

**A REPORT
ON
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE
TRIBES LIVING IN MAJULI SUB DIVISION
OF JORHAT DISTRICT OF ASSAM**

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PREFACE

The problems of hunger, starvation, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, ignorance, poor shelter and exploitation faced by tribals are prevalent in tribal areas of Assam. Therefore reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had assumed living importance in the context of Social and Economic Development of Assam to protect them from the vicious circles of poverty like any other part of India.

But due to different geographical position and condition, the socio economic status of one area differs from others with different constraints of development. In Assam around 80 per cent of the total populations are residing in rural and isolated areas. Majuli is one of such isolated area where different tribal and non tribal communities are living for generations. It is the biggest river island in the world with around 2 lakhs of population of different tribal and non-tribal communities. Apart from general castes and scheduled castes populations, there is a sizeable number of tribal populations including Misings, Deoris and Sonowal Kacharis in Majuli. Majuli is famous for its unique geographical location, cultural heritage and Satra institutions. Tribals have been residing in Majuli for generations together, cultivating and depending on mighty river the Brahmaputra for livelihood. Due to prolong problem of flood, river erosion and lack of connectivity, the tribes living in this Sub Division are lagging behind in economic development, compared to its ethnic counterpart of the mainland area. These factors have reduced the tribal economy of the island to mere subsistence level.

This particular study is conducted to identify and analyse the main constraints of socio-economic development of the island, so that the planners, policy makers get authentic information about socio economic status of the people living in Majuli, which will enable them to formulate the appropriate development strategies. Along with this, the study also aims to highlight the unique socio cultural character of the tribes living in Majuli.

I am grateful to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, Govt. of India and Department of Welfare of Plain Tribes and Backward Classes, Government of Assam for giving this Directorate the responsibility of carrying out this important research studies on socio-economic conditions of the tribes living in Majuli. I offer my thanks to Dr. G.C. Sharma Thakur, Ex-Director, AIRTSC for his guidance and valuable suggestions as research consultant of this project. I deeply acknowledge the valuable guidance and initiative taken by Mr. G.C. Kakoti, Joint Director, AIRTSC for smooth conduct of this research study. I also offer my thanks to Mrs. Juri Gogoi, ACS, Deputy Director, AIRTSC for her valuable contribution in various ways.

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Finally, I am thankful to my colleague officers and staff of this directorate for their help and co-operation in conducting the study.

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Sl.No	CONTENTS:	Pages
1	CHAPTER -I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction 	1-11
2	CHAPTER-II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives • Methodology • Sampling design 	12-13
3	CHAPTER-II(A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis of Village Schedule 	14-32
4	CHAPTER-II(B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Analysis of Household Schedule 	33-50
5	CHAPTER-III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding of the study 	51-56
6	CHAPTER-IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion 	57-60
7	CHAPTER-V <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion 	61-62
6	APPENDICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendice-1 Village Schedule • Appendice-2 Household Schedule 	63-72 73-83

CHAPTER – 1

Introduction

Majuli the very name itself brings reverence, piece and glory, a heritage being the seat of Neo Vaisnavite culture propagated by the great saint and reformer Sri Sri Sankardeva in the 16th century. It is one of the famous river island in the world, located at some 20 km far from Jorhat town. The serene atmosphere with a pollution free ambience, the island had a total area of about 1250 sq.km but owing to recurring flood and erosion, the area is reduced to half or 880 sq.km at present. A peep into the pages of history reveals that there were frequent early quake in the 17th century precisely during 1661-170 leading to a catastrophic flood in later period which resulted into split of the great river Brahmaputra into two branches. The original river had its own course while the branch merged with the Buridihing River. The middle portion between the Brahmaputra and the Buridihing formed the Majuli.

The devastating flood caused by the great earth quake of 1950 change the topography of the North Eastern states. Due to erosion of high magnitude in the hilly regions huge quantities of sand, stone, uprooted trees flowed downstream of the river Luit. The bottom of the river become shallow and the surging water eroded the banks. It may be noted that before the earthquake of 1950, there was practically no erosion but during 1954-55 erosion occurred in such a way that the Ratanpur Dighalimukh areas of upper Majuli, karalipar, Bengenaati, Auniati areas of upper Majuli were severely affected. The Ratanpur-Dighalimukh, Futsang Kapahtali areas were completely divested. The 30-40 mile logareas of Ahatguri Mauza was under the acute erosion affected areas causing the southern portion of the Mauza completely washed away from the map.

The Ratanpur had its own history. The Kshatriya king Dharampal's heirs made Ratanpur their capital as mentioned in the famous Jagini Tautra. In 1189 AD Kachari King Gaurinarian christened as Ratnadhawj ascended the throne at the capital Ratanpur. After Ratnadhawj Mayamatta and his son Arimatta became the king. After Arimatta, his minister Samudra and Samudra's son Monohar ruled from Ratanpur. The reminiscences go like this even today among the villagers –

Dhol Bai Kot.

Ratanpurat;
Khol Bai Kot
Ratanpurat.

(Ratanpur had the cultural centre where the atmosphere was resounded with 'Dhol' (dram) and 'khol' an elongated Dhol like instrument used in religious occasions)

The tragic part of Ratanpur is that the place is now in the unfathomable depth of the river Brahmaputra.

Majuli was the centre of Vaisnava excellence since 1437 AD when the Vaisnava preachers and reformers established the now famous monastery (Satra) at Dhuwahat. The satra with four 'Haolis' (quarters of the disciples) and the Manikut. Not only Dhuwahat, Majuli possess many Vaisnavite Satras that carry a rich heritage and legacy. There used to be around 65 Satras at one point of time but today about 22 are remaining on the island and the Satra could be called active. These monasteries exhibit a unique tradition of sustainable planning of settlements any where in the range of 150 to 400 monks known as 'Bhakats'. At present the four famous monasteries are Auniati, Garamur, Dakhinpat and Kamalabari.

The Auniati Satra was founded by Niranjan Pathak deva. The Satra is famous for Paalnam and Apsara d. The Bhakats remain unmarried in the Satra.

The Garmara Satra was founded by Lakshmikanta Deva. Some ancient weapons used during Ahom period called 'Bartop' are preserved in this Satra. Here during autumn traditional 'Raasleela' is observed with great enthusiasm. It is a mixed Satra in the sense that the residents can maintain their families at well side the Namghar campus.

The Dakhinpat Satra was founded by Banamali Deva an exponent of Raasleela. The satra has maintained the traditional character of Raasleela where only male actors participate. At night female members cannot stay in the Satra campus.

The Kamalabari Satra was founded by Bedula Padma Ata is a centre of cultural literary and classical Sankari studies. Its branch Uttar Kamalabari Satra has performed Bhaonas and other Satriya art in several states of India and abroad.

The Satra are the treasure house of Borgeet, Mati Aakhora, Jumura dance, Chali dance, Natua dance, Sutradhar, Apsara dance, Satria Krishna Dance, Dasavatar dance etc. based on the great Sri Sankardeva's literature.

The island is situated in the North latitude of $26^{\circ}45' - 27^{\circ}$ and in the east longitude of $93^{\circ}39' - 94^{\circ}35'$. More than a century ago (1901) the population of the island was 35000. As per 1991 census the population stands at 1,35,378. The population is made up of Misings, Deoris, Ahoms, Kacharis, Brahmins, Kayasthas, Kalitas, Koch Rajbangshis, Banias, Kaibartas, Sonowal Kachari, Kumars, etc.

The main ethnic groups of Majuli is Misings, Deoris and Sonowal Kacharis. The Mising and Deoris live in the riverine areas. Kamalabari, Garamur and Jengrai mukh are the main trade center or growth centres.

Criss crossed by various rivers and streams and the sylvan surrounding, the sandy shores and serene pollution free atmosphere, Majuli enfolds a variety of interest to the tourists. Besides the migratory birds, traditional handicrafts pottery, ethnic colourful dances, water sports, rare hospitality are the bonus points of tourists and non tourists alike.

Majuli is approachable from two directions. The great Brahmaputra is the only means of communications from Jorhat town to Majuli. From Jorhat town one has to go the Neamati ghat (15 kms) and from Neamati ghat to Kamalabari by ferry or boat. It is approachable from Lakhimpur by bus but the journey is hazardous or trouble some as one is required to change bus on the way for 2/3 times to cross Ghagar, Luit rivers.

Majuli in the only place in the entire North Eastern states of where the glorious past blends with the present. In spite of being endowed with eye catching landscape and being the honeycomb of Vaisnavite culture and having potentialities of a viable tourist centre Majuli island is ignored and deprived of all legitimate Global recognition. The immense contribution of the Satras in preserving and promoting the unique cultural heritage of the state should be highlighted both in the country as well as before the global audience. The uniqueness of the satras, cultural activities like Bhaona, Raasleela, traditional masks making, fans made of ivory and various forms of satriya dance etc. are the ingredients to claim a world heritage centre. But lack of proper projection has stood in the way of getting the World Heritage site. Over the years the authorities concerned have failed to prepare a detailed dossier to highlight unique features of Majuli. The nomination dossier submitted by the Govt. of India for securing world heritage site recognition for the island were "referred" and "deferred" by the UNESCO authorities on two previous occasions in 2006 and 2008.

Meanwhile as many as 75000 people have left Majuli in search of habitable land. Many poor erosion affected people, mostly Kaibartas are living in the embankments erecting a tin shade. Given today 1240 households are living by the side of the road as they lost the paternal property in erosion. 2 April 1991 E.F Mullar a South African tourist (rotary volunteer) visited Majuli. In his travelogue mentioned 'The erosion of Majuli Island is of great concern not only to the inhabitants of the island but also to all who care for the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the Assamese people'.

Recurring flood and erosion have posed a serious threat to Majuli, the world's largest river island and a prospective World Heritage site that has been the nerve centre of the state's Vaisnavite culture for centuries. The enormity of Majuli's problem can be gauged from the fact that the island has been reduced to half of its original size due to unabated erosion. At the root of this worsening situation has been the absence of long term measures to protect the island from the ravages of flood and more particularly erosion.

