.

Dr. Abu Nishar Md. Irshad Ali.

1. Introduction :

1.1. The Bodo-Kacharis¹ constitute an important plains tribe of Assam. They are one of the earliest settlers of Assam and have contributed considerably to the growth of the civilization of Assam. The Bodo-Kacharis are to be found in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Mikir Hills, Lakhimpur and Cachar. They are also to be found in some other parts of North eastern India, e.g., Northern Bengal, Tripura and in parts of Southern Nepal. This tribe belongs to the Indo-Mongoloid racial stock. The Bodo-Kacharis are known under different names in different places. For example, they are known as Meches in West Bengal, Dimasa in Cachar and so on.

1.2. The Bodo-Kacharis are mainly rural inhabitants and majority of them are agriculturists. According to 1961 Census there were 345983 Bodo-Kachari population in Assam. Of this total population, 343,381 (99.25%) and 2,602 (0.75%) are rural and urban inhabitants respectively. Among the rural Bodo-Kacharis, 40.27 percent are engaged in agricultural and 8.60 per cent in various other non-agricultural works respectively. It may be noted that even amongst the urban Bodo-Kacharis, 16.41 per cent are engaged in agricultural and 19.75 per cent in non-agricultural works respectively.

1. The word 'Bodo' ^{in Bodo} language literally stands for 'man'. The Kacharis of Tripura use the word 'Bodo' in their language to denote 'man'. Some scholars held that those Bodos who lived in Cachar were called Kacharis, while some other scholars held that the neighbouring Hindus called the Bodos as Kacharis.

There are 47.12 per cent literates among the urban Bodo-Kacharis and among their rural counterparts, literacy accounts for only 19.63 per cent.

2. Village and Homestead:

2.1. There are variations in the lay-outs of the villages and also in respect of the house types belonging to the Bodo-Kacharis living in plains and hill regions. Usually they live in small villages in the plains and the settings bear close resemblances to that of their neighbouring rural communities of Assam.

2.2. In the plains region, the houses are constructed on the four sides leaving a courtyard in the middle. The houses are made up of thatch-roofs, bamboos and reed walls and earthen plinths. In the hills the Bodo-Kachari live in houses with raised platforms.

2.3. It is customary among the Bodo-Kacharis to perform certain rites before selecting a village or a house site. Such rites help them to assess the good or the evil nature of the site.

2.4. Bodo-Kachari homestead is usually a self-sufficient unit. It has a main dwelling house, a granery, a cowshed and ^a courtyard. The courtyard contains the altar of Bathow - the supreme God of Bodo religion.

3. Food Habit:

3.1. Rice is the staple food of the Bodo-Kacharis. It is supplemented by vegetables, animal food and fish. The vegetables are gathered from the forest. The Bodo-Kacharis partake of mutton and pork. They also rear pigs. Dried fish and dried meat are regarded as favourite articles of food.

3.2. Their favourite beverage is Jumai - Jau (rice beer) prepared at home. Jumai - Jau is an inevitable part of the socio-cultural and religious life of the Bodo-Kacharis.

4. Dress and Ornaments :

4.1. The Bodo-Kacharis wear Dhotis like Assamese men-folks. The dress pattern of the Bodo-Kachari women is noteworthy. Dokhna (germent to cover the body) is worn by the females. It is nearly seven feet in length and is woven by the women themselves in the loom. The Dokhnas are usually of red or orange colour.

4.2. It may be pointed out here that the Bodo-Kachari women of West Bengal and of parts of Goalpara district wear Dokhnas while their counterparts in the plains of Assam wear Mekhelas like the Assamese women. Again among the hill Bodo-Kacharis (who live in Cachar, Tripura and Garo hills), the women wear two garments - one in the upper part and the other in the lower part of the body.

4.3. The Bodo-Kachari women wear various ornaments like ear-rings (Khera, Japhring, Talinglora), nose pins (Ganthonibali, Jaula), bangles (Ashan), finger rings (Akhtam), and necklaces (Chandrahar, Bishahar).

5. Marriage:

5.1. The social structure of the Bodo-Kacharis is primarily patriarchal with a few matriarchal characteristics. Marriage among them follows both these characteristics. Patrilocal extended families are more prevalent among the Bodo-Kacharis. Polygamy is allowed in their society in special cases. The male oracle or worshiper (Dodhai, Deuri) performs rites and rituals connected with the marriage. A sum of bride-money (Malsa) requires to be paid to the parents of the bride.