The woes of Majuli and its inhabitants epitomize our callousness in treating our priceless heritages. It is a repository of the invaluable wealth in the form of traditional art and craft, culture and folklore. Adding to Majuli's unique Charm is its rich biodiversity especially its abundant avifauna. The Majuli island is the main Mising concentrated area. As they are a riverine tribe, the river banks are the favorite abode of the people. There quite a few concentrations of the Deoris, a plains tribe of Assam what is common among these two ethnic communities is that both Misings and Deouris live in platform type house. The island has a few village of the Sonowal Kacharis too, a plains tribe mostly concentrated in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh District. In the following pages a brief description of these three ethnic groups is presented.

The Misings (Miris)-

The Miris, also known as Misings are the second largest group of scheduled tribe (Plains) of Assam. They are mainly concentrated in the riverine areas of Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Dhemaji and Sonitpur districts of Assam. The Misings were originally a hill tribe within the ranges of Abor, Miri and Mishing hills of the erstwhile NEFA now Arunachal Pradesh and they came down to the plains before reign of the Ahom kings and since then began settling in the riverine areas of the Brahmaputra and Subansiri river of Assam.

As per 2001 census their population is 5,87,310 male 2,99,790 female 287520. They constitute 17.76 percent of the total ST populations of Assam. The PC of literacy is 49.12 (male 58.42%, female 39.43%)

They belong to the Tibeto Burman Family of the Mongoloid group.

As the Mising are riverine tribe they are compelled to construct houses in raised plat forms about 5 feet above the ground. The traditional missing house is as much as 30-40 meters in length. There may be a separate place in front position of the house where guests are entertained .The house is approached with the help of ladder. There is only one house for one family. If the numbers increases the house is lengthened to accommodate the increased numbers. The space underneath the platform of the house is used to keep the cattle. In the ground in front of the house the extended roof is used for keeping the loom. Most of the house do not have granaries. There may be a pig stay in a corner of the Court yard. The fire place called Meram is considered as an auspicious place.

There main occupation is agriculture and Ahu paddy is the main crops . Besides Ahu paddy they produce mustard seeds, potatoes,pulses, cotton, maize, banana etc.

There is no joint ownership of land. Grains are stored in the coprner of individual households.

Formerly the Misings practiced huntings but now a days the practice is abonded. Fishing is done on community and individual basis.

Rice is the staple food and along with rice they take vegetables. Meat or fish when available The meat of Fowls and pork is their Delicacy. Dal is occasionally taken by the low income groups. Tea is is not very popular as they take rice beer. But now a days the consumption of rice beer is limited to festive occasionally.

The male persons wear modern mill made dresses but a traditional long narrow piece of cloth called 'Kapung' is used around the waist. On festive occasions both male or female wear colourful dresses woven locally.

The missing have many clans which are exogamous. In their day to day life however clan distinction is river taken into account. But marriage must not take place between a boy and girl of the same clan. The Mising use clan names as the titles or surnames.

The Mising family pattern may be called unique in the sense that two or more primary families live peacefully together in a single house. The headman is highly

regarded by all members. These in co-operation and good understanding among the family members.

They are patrilineal and descent is traced through the male line. All the sons get equal share of father's property, daughter are not entitled to share the property.

Every village has a 'kebang' or Village Panchayat. The head of Kebang is called 'Gam' of who is selected by the Kebang. His post is not hereditary. The Gam alongwith members of the Kebang decides disputes and punishment is inflicted to the offenders.

They had two forms of marriage viz. formal and informal. The former is an expensive affair and it is also called marriage by negotiation where parents of boys and girl give the final word. Marriage takes place at bride's house. The marriage feast consists of Apong, pork, fish, rice & vegetables and betel leaves and nuts. The villagers join the marriage and assist the family in cash and kind. Marriage continues for two days.

Besides formal marriage, run away and kidnapping for marriage are popular which have social recognition provided the marriage is not within the same clan. This is less expensive marriage. The boy's parents offer a feast to the villagers along with the customary bride price which may be Rs. 50.00 to Rs. 2000.00.

The Mising religion is based on the belief on supernaturalism and animism. They believe that spirits are the guiding factors of their life and there are spirits everywhere. The 'Mibu' (priest) is the only person who can appease the spirits. Pigs, fowls, apong etc. are offered to the spirits. Today the Misings prefer to introduce themselves as Hindus and they are followers of the 'Bhakatia' cult a doctrine having traditional Vaisnavism and Tantricism mingled together.

The Misings observe various festivals during a year. The 'Ali Aye Lrigang' is the most important festival held every year on the first Wednesday of the month of Falgun (February). This spring dance festival is observed to mark the sowing of seeds. The festival continue for five days. Dances, feasting merry makings continue for these days.

'Porag' is another festival held in the Morang. The supreme deities Chedi Melo and Donyi Polo are worshipped during the festival. At least 4/5 pigs are sacrificed. Dancing, the feasting continue day and night. The festival comes to an end with a prayer dance known as 'Ponu Nunam'.

Burial is the prevailing practice among the Misings. Every village has a common burial ground. Before taking the dead body to the burial ground the corpse is bathed and kept in a log coffin called 'Rung Kung'. The purification is a thrice tier affair i.e. Tilani, Mahekia and Daha. On the third day a ceremony called Tilani is observed without feast and fun. The most important ceremony is Daha which is held after one year or so. A big feast with pork and Apong is arranged where all the villagers take part.

The Deoris :

The Deoris are one of the four divisions of the Chutias. There divisions are Hindu Chutia, Ahom Chutia, Barahi Chutia and Deoris. The last named have been able to maintain the traditional characteristics in fact.

The original abode of the Deoris was on the banks of the river Dibong, Tengapani and Patarsal was under Arunachal Pradesh. Their present habitations spread over Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Tinsukia and Sonitpur Districts of Assam.

As per 2001 census they have a total population of 41,161 (male 20809, female 20352) constituting 1.24% of the tribal population of the state. The P.C. of literacy is 65.46 (male 72.72 and female 58.33).

Like the Misings the Deoris live in platform type house and a typical Deori house can contain more than 40 persons. The front portion of the house is called 'Misso' which is used to entertain guests. This is also used as a sleeping room for the unmarried boys. The fire place kept at the rear room of the house is considered as sacred.

The Mongolian traits are visible on the Deoris. They belong to the Tibeto Burman family of linguistic group. Out of the three sections of the Deoris i.e. Dibangia, Tengapania and Borgonya, the Dibangia section only maintains the traditional language.

Agriculture is the principal support of the families. They generally grow Ahu paddy. Some of the Deori grow Sali paddy too where the flood problem is minimum. Besides paddy they produce mustard seeds sweet potatoes, pulses, cotton and winter crops.

The staple food of the Deori's is rice. Along with rice they take boiled green vegetables seasoned with chillies and salt. They rear fowls, pigs, ducks and goats for their meat supply. Fish also forms a special delicacy in the Deori menu. Rice beer

(Suji) is prepared for consumption of all and also for entertaining guests. It is an essential item during pujas and festive occasions.

Among the Deoris monogamy is the rule but polygamy is far from extinct. They prefer joint family system which the Dibangia Deoris call 'Jakarua Jupa'. The father is the head of the family and all members obey him.

Properties such as land, livestock, food stuff, house etc. are jointly held by the family. They are patrilineal in descent and relationship is drawn through the male line.

There are four broad divisions among the Deoris namely Dibangia, Tengapania, Borgonya and Patorgonya each originating from a particular place name. At present Patorgonya section is difficult to trace. Each division has number of clans called 'Khel' which are exogamous.

In the former Gaonbura reigns supreme, he is the head of the village assembly and decides disputes of local nature.

For smooth functioning of the religious activities every Deori village has nine office bearers who have been assigned specific duties. Out of these four office bearers in the hierarchical order are Bor Deori, Saru Deori and Bor Bharali and Saru Bharali. Bor Deori is the priest who commands highest regard.

The Deori have four different forms of marriage namely Bor Biya, Maju Biya, Bhkat Rupiya or Saru Biya and Gandharba. Except the last one, all the three types come under formal marriage. Among the Deoris the most widely prevalent type of marriage in Gandharba a marriage by elopement.

The pathoria or middleman plays a major role in a Deori marriage. He helps in the settlement of bride price. He must be a man of wide knowledge about the folklore and other marriage formalities.

The system of bride price is prevalent among the Deoris. The bride price includes betel leaves and nuts and cash.

As regards religious beliefs and practices all the three divisions of the Deoris are still maintaining their traditional beliefs and practices. The common place of worship among the Borgonyas and Tengapanias is known as 'Thaan'. Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are their chief deities. Besides these above deities the Deoris have a good number of household deities and regular sacrifices are offered to them. Sacrifice of animals (goats and fowls) and birds forms as important part of Deori

Puja. The Bor Deori performs the puja. Wednesday is the auspicious day for the Pujas.

The Deoris observe two major festivals during a year called 'Bohagiyo Bisu' (April) and 'Magiyo Bisu' (January). The Deori Bisus are observed from the Wednesday although the general Assamese Bihu falls on the 'Sangkranti'. These festivals have close relation with their agricultural activities. Sacrifice of goat is a must in Bisu Pujas. Once in every four years a white buffalo is sacrificed during Bisu Puja.

Among the Deoris cremation is the rule. The dead bodies are bathed with water and new white cloths are wrapped over the bodies. The corpse is wrapped in a bamboo mat and taken to cremation ground by four closed relatives.

A ceremony is held on the fourth day without much fun and feast. The final purification ceremony may be held any time of the year after death. Generally, it is held after one year. Pork, rice beer are essential items in large numbers as members from far and near gather for this occasion.

The Sonowal Kacharis :

The Sonowal Kacharis constitute the third largest plains tribal group concentrated mainly in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Districts of Assam. There are stray pockets of Sonowal Kacharis in Golaghat, Sivasagar and Jorhat district also. They belong to the great Bodo group. They belong to the Mongoloid stock of the Tibeto Burman group of families.

According to 2001 census the total population of the Sonowal Kacharis is 2,35,881 (male 1,19,470, female 1,16,411) constituting 7.13% of the total tribal population of the state. The P.C. of literacy is 70.52 (male 76.22, female 64.66).

ET Dalton's description of the Kacharis (Saranias) fit well with that of the Sonowal Kacharis. "They are in comparison with the average run of the people of the plains, their neighbours, a fine athletic race, industrious and thriving of light olive complexion and rather strongly marked Mongolian features.The majority call themselves Saranias that is purified Kacharis to indicate that they have adopted the custom of the Hindus and abstained from forbidden food."

Regarding social structure, there is similarity of any other non tribal communities of neighbouring villages. The Gaonbura or the village headman is the key person in a village. Besides the Gaonbura, there are other office bearers like Barik, Pathek, Asirbadia Bura, Gitghai, Medhi, Tamuli and Randhani.

Every Sonowal village has a 'Namghar' (public congregational hall). It is also a centre for the sittings of 'village mel' where local disputes are settled. The decision of 'Mel' is final.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood. They produce 'Sali' and 'Ahu' paddy in their fields. Besides paddy they grow mustard, potatoes, pulses and winter crops. Modern method of agriculture is popular among them.

Rice is the staple food. All kinds of vegetables and pulses find place in their menu. Fish, mutton, chicken are delicacies. They do not take pork nor they rear pigs. Rice beer is prepared by very few families and tea is taken by most of the elderly and educated people.

A typical Sonowal Kachari house has similarity with that of the non tribal house in rural areas of Assam. They construct separate sheds for cattle, ducks and poultries. To store paddy a granary is constructed towards eastern direction of the courtyard. Locally available materials like thatch, bamboo, woods are used for construction of houses.

Both primary and jointly family systems are prevalent among Sonowal Kacharis.

Their system of inheritance is patrilineal. After the death of the father the property is divided equally among the sons. The ornaments, clothes are the property of the women and the same can be inherited by the daughters.

The Sonowal Kacharis are divided into seven clans called Bangshas. There are Bali Khitari, Chiri Puriya, Amarabamia, Dhulial, Ujani Kuchia, Namani Kuchia and Tipamia. There are sub-divisions of the clans. Again the sub-divisions are split into branches. Except on marriage reference to clan is hardly made. Since their conversion to Hinduism and because of the assimilation process the Sonowals wrote titles generally used by non tribal Assamese people like Hazarika, Bora, Saikia etc. But today almost all Sonowals write Sonowal as title as a suffix.

They have four distinct forms of marriage mainly Nowa Dhoowa or Bor Biya, Homdiya, Gandharba and Churchuria or Rabha Sarakaidiya. The former two types entail sizeable expenditure and such marriages are few and far between. In Hom Diya, a Brahmin priest may be employed. The widely prevalent form of marriage is Gandharba or marriage by elopement. There is no fixed bride price. It may vary according to the status of the groom.

The Sonowal Kacharis are devout of the Mahapurushia Vaisnav Dharma and they are disciples of the Auniati Satra of Majuli. However, some of the Sonowal Kacharis of Lakhimpur owe allegiance to the Checha Satra. Although Vaisnavism has its deep root among them, yet the people maintain much of their traditional religious beliefs and practices. They also worship Lord Siva and observe Bathou Puja, sacrifice of animals is performed in this puja. They have household deities like Bura Poha, Saragdeo Puja, Pir Diya, Marak Diya and Lakhimi Puja. They have Namghars and each village where religious festivals like Janmastami, tithes of the Vaisnava Gurus etc. are held. Besides, they observe traditional Gojai Bhoj, Gati Giri Bhoj on specific dates in a year. The womenfolk observe Ai sabah, Apeswari Sabah at Namghar.

The most important festival of the Sonowal Kacharis is the Rangali Bihu like other non-tribal people of surrounding villages in the Sangkranti day of chot (April). Magh Bihu and Kati Bihu are also observed during January and October.

Cremation of dead bodies is the general practice among the Sonowal Kacharis. Dead bodies of children below the age of 5, pregnant woman and epidemic cases are buried.

Purification ceremony is almost similar to that of the non-tribal Assamese people with the exception that the Sonowals do not engage a Brahmin to preside over the purification ceremony. The 'Medhi' presides over all the functions relating to death. They observe a three tier purification ceremony namely 'Tilani' on the 3rd day, 'Dah Diniya Daha' on 10th day and 'Kuridiniya Kaaj' on the 20th day. Ancestor worship is prevalent among them.

CHAPTER-II

Objectives:-

The major objectives of the research study are -

- (i) To analyze the present socio-economic status of the tribes living in Majuli
- (ii) To identify the main constraints of socio-economic development of the island.
- (iii) To know about their adoptability in adverse natural environment
- (iv) To know about changes in occupational pattern if any due to flood and river erosion.
- (v) To know about the impact of different Govt schemes implemented in the area.
- (vi) To find out the Socio -economic changes that have taken place in the life of the tribes of Majuli due to erosion .

Methodology:

The entire research study is carried out in Majuli Sub Division of Jorhat districts of Assam. For the study 20 tribal dominated villages from Majuli Sub Division were selected randomly. In order to achieve the objectives of the research study a total of 500 sample households are covered during the field investigation period.

A set of investigators was employed for collection of data by visiting house to house and meeting various sections of people. The field data collection work was done from the month of June, 2011 to August, 2011 and tabulation work and compilation of data by 31st October ,2011. Participant observation method with the help of structured schedules covering the sample villages and households was adopted.

For collection of primary data two structured schedules viz., village schedule and household schedule were used. The official field investigators have collected field data by surveying sample villages as well as sample households by using these

schedules. The secondary data was collected from sources like Census of India, Economic Survey of Assam, Statistical hand book of Assam and other published materials on Majuli . Apart from this, concerned officers of various development departments posted in Majuli were also contacted. All collected data were duly analyzed and a report was prepared on the findings of the village and household schedule.

Sampling Design :

Random sampling technique has been adopted while selecting the villages. Efforts have been made to include diverse sections of people of various ages and sexes, literate and illiterate cultivators and non cultivators, so that the data become all inclusive.

CHAPTER-II(A)

Data Analysis of Village Schedule :

The study on socio economic condition of the tribes living in Majuli Sub-Division of Jorhat district covered 20 tribal villages under Dakhin Kamalabari (4 villages), chilakola (5 villages), karatipar (3 villages) and on each from Dakhinpat, Rawanapara, Rawanapara Chamaguri, Uttar Kamalabari, Sri Luit, Pakajara and Garamur Gaon Panchayat of Kamabari Development Block of Majuli Sub-Division. Police Station wise of villages fall under Kamalabari P.S. and 11 villages fall under Garamur P.S. Table 1 shows the details of basic information of the studied villages.

TABLE-1

Showing basic information of the villages where survey has been conducted

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Name of villages</i>	<i>Name of gaon Panchayat</i>	<i>Police Station</i>	<i>Development Block</i>	<i>Sub-Division</i>
1.	<i>Kaniajan</i>	<i>Dhakhin Kamalabari</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>	<i>Majuli</i>
2.	<i>Upper Somaimari</i>	<i>Dhakhinpat</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
3.	<i>Okhanamokh</i>	<i>Rawnapara</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
4.	<i>Somaimari</i>	<i>Rawnapara, Chamgori</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
5.	<i>Upper Sonowal</i>	<i>Kamalabari (South)</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
6.	<i>Dhapak Gaon</i>	<i>Dhakhin Kamalabari</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
7.	<i>1 No Borgoya</i>	<i>Chilakola</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
8.	<i>Jarani Sonowal</i>	<i>Kamalabari (North)</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
9.	<i>Natun Chapori</i>	<i>Chilakola</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
10.	<i>Charighoria</i>	<i>Karatipar</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
11.	<i>Borghali</i>	<i>Karatipar</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
12.	<i>Bardowar</i>	<i>Srilohit</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		

13.	<i>Moharichawk</i>	<i>Karatipar</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
14.	<i>Frim Tiniali</i>	<i>Kamalabari (South)</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
15.	<i>Mahkhuti</i>	<i>Pokajora</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
16.	<i>Sonapur (Chitadar)</i>	<i>Chilakola</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
17.	<i>Chitadal chowk</i>	<i>Chilakola</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
18.	<i>INo Fotoki</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		
19.	<i>Nam Batiyamari</i>	<i>Kamalabari (South)</i>	<i>Kamalabari</i>		
20.	<i>2 No Borgoya</i>	<i>Chilakola</i>	<i>Garmurah</i>		

Altogether 2153 households, all belonging to tribals with a total population of 1,31,66, male 6695 (50.81%) and female 6476 (49.19%) were studied. Details of distribution of households of population have been shown in Table-2.