5.2. There are five different ways in which mates can be acquired among the Bodo-Kacharis. These are as follows:

- (a) Marriage is performed by negotiation,
- (b) A man stays in a girl's home, especially where there are no brothers of the girl. Finally the man marries the girl and stays in her parents house.
- (c) When a man marries a widow, he stays with the widow. This system of marriage is known as Donkha. The widow remarriage system in the Assamese society is regarded as an influence of the Bodo- remarriage system.
- (d) A girl is allowed to go and stay with a boy whom she wishes to marry. In this case the parent of the boy must inform the parents of the girl after her arrival. Otherwise the villagers will accuse the parents of the boy.
- (e) Marriage is also performed among the Bodo-Kacharis by way of capturing a girl.

5.3. Of the above mentioned ways of acquiring mates, the last two ways are, now a days, looked down upon by the Bodo-Kacharis. Moreover, marriage by capture and elopment are getting obsolete with the social advance.

5.4. Divorce rarely occurs among the Bodo-Kacharis. If and when a husband/wife divorces his/her wife/husband, the wife is not entitled to enjoy the property owned by her husband. A divorcee hold the right to keep an offspring aged not more than one year.

6. Adoption:

6.1. The system of adoption among the Bodo-Kacharis is socially sanctioned. It also embodies many social and economic aspects of the tribe. Usually barren parents adopt a boy or a girl as their son or daughter. The adopted children among the Bodo-Kacharis are known as Phis Khourania. It literally stands for 'adopted offsprings'.

6.2. A poor widow or widower when finding it difficult to bring up their own children, hands over them to some one else who does not possess any issue. The foster parents have to offer an honorarium in cash to the real parents of the children. This honorarium is known as hangma hangsa. The amount of honorarium is fixed at 25 paise in the minimum and the maximum having no limit. As regards orphans, it is a common practice among the Bodo-Kacharis to adopt them, in case there is none to look after them in their own families. It should be pointed out here that widow remarriage is prevalent among the Bodo-Kacharis. When an widow marries for the second time and if she happens to possess any issue by her deceased husband, the second husband adopts the issue as his own.

6.3. As per their social custom, adoption is performed among the Bodo-Kacharis in a ceremonious way. When a person wishes to adopt children, he has to offer a feast to the villagers. Pork and rice beer are served to the invitees during the feast. After the feast is over, the boy/girl whom he wishes to adopt is brought in front of the guests. The host then declares his wish. He promises that he would shoulder all responsibilities of the boy/girl during his life time. He will also have to declare that the adopted child would be the legal heir to all the immovable and movable properties belonging to him after his death. If such formalities are not observed, adoption is not recognised by their society. In such cases the adopted children are not given the right to enjoy properties bequeathed to them by their adopter.

6.4. Adoption, as a matter of fact, gives a sense of social and economic security to both the adopted and the adopter. They get social and economic security from their foster parents who bear the responsibilities for their marriage etc. As indicated earlier the Bodo-Kacharis are agriculturalists and the adopted children help their foster parents in various agricultural activities. Moreover, the adopted children are obliged to take care of their foster parents in their old age and sickness. An adopted son is also bound to redeem any debt incurred by his deceased adopter.

7. Social Control :

7.1. There are certain customary laws of social control in the Bodo-Kachari society. In some places such laws have been printed in the form of books. Such printed books are called Pandulipis by the Bodo-Kacharis. There are seven such Pandulipis among the Bodo-Kacharis living in seven different parts of Assam¹. Each Pandulipi controls the society of a region. The laws laid down in the Pandulipis are not the same. These may vary from region to region. However, the laws for the control of illegal acts are broadly the same in all Pandulipis.

7.2. An illegal act is called Bad by the Bodo-Kacharis and a person involved in an illegal act is called Badunga Jabai. There are various types of Bads. For example, affairs with an woman belonging to the father's family, beating of parents, rape, taking meals other than .

1. Northern part of Kamrup district, Darrang district, area under Gauhati Police Station, area under Boko Police Station of Kamrup district, Cachar district, northern part of Goalpara district and eastern part of Goalpara district.

from Brahmins, stealing of any articles belonging to a dead person.