TABLE-2

Showing village wise distribution of population

Sl. No	Name of Village	Total No of household	Population			Total No of Tribal household	Percentage of tribal household
			Total	Male	Female		
1	<i>Kaniajan</i>	69	361	190	171	69	100%
2	<i>Upper Somaimari</i>	96	512	272	240	96	100%
3	<i>Okhanamokh</i>	50	361	189	172	50	100%
4	<i>Somaimari</i>	205	1123	570	553	205	100%
5	<i>Upper Sonowal</i>	135	775	387	388	135	100%
6	<i>Dhapak Gaon</i>	150	778	399	379	150	100%
7	<i>1 No Borgoya</i>	136	740	381	359	136	100%
8	<i>Jarani Sonowal</i>	90	525	273	252	90	100%

9	Natun Chapori	57	503	264	239	57	100%
10	Charighoria	78	560	276	284	78	100%
11	Borghali	29	186	97	89	29	100%
12	Bardowar	85	699	354	345	85	100%
13	Moharichawk	208	1320	671	649	208	100%
14	Frim Tiniali	43	322	160	162	43	100%
15	Makhuti	63	378	190	188	63	100%
16	Sonapur (Chitadar)	206	1100	556	544	206	100%
17	Chitadal chowk	180	1248	622	626	180	100%
18	1 No Fotoki	53	313	157	156	53	100%
19	Nam Batiyamari	100	606	304	302	100	100%
20	2 No Borgoya	120	756	378	378	120	100%
Total		2153	13166	6690 (50.81 %)	6476 (49.19%)	2153	100%

As regards topography, from the table placed below we can see that all the villages are in plains areas

TABLE-3

Showing topography of the surveyed village

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sub Division	Total No Of village	No of villages in hilly areas	No of villages in plains areas	No of villages in undwelling plains areas	Others
Majuli	20	Nil(0%)	20(100%)	Nil(0%)	Nil

The tribal people generally prefer to live in compact areas and in the present study it is observed that 85% of the villages are agglomerated while 10% villages are dispersed and 5% village are isolated

Table-4

Settlement Pattern

<i>Total No.s of Villages</i>	<i>Agglomerated</i>	<i>Dispersed</i>	<i>Isolated</i>	<i>Others</i>
20	17(85%)	2(10%)	1(5%)	-

Traditionally the Misings are a riverine tribe and in order to avoid the calamities arising out of recurring flood of the river Brahmaputra with its tributaries, they build their houses in raised platforms about 5' above the ground. Thus out of 2153 households of the surveyed villages as many as 71.16% households are platform type followed by 26.05%. Thatched houses, 2.28% katcha Assam Type, 40% pucca Assam Type and 04% RCC houses.

TABLE-5

Showing type of house of the of the surveyed village

Sub Division	Name of villages	No of RCC houses	No of Pucca AT house	No of Kutcha AT houses	No of thatched houses	Chang or platform type house	Total
Majuli	<i>Kaniajan</i>			2	36	31	69
	<i>Upper Somaimari</i>		1	2	33	60	96
	<i>Okhanamokh</i>			1	22	27	50
	<i>Somaimari</i>		3	7	41	154	205
	<i>Upper Sonowal</i>			5	53	77	135
	<i>Dhapak Gaon</i>			5	31	114	150
	<i>1 No Borgoya</i>			4	44	88	136
	<i>Jarani Sonowal</i>			2	45	43	90

<i>Natun Chapori</i>				22	35	57
<i>Charighoria</i>				25	53	78
<i>Borghali</i>				11	18	29
<i>Bardowar</i>			8	23	54	85
<i>Moharichawk</i>	1	2	1	35	169	208
<i>Frim Tiniali</i>				13	30	43
<i>Mahkhuti</i>				19	44	63
<i>Sonapur (Chitadar)</i>		3	6	38	159	206
<i>Chitadal chowk</i>			3	26	151	180
<i>INo Fotoki</i>				12	41	53
<i>Nam Batiyamari</i>		1	1	11	87	100
<i>2 No Borgoya</i>			2	21	97	120
Total	1 (.04%)	10 (.40%)	49 (2.28%)	561 (26.05%)	1532 (71.16%)	2153

Regarding land holding pattern of the villages it is seen that there are 3 villages having household land upto 30 Bigha each, 4 villages having 31-40 bighas each, 3 villages having 41-50 bighas each, 2 villages having 51-60 bighas each, 1 village having 61-70 bighas, 3 villages having 71-80 bighas each, 2 villages having 81-90 bighas each and 2 villages having 100-200 bighas each.

As regards total cultivable land there are 3 villages having upto 100 Bighas each, 6 villages having 100-200 Bighas each, 4 villages having 201-300 bighas each, 2 villages having 301-400 Bighas each, 3 villages having 401-500 Bighas each and 2 villages having 501-600 bighas each.

Fisheries are owned by 7 villages each having 2 bighas each, 2 villages having 1 bigha each and one village having 3 bighas of land under fisheries.

Grazing lands are owned by 16 (80%) villages. One village possesses 49 Bighas of grazing land while 6 villages are having

grazing land 11-18 bighas each and 9 villages are having grazing land below 10 bighas of land each details are shown in Table-6.

TABLE-6

Land Holding Pattern of the surveyed villages (In Bighas)

Sub Division	Name of villages	Homestead land (in Bighas)	Total cultivable land (in Bighas)	Fishery land (in Bighas)	Gazing land (in Bighas)	Land under plantation (in Bighas)	Total (in Bighas)
Majuli	<i>Kaniajan</i>	35	159		6	-	200
	<i>Upper Somaimari</i>	61	281		8	-	350
	<i>Okhanamokh</i>	32	133			-	165
	<i>Somaimari</i>	108	572	2	18	-	700
	<i>Upper Sonowal</i>	85	397	2	16	-	500
	<i>Dhapak Gaon</i>	72	399		9	-	480
	<i>1 No Borgoya</i>	78	405	2	5	-	490
	<i>Jarani Sonowal</i>	48	297	2	3	-	350
	<i>Natun Chapori</i>	33	157			-	190
	<i>Charighoria</i>	43	256	2	9	-	310
	<i>Borghali</i>	11	54			-	65
	<i>Bardowar</i>	40	156		4	-	200
	<i>Moharichawk</i>	102	535	2	11	-	650
	<i>Frim Tiniali</i>	18	70		12	-	100
	<i>Mahkhuti</i>	24	92		4	-	120
	<i>Sonapur (Chitadar)</i>	88	410	3	49	-	550
	<i>Chitadal chowk</i>	71	461	1	17	-	450
<i>1No Fotoki</i>	49	131		5	-	185	

<i>Nam Batiyamari</i>	56	193	1	15	-	265
<i>2 No Borgoya</i>	59	229	2		-	290
Total	1613 (21.48%)	5687 (75.72%)	19 (.25%)	191 (2.54%)	-	7510

Transport facilities for most of the villages are inadequate as 16 (80%) villages having the nearest transport station at a distance of above 6 km, 3 villages (15%) have the same at a distance of 4-6 kms and one (5%) village has the nearest transport station at a distance of 2-4 kms.

Only 6 (30%) villages possess nearest motorable road within the villages while the nearest motorable road for 9 (45%) villages lies at a distance of 1-2 kms. and of 2 (10%) villages the same facility as existing at a distance of 2-4 kms. and for another 2 (10%) villages the distance to the nearest motorable road is 4-6 kms. One village gets the facility at a distance of above 6 kms.

River post is the most convenient means of transport for the riverine people but only 1 (5%) village has the post (ghat) within the village while 4 (20%) villages have the facility at a distance of 1-2 kms. and another 4 (20%) villages have river part at a distance of 2-4 kms. the distance of 5 (25%) villages to the river post in 4-6 kms. and 6 (30%) villages have the facility at a distance of above 6 km.

As many as 18 (90%) villages have the Block Office at a distance of more than 6 kms. and distance of one village each to Block Office is 2-4 kms. and 4-6 kms. respectively. Same is the case in respect of Sub-Divisional Head Quarter Table-7.

TABLE-7

Transport and Communication Facilities

Sl. No	Facilities	Distance from the Nearest Facility (in K.M)				
		Within the village	1-2	2-4	4-6	More than 6
1	Transport Station			1(5%)	3(15%)	16(80%)
2	Nearest Motorable road	6(30%)	9(45%)	2(10%)	2(10%)	1(5%)
3	River port	1(5%)	4(20%)	4(20%)	5(25%)	6(30%)
4	Block Office			1(5%)	1(5%)	18(90%)

5	Sub-division Head Quarter			1(5%)	1(5%)	18(90%)
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Only 2 (10%) villages are lucky to possess graveled road and majority 9 (45%) of the villages have only katcha fair weather roads and 6 (30%) villages have katcha all weather roads. Even in this fast moving world of 21st century, 2 (10%) villages are compelled to satisfy themselves with foot tracks. One village still uses boat to connect outside world.

TABLE-8

Condition of Roads

Sub Division	Total No of villages	Category (main approachable road)	Numbers	P/C
Majuli	20	Foot track	2	10%
		Katcha Fair weather	9	45%
		Katcha all weather	6	30%
		Graveled	2	10%
		By boat	1	5%
		Others	nil	nil

The primary mode of conveyance of 50% of the villages is motor bus. The boat is the main mode of conveyance for 4 (20%) villages while bicycle and private vehicle are used by 10% and 5% of the villages respectively as primary mode of conveyance.

TABLE-9

Showing mode of conveyance

Sub Division	Total No of villages	Category (primary mode of conveyance)	No of villages using the following facilities as primary mode of conveyance	P/C
Majuli	20	Motor bus	10	50%
		Public Boat	4	20%
		Car	-	
		Bike	-	
		Scooter	-	
		Bicycle	2	10%
		Private Boat	1	5%
Other(tempo,	3	15%		

		auto, bullock cart etc.)		
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Radio, TV, newspaper, library, community centre telephone, mobile phones are the available means of mass communication for the villagers. Modern life style has crept in even in the far flowing tribal villages as reflected by existence of TVs in 70% of the villages and 95% mobile phone users. Radios are the most sought after means of mass communication and all the studied villages have radios. There are only 2 (10%) villages having libraries. Three (15%) villages have community centres. Telephones are found in 2 (10%) villages only.

TABLE-10

Mass Communication facility available

Sub Division	Total No of villages	Available means of mass communication	No of villages having the mass communication facilities	P/C villages having mass communication facilities
Majuli	20	TV	14	70 %
		Radio	20	100%
		Newspaper	10	50%
		Library	2	10%
		Community Center	3	15%
		Telephone	2	10%
		Mobile phone	19	95%

Like any other plain areas of Assam Kharif crops are grown by the villagers of Majuli as major crop.

TABLE-11

Showing Major Crops

Total Nos. of Villages	Season	
	Kharif	Rabi
20		

As regards source of drinking water majority (75%) of the villages depend upon tube wells, the water of which is some what safer in the context of flood ravaged environment. But 4 (20%) villages still depend upon river / streams for their

drinking water purposes. Only 1 (5%) village depends upon tank / pond for supply of water.

TABLE-12

Sources of drinking water facilities

<i>Total Nos. of Villages</i>	<i>Sources of drinking water</i>					
	<i>Rain water</i>	<i>Tank/pond</i>	<i>Stream/River</i>	<i>Well</i>	<i>Tube Well</i>	<i>Water Supply Scheme</i>
<i>20</i>	-	<i>1(5%)</i>	<i>4(20%)</i>	-	<i>15(75%)</i>	-

Regarding electrification 65% villages are yet to be electrified. Although 7 (35%) villages have electricity only 4 (20%) villages, get the supply regularly while 3 (15%) villages do not get regular electric supply.

TABLE-13

Village Electrification

<i>Total Nos. of Villages</i>	<i>Position</i>			
	<i>Electrified</i>	<i>Not Electrified</i>	<i>Electrified and Regular supply</i>	<i>Electrified and not Regular supply</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>7(35%)</i>	<i>13(65%)</i>	<i>4 (20%)</i>	<i>3(15%)</i>

It was the policy of the Govt. to establish L.P. Schools within the villages but in the present study it is found that only 6 (30%) villages have L.P. Schools within the villages. Anganwadi centres in principle is generally located within the villages. Here also 8 (40%) villages have the centres within the villages. There are L.P. schools for 6 (30%) villages at a distance of 1-2 kms. The distance of 7 (35%) villages to the L.P. Schools is 2-4 kms. and for 1 (5%) village the distance is 4-6 kms. It is rather inconceivable to think that little kids can walk 2-4 and 4-6 kms. to attend schools in difficult terrain like the flood prone areas of Misings.

M.E. Schools for 4 (20%) villages are located at a distance of 1-2 kms and for 4 other villages the M.E. Schools are located at a distance of 2-4 kms. and 6-10 kms. respectively. The distance of 6 (30%) villages to the M.E. Schools is 4-6 kms.

H.E. Schools are located at a considerable distance for 16 villages ranging from 4-6 km for 5 (25%) villages, 6-10 km for 9 (45%) and above 10 km. for 2 (10) villages. More a less the same position is observed in respect of H.S. Schools as 18 villages (90%) have H.S. Schools within the range of 4-6 to above 10 kms. and only 2 (10%) villages have H.S. School at a distance of 2-4 kms.

As regards, college, as many as 95% villages have the seat of higher education beyond 4-6 km and above 10 kms. only one village gets the high education facility at a somewhat nearer distance i.e. 2-4 kms. Details are shown in Table-14.

TABLE-14

Educational Facilities

Total Nos. of Villages	Showing distance from the educational institutions						
	Category	Within the village	1-2km	2-4km	4-6km	6-10km	more than 10 km
20	Primary School	6(30%)	6(30%)	7(35%)	1(5%)		
	Middle	2(10%)	4(20%)	4(20%)	6(30%)	4(20%)	
	High		1(5%)	3(15%)	5(25%)	9(45%)	2(10%)
	H.S School	-		2(10%)	4(20%)	5(25%)	9(45%)
	College			1(5%)	2(10%)	3(15%)	14(70%)
	Anganbadi	8(40%)	5(25%)	5(25%)	2(10%)		

Regarding health care facility sub-centres are located within the village for 1 (5%) village and within 1-2 km for another one (5%) village. One village has the sub-centre at a distance of 2-4 km and 3 (15%) villages have the same at a distance of 4-6 km. The distance of the 14 (70%) villages to the sub-centres ranges from 6-10 kms. to above 20 kms. for 5 (25%) villages, 6-10 km from 5 (25%) villages 10-20 km and for 2 (10%) villages above 20 kms.

The distance of 18 (90%) villages to the PHCs ranges from 6-10 kms for 5 (25) villages, 10-20 kms for 5 (25%) village sand above 20 km for 8 (40%) villages.

Only one village each gets the facility of PHCs at a distance 2-4 km and 4-6 km respectively.

As many as 80% villages have Govt. dispensaries at distance of above 20 km. The distance of 3 (15%) villages and 1 village to the Govt. dispensary is 10-20 km and 6-10 kms respectively. Private Clinics for 70% villages are located beyond 20 kms. Details are shown in the Table-15.

TABLE-15

Health Care Facilities

Sl. No	Health Facilities	Within Village	Distance from the village(in K.m)					
			1-2	2-4	4-6	6-10	10-20	above 20
1	Sub Centre	1(5%)	1(5%)	1(5%)	3(15%)	6(30%)	6(30%)	2(10%)
2	Primary Health Centre	-		1(5%)	1(5%)	5(25%)	5(25%)	8(40%)
3	Govt. Dispensary					1(5%)	3(15%)	16(80%)
4	Private Clinic				1(5%)	2(10%)	3(15%)	14(70%)
5	Pvt. Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

As regards civic facilities only 2 (10%) village get the post office facility at a somewhat nearer distance of 2-4 kms and 70% of the villages have the post office beyond 10 km, 5% villages at a distance of 4-6 km and 157 villages get postal facilities at a distance of 6-10 km. Telegraph office is located at a distance of above 10 kms for 90% of the villages STD booths, however found in smaller distance at least for 7 villages. For two (10%) villages the same are located within the villages while two villages have booths at a distance of 1-2 kms. The distance of 4 (20%) villages and 3 (15%) villages to the STD booth are 4-6 kms and 2-4 kms. respectively. STD booths for 8 (40%) villages are existing at a distance of 6-10 kms.

Most of the villagers (80%) get bank facilities at a distance of above 10 kilometers. Only 3 (15%) villages are able to get such facility at a distance of 6-10 km.

Pharmacy is located within the village of one village only. The distance of 2 (10) villages to pharmacy is 1-2 kms, of 4 (20%) village each 2-4 and 6-10 kms for 6

(30%) villages the distance to pharmacy is 4-6 kms and for 3 (15%) villages the distance is more than 10 kms.

Only one village has weekly hat within the village and another one village has the same at a distance of 1-2 kms. The distance of 6 (30%) villages each to the weekly hats is 4-6 kms and 6-10 kms, while the distance of 4 (20%) villages to hat is 2-4 kms.

Regarding fair price shops 3 (15%) villages have the same within the villagers and 2 (10%) villagers have fair price shops at a distance of 1-2 kms and another 2 villages have the same at a distance of 2-4 kms. The distance of 8 (40%) villages etc FP facilities at a distance of 4-6 kms and for 5 (25%) villages the distance to F.P. Shops is 6-10 kms.

TABLE-16

Civic and other Facilities

Category	Distance from the village(in K.m)					
	Within Village	1-2	2-4	4-6	6-10	More than 10
Post office			2(10 %)	1(5 %)	3(15%)	14(70 %)
Telegraph office					2(10%)	18(90 %)
STD Booth	2(10%)	2(10%)	3(15 %)	4(20 %)	8(40%)	1(5%)
Bank				1(5%)	3(15%)	16(80 %)
Pharmacy	1(5%)	2(10%)	4(20%)	6(30 %)	4(20%)	3(15%)
Weekly market	1(5 %)	1(5 %)	4(20 %)	6(30%)	6(30 %)	
Fair price shop	3(15 %)	2(10%)	2(10 %)	8(40%)	5(25 %)	

The Assam Indebtedness Relief Act and other relevant actions taken to curb the menace of village money lenders from time to time appear to infructuous in so far as the present study is concerned as 70% of the villagers are in the clutch of the village money lenders who charge monthly interest of the loans exorbitantly only 2 villages (10%) gets credit from NGO / SHGs, while 3 (15%) villages procure their credit requirements from other sources. Only 1 (5%) village is lucky to get credit from bank Table-17.

TABLE-17**Credit Facilities Available**

Total Nos. of Villages	Main source or most used source of credit					
	Bank (national or commercial)	Govt Co-operative society	Govt recognized financial institutions	SHG/NGO	Village Money Lender	Others
20	1(5%)	NIL	NIL	2(10%)	14(70%)	3(15%)

The tribal people of Majuli are engaged in various cottage and small industries. The handloom and sericulture industry is found in 3 (15%) villages while 40% village have piggy industry. Only 3 (15%) villages have poultry farms while fishery is found in 1 (5%) village. There are 2 (10%) villages having cane and bamboo products. Carpentry is located in one (5%) village only. In other small and cottage industries sector only 2 (10%) villages are involved.

TABLE-18**Showing position of cottage and small scale industries**

Total Nos. of Villages	No of villages having these cottage and small scale industries						
	Handloom and sericulture	Pig farm	poultry	Fishery	Cane and bamboo product	Carpentry	Other cottage and small scale industries
20	3 (15%)	8 (40%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%) (pottery making)

All the surveyed villages are affected by flood and 65% of the villages are affected by erosion.

TABLE-19

Total nos of Villages affected by flood and erosion

<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>Effectuated by flood</i>	<i>Effectuated by Erosion</i>
20	20(100%)	13(65%)

During flood 75% of the village are totally cut off from rest of the nation due to breach of roads by flood waters. Floods which continue for 2/3 months compel 13% villages to search for alternative livelihood. The schools / colleges of 55% villages remain non functioning during flood and 4 (20%) villages are required to take shelter in high lands / embankments etc.

TABLE-19A

Effect of flood

<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>no of villages with the following effect of flood</i>			
	<i>Have to take shelter outside the village</i>	<i>Deprived of road communication</i>	<i>Have to remain absent from school / college for more than a month</i>	<i>Have to take other job for livelihood (more than half of the total earning population of a village)</i>
20	4(20%)	15(75%)	11(55%)	13(%)

The damage caused by recurring flood is immense as during last year above 5800 Bighas of crop area were made uncultivated. As many as 55 houses were damaged and 34 heads of cattle were carried away by the strong currents of flood water.