7.3. When a person commits an illegal act, he is excommunicated from his village. Such a person is expiated by Deuri. Among the Bodo-Kacharis there are two distinct priestly classes, e.g., Narzari and Sargiyari. Persons belonging to these classes hold the right to perform duties as Deuris.

7.4. Among the Bodo-Kacharis of Goalpara district, two persons are selected by the villagers belonging to twelve neighbouring villages to take up various issues including conflicts and factions. Those persons are known as Hadengaura and Hasungaura.

7.5. Convicts are imposed fines. The fines thus to be obtained are equally divided between the villagers and kept sometimes a part of it for celebrating the village festivals.

8. Religion :

8.1. Bathow or Shiva is the supreme God of Bodo-Kachari religion. The Bodo-Kachari households keep an altar of Bathow in their courtyards. A sizu tree (Euphorbia Splenders) is planted near the altar which is the emblem of the Supreme God. The Bodo-Kacharis believe that God Bathow and Goddess Bathow are ruling this world. They also worship rivers, hills and swamps.

8.2. The Bodo-Kacharis observe various ceremonies and festivals in connection with birth, death, marriage and agricultural activities. Of a number of festivals, Baisagu the national the spring time festival and Kheria the national festival of the Bodo-Kacharis are important.

During Baisagu, the Bohag Bihu of the Bodo-Kacharis, all the villagers sing, dance and consume rice beer. The villagers also take part in a feast during this festival. Their traditional folk songs depict profound thought and imagination and their folk dances are worth seeing. There are different types of Kherai festival and during this festival, ancestor, heroes, Gods and Goddesses are worshiped by the Bodo-Kacharis.¹ It should be pointed out here that Bodo-Kachari women are allowed to take part in all other festivals excepting the Kherai.

8.3. The Bodo-Kacharis bury their deads in the village burial grounds. Often the deads are left in the burial ground without being buried. The day, on which a death occurs, is observed as a mourning day. The adult relatives of the deceased observe fasting on the mourning day. On the tenth or thirteenth day following a death, post funeral rite is observed.

8.4. It should be pointed out here that due to the contact with non-tribal peoples, many Bodo-Kacharis have changed their religion. A large number of Bodo-Kacharis have embraced Hinduism or Christianity. Thus many Bodo-Kacharis have given up their traditional ways of life. At the same time, many Bodo-Kacharis are not ready to do what the convrst Bodo-Kacharis are doing. This situation has given rise to a kind of "socio-cultural schism" in the Bodo-Kachari society.

1. As many as twenty Gods and Goddesses are worshiped during the Kherai festival. It is pertinent to note here that one of the Gods of Kherai is known as Nawab Badshah or the God of the Muslims. The priest sacrifices a cock before this God saying Bismillah (in the name of Allah).

According to 1961 Census there are 22445 (6.49%) Christians, 322029 (93.08%) Hindus and 138 (0.04%) Buddhists among the Bodo-Kacharis of Assam. Only 1091 (0.31%) number of persons among the Bodo-Kacharis actually practise Bodo-religion as revealed by the statistics.

9. Economy :

9.1. The Bodo-Kacharis of Assam are primarily agriculturists. This primary occupation is supplemented by a number of subsidiary occupations like hunting, fishing, gathering of vegetables from forest and working as agricultural labourers.

9.2. All the able-bodied members of families work in the agricultural fields. The boys help their elders in the fields and the girls help their mothers in day-to-day household activities. The girls also go to the fields to help their elders in various agricultural works.

9.3. Many other subsidiary occupations like handicrafts are undertaken by the Bodo-Kacharis. These include cane - works, basket-making, spinning and weaving. They also prepare ploughshares, small wooden furniture and musical instruments for local use only.

10. Conclusion :

10.1. The Bodo-Kachari society is at the present moment going through the critical stage of transition. The Bodo-Kacharis share many socio-economic problems, arisen out of the impact of new revenue policies and land tenure systems, with their neighbouring rural communities of Assam.

10.2. The Christian missionaries are trying to convert the Bodo-Kacharis to Christianity and succeeding in doing so in many cases. Many Bodo-Kacharis are also trying to accept Hinduism. This has led to a kind of cultural disintegration in the Bodo-Kachari society. However, various formal organizations, consisting of Bodo-Kacharis, are working with a view to keeping up their tribal tradition including Bodo language, custom and culture.

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