TABLE-19B

Damaged caused by flood

<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>Total crop area</i>	<i>Total home</i>	<i>No.s of cattle</i>	<i>Human life lost</i>
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	<i>affected last year (in bigha)</i>	<i>damaged</i>	<i>lost</i>	
20	5800	55	34	-

As regards effects of erosion, 3 villages were fully affected and 2 villages were partially affected. There was no effect of erosion in 15 villages.

During flood erosion road communication of 8 villages were fully affected and road communication of another 8 villages were partially affected. Roads and four villages were not affected. Cultivable lands of 7 villages were fully affected and of 8 villages the cultivable lands were partially affected. Cultivable lands of five villages were not affected. During last three years 2944 bighas of land were eroded.

TABLE-20

Effect of erosion

<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>Extends of effects</i>	<i>fully effected</i>	<i>partially effected</i>	<i>Not effected</i>
20	<i>Homestead land</i>	3	2	15
	<i>road communication</i>	8	8	4
	<i>Cultivable land</i>	7	8	5

TABLE-20A

Total Area Eroded during last 3three years

<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>Land eroded in Bigha</i>
20	2944

Due to erosion 4 (20%) villages had to be shifted to safer areas during last 10 years while 13 (65%) villages were free from such shifting. Three villages (15%) pressure that there is every possibility of shifting the villages in near future. Table-20B.

Table-20B.***Shifting due to erosion***

<i>No. of Villages</i>	<i>Have to shift during last ten years</i>	<i>Not shifted</i>	<i>Will have to shift in near future</i>
20	4(20%)	13(65%)	3(15%)

Majuli is famous for Satras (Vaisnava monastery) and more than 35 satras are functioning there with all traditional glory. There may be more than one satra in a village. Thus in Bhogpur village there are 2 Satras, Dakhinpat 1, Benganaati 1, Natun Kamalabari 1, Auniati 1 and Guramur 1 satra and the distance from the studied villages is 0-2 km.

One satra each of Dakhinpat, Benganaati, Natun Kamalabari, Aadialengi, Garamur and Kamalabari lies at a distance of 2-4 kms from the villages. There are 6 satras, one each of Natun Kamalabari, Kamalabari and Auniati and 3 at Garamur at a distance of 4-10 kms from the villages and one Satra of Auniati and Garamur each lies at a distance of above 10 kms. from the village

TABLE-21***Nearest Satras present in the surveyed villages***

<i>Name of the Satras</i>	<i>Distance from the village</i>			
	<i>0-2</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>4-10</i>	<i>10 above</i>
<i>Bhogpur</i>	2(10%)			
<i>Dhakhinpat</i>	1(5%)	1(5%)		
<i>Bangnaati</i>	1(5%)	1(5%)		
<i>Natun kamalabari</i>		1(5%)	1(5%)	
<i>Auniati</i>	1(5%)		1(5%)	1(5%)
<i>Aadialengi</i>		1(5%)		
<i>Garmurah</i>	1(5%)	1(5%)	3(15%)	1(5%)
<i>Kamalabari</i>		1(5%)	1(5%)	

Regarding assistance provided by government during flood erosion food items were supplied to 12 (60%) villages and 8 (40%) villages had no such benefit. Regarding shelter only 30% villages were provided shelter during flood erosion and 70% villages were not getting any assistance in the name of shelter. Less said better

in respect of health and rehabilitation measures. Only 15% villages got health facility while rehabilitation was done for only 10% of the affected villages.

TABLE-22

Govt supports provided during flood and erosion

<i>No. of effected village Villages</i>	<i>Type of reliefs</i>	<i>Whether Govt provided any substantial supports</i>	
		<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>
20	food	12 (60%)	8(40%)
	Shelter	6(30%)	14(70%)
	Health facility	3(15%)	17(85%)
	re habitation	2(10%)	18(90%)
	Other financial support	-	20(100%)

As regards implementation of Govt. schemes MGREGA scheme provides employment to the people of 11 (55%) villages and nine (45%) villages are not getting benefit from the scheme.

As many as 80% villages have been deprived of the benefits of the IAY scheme. However all the villages have been provided with the benefit of Midday Meal Scheme. In case of Antodaya Aunayojana, 90% villages are not covered by the welfare scheme. Same is the case in respect of Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme.

As regards Infrastructural Development Scheme 85% villages have not been benefited. The Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification scheme benefits 55% of the villages.

TABLE-23

Implementation of govt. Schemes

Sl. no	Schemes/Programmes	yes	no
1	MGREGA	11(55%)	9(45%)
2	Indira Awaaj Yojana (IAY)	4(20%)	(80%)
3	Midday Meal Scheme	20(100%)	
4	Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	2(10%)	18(90%)
5	Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme of WPT&BC	2(10%)	18(90%)
6	Infrastructural Development Scheme	3(15%)	17(85%)
7	Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme	11(55%)	9(45%)

Situation in Majuli also brings to its fore the overall poor flood and erosion management which continues to be devastated the twin menace year after year. The havocs wreaked by flood and erosion apart, rehabilitation of thousands of affected families poses another formidable challenge. Bereft of sustainable avenues of livelihood, the plight of the flood affected people is having far reaching implications on the state's socio-economic front.

CHAPTER- II (B)

Data Analysis of House hold Schedule

In order to get an indepth information, a micro level study was conducted in 500 households of the 20 selected villages. All the households belongs to the tribals

Table-1

Showing Numbers of villages No of surveyed household of tribes Household of district wise

Name of the district	Name of the sub division	No of total villages	No of Household	No of tribal Household	Name of tribes
Jorhat	Majuli	20	500	500	Missing

The total population of the studied households in 3900, male 2012 (51.59%), femals 1888 (48.41%) highest numbers were taken from the age group 46-59 years constituting 967 persons, male 50% (52.43%), female 460 (47.57%). Marital status wise 98.14% married in 1.86 unmarried. Age wise next population of 951 was taken from 16-35 years age group. In this category 489 (51.42%) male and 462 (48.58%) female and 26.50% married and 73.50 unmarried have been included. In order to depict a representative picture 634 persons male 330 (52.05%), female 304 (47.95%) in the age group 0-6 years, all unmarried and 615 persons, male 51.54%, female 48.46% having marital status of 0.98% married are 99.02% unmarried were selected. Similarly to assess the overall socio-economic situation of the tribals, .130 persons 47.69% male and 52.31% female having marital status of 96.92% married and 3.08% unmarried were selected. Details are shown in Table-2

Table-2

Showing Distribution of Population as per Age group

Sl. No	Age Group	Sex wise Population			Marital Status-wise Population		
		Male	Female	Total	Married	Unmarried	Total
1	0-6	330(52.05%)	304(47.95%)	634	-	634(100%)	634
2	7-15	317(51.54%)	298(48.46%)	615	6(.98%)	609(99.02%)	615
3	16-35	489(51.42%)	462(48.58%)	951	252(26.50%)	699(73.50%)	951

4	35-45	307(50.91%)	296(49.09%)	603	514(85.24%)	89(14.76%)	603
5	46-59	507(52.43%)	460(47.57%)	967	949(98.14%)	18(1.86%)	967
6	60 above	62(47.69%)	68(52.31%)	130	126(96.92%)	4(3.08%)	130
Total		2012(51.59%)	1888(48.41%)	3900	1847(47.36%)	2053(%)	3900

Majority 72.60% of the people engage themselves in cultivation and allied agricultural activities. There are 13.20% persons in the studied households who eke out their livelihood by resorting to wage earning a phenomenon that happened due to flood and erosion. Till two three decades back earning daily bread through business was unheard of as there was no scope for such ventures, but today 5.40% persons have been engaged in business. In Govt. service there are 1.80% persons while in non Govt. service the PC of persons is 2.80. There are 4.20% populations who are earning livelihood by adopting miscellaneous activities.

Table-2A

Showing Distribution of Population as per occupation of the surveyed households

Total no of households	Main Occupation of the households surveyed					
	Cultivation	Daily wage earner	service	business	Non-Govt. Service	Others
500	363 (72.60%)	66 (13.20%)	9 (1.80%)	27 (5.40%)	14 (2.80%)	21 (4.20%)

As many as 76.41% of the informations returned as non earning dependents while 23.59% only returned as earners reflecting non so favourable economic condition of the tribal people.

Table-3
Showing no earners of the surveyed households

Name of the sub division	No of Household	Category	Total(population)
Majuli	500	1. Total population	3900
		2. No of earners	920(23.59%)
		3. No of non earning dependent	2980(76.41%)

In the tribal setting having agriculture and allied activities, a household requires at least 5-10 Bighas of land at least in the context of family pattern of the Misinps. But the instant study it is seen that in the category 5-10 Bighas of Land, there are 29.21 households. Only 16% households are possessing above 10 Bighas each. 24% of the households possess a ... 0-2 Bighas each an another 30.8% households possess 2-5 Bighas of land including homeslead land each. In the category 5-10 Bighas there are 29.2% of the households.

In the Mising in habited areas flood and erosion is a recurring phenomenon and the libal people have no option but to cultivate land during the intervening non flood period. Thus 31.85% households iissue their lands before the on set of the flood season. Besides there are sandy lands unsuitable for cultivation for 15.74% of the households. Thus most of the households 52.40% depend largely on the common land amounting to 1425 Bighas.

Table-4
Showing land holding and Utilization Pattern of the surveyed households

Sub division	Caragory of land	Total land possessed (in Bigha)				Total Land Under Cultivation (in Bigha)	Type of land Under Cultivation		
		0-2	2-5	5-10	Above 10		Commo n land	Sand berg	land not usable during rainy season
Majuli	Amount of land					2700			
	No of house hold	120 (24%)	154 (30.8%)	146 (29.2%)	80 (16%)	Area of land	1415 (52.40%)	425 (15.74%)	860(31.85%)

Traditionally the Misinps are platform (Changghar) dwellers as they live in rivering areas co habiting with flood. In the present study we have noticed that as many as 72% households have 'Changghar' and 15.40 households have thatched and bamboo made houses. There are Katcha Assam Type houses for 8.60% households while 4% households leave Pucca Assam type houses.

Table-5
Showing Type of house of the surveyed households

Total Household	Type of house				
	RCC	Pucca Assam Type	Katcha Assam Type	Thatched Bamboo made	Chang Ghar
500	-	20 (4%)	43(8.60%)	77(15.40%)	360(72%)

Cultivation is the major source of primary annual income of the households and as many as 363 (72.6%) house holds fall in this category. Majority 44.35% of these households earn Rs. 25000-50,000 in PA. In the cultivation sector only 1.09% households earn above Rs. 1 lakh PA. Therefore are 23 households having service in Govt. and non Govt. sector and 9 households (39.13%) of this sector earn Rs. above one lakh PA while 8 (34.78%) households earn Rs. 50,000.00 to 1 lakh PA.

In the area of business 27 households are engaged and 12 (44.60%) households earn Rs. 25000.00 to 50000.00 PA and 9 (33.30%) households among them earn Rs. 50000 to one lakh PA.

Out of 66 households engaged in wage earning as many as 63 (95.4%) households ean only upto Rs. 25000.00 Pa and 3 (4.5%) households earn Rs. 25000.00-50000.00 PA.

Besides there are 21 households who earn their livelihood by resorting to casual (others) avocations and in this category 3 (14.25%) households can earn Rs. 50000.00 to one lakh PA. while 9 (42.82%) households each earn Rs. upto 25000.00 and 25000.00-50000.00 each PA. Details are shown in Table-6.

Table-6

Showing the distribution of Household Annual Income of the surveyed households

Source(Primary income)	Total income of the households in RS.				
	Up to 25,000	25,000 to50,000	50,000 to1,00000	Above 1,00000	Total hose hold
I. Service(Govt & non Govt)	3(1.26%)	3(1.58%)	8(13.56%)	9(64.29%)	23
II. Cultivation	159(66.80 %)	162(85.71 %)	39(66.10 %)	3(21.43%)	363
III. Business	4(1.68%)	12(6.35%)	9(15.25%)	2(14.29%)	27
IV. Daily wage earner	63(26.47 %)	3(1.58%)	-	-	66
V. Others	9(3.87 %)	9(4.76 %)	3(5.08%)	-	21
Total	238(47.60%)	189(37.80%)	59(11.80%)	14(2.80%)	500

As regards consumption pattern of food items new trend is noticed among the tribals due to impact of acculturation process. For instance the Misings used to take rice beer (Abong) as a beverage and it is and was the prestige item of local consumption and as well as for entertaining guests. Now-a-days daily consumption is reduced considerably and only 21.50% take rice beer daily while 44.40% take it weekly 23.20% occasionally and 10,60% households do not take at all.

The tribal people generally prefer vegetables, roots creepers and till few decades back except one or two richer families use of pulses in daily meal was very uncommon. Thus it is seen that 67.60% of the households take pulses only occasionally, 29.80% households take weekly and only 2.60% take pulses daily. Rice beer and milk do not go together and formerly the Misings rarely took milk. But today 13.60% households take milk daily 58% weekly and 48.40% households take milk occasionally.

As mentioned above their favourite food item includes green vegetables which the women folk collect from forests and the study shows that as many as 94% the studied households use vegetables in the daily menu and only 6% use it weekly.

Use of meat, fish, egg is resorted to by majority of the households occasionally. Thus 68% use fish occasionally. Daily use of meat is not found in the studied households. Similarly daily use of eggs and fish is restricted to 4.40% and 6.40%

households respectively. 26.40% households take eggs weekly, 17.40% households take meat weekly and 32% households take fish weekly. Therefore are only 6 households that are not in the habit of taking of eggs and another 3 households do not take meat at all.

Table-6A
Showing consumption pattern of Food items in the surveyed household

Items	Daily	Weekly	Occasionally	Never consumed
a) Milk/Card	68(13.60%)	190(38 %)	242(48.40%)	0
b) Pulses or bean	13(2.60%)	149(29.80%)	338(67.60%)	0
c) Green Vegetables	470(94%)	30(6%)	0	0
d) Eggs	22(4.40%)	132(26.40%)	340(68%)	6(1.20%)
e) Chicken/Meat/Pork	0	87(17.40%)	410(82%)	3(.60%)
f) fish	32(6.40%)	160(32%)	308(61.60 %)	0
g) Rice Bear	109(21.80%)	222(44.40%)	116(23.20 %)	53(10.60%)

The expenditure pattern of the households shows that quite a large number of households, 90.80% spend Rs. less than 10,000.00 PA on rice beer and tobacco which tells negatively in the overall economy of the households, although this item is essential not only in day to day consumption but also in extertaining guests on religious occasions. In food items also quite high expenses are incurred during a year as 67.60% households spend Rs. 10000.00-20000.00 per amount on food items and 19.20% spend Rs. 20000-3000 PA. only 8.80% households spend Rs. less than 10000.00 on food items PA while 4.40% households spend Rs. 30000.00 and above only a food items. Expenditure on dress items is who not negetigible as 84.20% households spend less than 10,000.00 each on dress items PA and 15.80% households spend Rs. 10,000-20,000 PA. The tribal people of Majuli are becoming concious about their children's education which is reflected in the annual expenditure pattern on this head 93.4% of households spendless than 10,000.00 PA each on education Rs. 3.80% spend Rs. 10,000-20,000 PA. Another 3% households, however spend Rs. 20,000-30,000 PA each on education head.

In social obligations 98% households spendless than 10,000.00 PA. Health is another head of expenditure where 72.40% households spendless mean 10,000.00, 15.40% households spend 10000-20000, 7.20% households spend 20,000-30,000 and 5% households spend above Rs. 30,000 PA Details in Table-6 B

Table-6B

Showing the approximate Annual Expenditure Pattern of the surveyed households

Head	Approximate Annual Expenditure in Rs.			
	Less then 10,000	10,000-2,0000	20,000-30,000	Above,30,000
I. Food Items	44(8.80%)	338(67.60%)	96(19.20%)	22(4.40%)
II. Dress & Ornaments	421(84.20%)	79(15.80 %)	0	0
III. Education	467(%)	19(3.80 %)	15(3%)	9
IV. Other Social Obligations	490(98%)	10(2%)	0	0
V. Health	362(72.40%)	77(15.40%)	36(7.20%)	25(5 %)
VI. Liquor/Tobacco	454(90.80 %)	46(9.20%)	0	0

Modernism has chept into the far flung tribal villages of Majuli and the modern items of entertainment form properties. It is seen that 107 households possess TV, 47 households own motor cycle, 67 households have telephones / mobiles, 3 households own tractors, 25 households own power tiller, 5 house holds own vehicles like Maruti van, Auto, Tempo 12 households, own Pumpset in the villages. These additions of new items into the properly indicate a more or less sound economic status. Inomically flough which occupied a main property till 2/3 decades back entered into the back seat and today 56 households possess plough. Similarly bullock carts which constituted prize property in 3/4 decades back now lost that traditional glory to some extent and out of 500 households only 22 households possess bullock cart. However there are enough bicycles in the households and the number comes to 443. There are 400 watches in the surveyed households.

Table-7

Showing household properties of the surveyed households

Total no of household	Name	No
500	Motor cycle	47
	Bi- cycle	443
	Television	107
	Radio	308
	Watch	400
	Bullock cart	22
	Other Vehicles (specify)	5(,Maruti van,Auto,Tempo)
	Plough	56

	Valuable Ornaments	15
	Telephones/Mobiles	67
	Power Tiller	25
	Pump set	12
	Tractors	3
	Others	0

It was also interesting to know that all the surveyed households too are of the opinion that people should save money for future unforeseen expenditures, 230 households have saving accounts in post office/banks while 270 households donot have such accounts. Although quite a sizable households have accounts in banks/post offices, yet only 8.80% households save regularly.

Table-8
Showing Attitude towards Savings in the surveyed household

Attitude towards Savings	Yes	No
a) Whether money should be saved for the future	500(100%)	0
b) Whether savings accounts in a post office/bank	230(46%)	270(54%)
c) Whether money save regularly	44(8.80%)	456(91.20%)

As regards drinking water facilities only 2.20% households are provided with pipe water. Most of the households 59.20%, depend upon tubewells and 25.80% households collect water from rivers streams. Water from pond is used by 12.8% of the households.

Table-9
Showing the source of drinking water of the surveyed household

Total no of households	Source of drinking water	
	150	Pond
	Hand pipe (tube well)	296(59.20%)
	Pipe water	11(2.20%)
	well	0
	Rivers /Streams	129(25.80%)
	Any other	0

It is a gratifying to note that female literacy is increasing at a faster rate. While female literacy is 64.62% the male literacy stands at 35.38%. But still in the beginning

of 21st century. There are as many as 53.95% illiterate persons in the studied villages. The PC of male illiterates is 55.26 and the PC of female illiterates is 34.75.

Table-10

Showing literacy rate of the surveyed households

Total population of the of the surveyed household	<i>Illiterate</i>		<i>Illiterate</i>	
	3900	2104 (53.95%)		1796 (46.05%)
Male		Female	Male	Female
1373 (65.26%)		731(34.75%)	639(35.38%)	1157(64.62%)

The regards educational attainment level there are 21 graduates, male 17, female 4, 56 nos its passed, male 48, female 8; 120 nos of HSLC passed, male 74, female 46 and 1905 nos of literate persons, male 1232, female 673 in the households. Persons beyond the BA standard are few and far between as there are only 2 MA male persons in the surveyed villages.

Table-10A

Showing Educational position of the surveyed households

<i>position</i> Sex	<i>Up to class X</i>	<i>HSLC Passed</i>	<i>HSC Passed</i>	<i>BA/B.com/Bsc./LB</i>	<i>MBBS/BE</i>	<i>MA/M.com/Msc</i>	<i>Total Illiterate population</i>
<i>Male</i>	1232 (%64.67)	74 (61.67%)	48 (85.72%)	17 (80.96%)	-	2 (100%)	2104
<i>Female</i>	673 (35.33%)	46 (38.33%)	8 (14.28%)	4 (19.04%)	-	-	
<i>Total</i>	1905 (90.54%)	120 (5.70%)	56 (2.66%)	21 (.99%)	-	2 (.01%)	

There are 564 (61.78%) male students and 349 (38.22%) female students in various standards of educational institutions. It is seen that in all the standards right from pre primary to college level the PC of girls is quite low. Thus against 60.66% boys of pre primary there are 39.34% girls, in LP school going against 61.18% boys, there are 38.82% girls. Likewise against 56.91% boys in ME, there are 43.09% girls and in HE against 63.64% boys, there are 36.36% girls. Almost same is in college level gross is boys and girls

Table-10B

Showing Educational standard of the surveyed households

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
Pre-Primary	111(60.66%)	72(39.34%)	183(20.04%)
L.P School going	156(61.18%)	99(38.82%)	255(27.93%)
ME School going	103(56.91%)	78(43.09%)	181(19.82%)
High School level	98(63.64%)	56(36.36%)	154(16.87%)
College level	96(68.58%)	44(31.42%)	140(15.33%)
Total no of students	564 (61.78%)	349 (38.22%)	913

Regarding use of fuel for cooking purposes 52% of the households use kerosine and 39% use firewood for cooking. Only 8.40% of the households use LPG and .60% use Biogas.

Table -11

Showing the use of fuel for cooking by the surveyed household

Type of fuel	No of household
(a) Wood	195(39%)
(b) Cow Dung	-
(c) Kerosene	260(52%)
(d) Coal lignite	-
(e) Charcoal	42(8.40%)
(f) LPG	3(.60%)
(g) Bio gas	0
(h) Others	

Majority 68.20% households use katcha latrine and 8.40% households have sanitary latrines. But 23.40% of the households are completed to use the open filed as they do not have resources to go for pucca latrines.

Table 12

Sanitation Facilities

Sl. No	Type	No. of family
1	Open Field	117 (23.40%)
2	Katcha Latrine	341 (68.20%)
3	Sanitary	42 (8.40%)

As regards cropping pattern all the households grow Kharif crops while only 30 (6%) households grow Rabi crops.

Table-13

Showing Cropping Pattern of the surveyed households

Total No of Household	I) Rabi	II) Kharif
500	30(6%)	500(100%)

Ahu, Bao paddy is produced in 2600 Bighas they also produce mustard seeds is 340 Bighas. Next important crop is potato which covers 130 Bighas. Black pea, sugarcane, Jute, vegetables are also grown in lesser quantities.

Table-13A

Cropping variety of the surveyed household

Sl. No	Major Crops	Total Area(in Bigha)
1	Ahu/ Bao Paddy (traditional varieties)	2600
2	Mustard	340
3	Black/ pea	60
4	Potato	130
5	Sugarcane	55
6	Jute	11
7	Vegetable	66

Regarding use of HYV sees and fertilisers in the fields it is observed that 66% of the households use HYV seeds. Use of fertilisers is not becoming very popular as only 27% households use fertilisers. Similarly only 19% households use insecticides in their fields. Details are in Table-14

Table-14

Showing use of High-Yielding Variety (HYV) and use of Fertilizer by surveyed households

Total No of Household	Item	Yes	No
500	I) HYV	330(66%)	170(34%)
	II) Fertilizer	135(27%)	365(73%)
	III) Insecticide	95(19%)	405(81%)

Irrigation facilities are inadequate in the villages only 17.80% households get irrigation facilities. There are 89 households who have irrigation facilities arranged by themselves.

Table-15

Showing the Particulars of irrigation facilities of the surveyed household

Whether irrigation facilities used for cultivation			
YES	NO	Supplied by the Govt.	Self arranged
89 (17.80%)	411 (82.20%)	-	89 (100%)

As regards sources of irrigation facilities 66.29% use pump sets, 23.60% use man power and 10.11% use shallow tubewells.

Table- 15A

Showing source of Irrigation Facilities

Sl. No	Type	Total house hold
1	Pump set	59(66.29%)
2	Sell tube well	9 (10.11%)
3	Man power	21(23.60%)
4	Govt. scheme	-
	Total	89

As mentioned earlier the lands occupied by the Misings are not very suitable for cultivation and flood and erosion cause much damage to the fields as a result surplus products are minimal. During last year only 25% households could well agricultural products.

Table-16

Showing any surplus agricultural production sold during last year of the surveyed household

Agricultural product sold in the last year	Yes	No
	125(25%)	375(75%)

The villagers prefer to use traditional praotions of agriculture and 75% households adopt traditional practices, while 25% households adopt both traditional and modern praotions.

Table-16A

Adoption of Traditional Agricultural Practices by the surveyed households

Total household	traditional	Traditional and modern
500	375 (100%)	123 (32.8%)

The Misings of the surveyed villages grow Bao paddy which is flood friendly and suitable for cultivation after the flood water recedes.

Table-16B

Most suitable flood friendly Traditional variety of Paddy cultivated in the surveyed household

Variety	No of household
Bao Paddy	500 (100%)
Others	Nil

As regards medical service in the villages only 2.40% households are in a position to avail themselves of medical care.

Table-17

Showing the health care facilities of the surveyed household

Whether medical service easily available in care of any emergency	YES	NO
	12(2.40%)	488(97.60%)

Cottage industry sector is most neglected in the studied villages. The women are expert weavers and they used to weave clothes for all the members that only 35 (7%) households have weaving as a cottage industry. There is only 4 households (.80%) having silk industry. In carpentry only 11 (2.20) households are involved while 3.40% households have rice mills

Table-18
Showing the cottage industry in the surveyed household

Type of Industry	Whether any members of the household engaged in or commercially involved in these cottage industries	
	Yes	No
I. Weaving	35(7%)	465(93%)
II. Bell Metal	-	-
III. Silk Industry	4(.80%)	496(99.20%)
IV. Carpentry	11(2.20%)	489(97.80%)
V. Rice Mill	17(3.40%)	483(96.60%)
VI. Other	10(2%)	490(98%)

Regarding livestock position in the surveyed households it is found that 66 (13.20%) households have less than 2 bullocks, 34 (6.80) households possess 2-4 bullocks, 22 (4.40%) households possess 4-6 bullocks and 4 (.80%) households possess bullocks above 7 bullocks its many as 46.40% households donot have cows while 18% households possess less than 2 cows, 27.6% possess 2-4 cows, 5.80% posees 4.6 cows, and 2.20% households each possess above 7 cows.

Buffaloes are not found in 94.20% households and 5% households possess 2-4 buffaloes and 1.40% each households possess 4-6 and above 7 buffaloes respectively.

More or less the same position prevails in respect of goats. Here also 94.20% households do not possess goats. Sheep are not reared in any household. Hens are not found in 51.20% of the households.

As many as 96.60% households have no pigeon while ducks are reared in 53% of the households 25.40% of the households each have 2-4 ducks and 8% households each possess above 7 ducks.

Although pigs are essential for their socio-religions ceremonies 44% of the households are not possessing pigs which 25% households possess 2-4 pigs,

22.20% possess less than 2 pigs, 7% households possess 4-6 pigs and 1.80% possess more than 7 pigs. Details are shown in table -19

Table-19
Showing livestock position of the surveyed household

No of Households	Category	No of household with the following no of livestock				
		Does not have	Less than 2	2-4	4-6	Above 7
500	Bullock	374(74.80%)	66(13.20%)	34(6.80%)	22(4.40%)	4(.80%)
	Cow	232(46.40%)	90(18%)	138(27.60%)	29(5.80%)	11(2.20%)
	Buffalo	471(94.20%)	0	25(5%)	2(.40%)	2(.40%)
	Goat	471(94.20%)	4(.80%)	13(2.60%)	7(1.40%)	5(1%)
	Sheep	500(100%)	0	0	0	0
	Hen	256(51.20%)	34(6.80%)	144(28.80%)	22(4.40%)	44(8.80%)
	Pigeon	483(96.60%)	0	4(.80%)	7(1.40%)	6(1.20%)
	Duck	265(53%)	38(7.60%)	127(25.40%)	30(6%)	40(8%)
	Pig	220(44%)	111(22.20%)	125(25%)	35(7%)	9(1.80%)

The surveyed households figuring 95.20% do not have fishery only 4.80% households maintain fisheries.

Table-20
Showing having fishery in the surveyed households

Having any fishery in the households	Yes	No
		24(4.80%)

Flood and erosion cause irreparable damage every year in the agricultural productions in tribal areas of Majuli. Enquiry was made to know the damage caused by flood and erosion during last three years i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-2010 and it was found that during 2007-08, 17 (3.40%) households lost below 25%, 151 (30.20%) lost between 25% to 50% crops and 254 (50.80%) lost above 50% crops. due to flood erosion.

During 2008-09, 269 households (53.80%) lost above 50% of crops, 146 (households 29.20%) lost 25 to 50% crops, 71 households (14.20%) lost below 25% of the production of crops, while 14 (2.80%) households did not experience any adverse effect of flood and erosion.

During 2009-10, more than fifty PC of the households i.e. 288 (57.60%) lost more than 50% crops, while 134 (26.80%) households lost 25% to 50% crops, 67 (13.40%) households lost below 25% crops 11 (2.20%) households were free from any damage due to flood and erosion

Table-21

Showing the lost of average annual agricultural production of the surveyed household by flood and erosion during last three years

The year	No lost	lost below 25%	Between 25% to 50%	Above 50%
2007-2008	17(3.40%)	78(15.60%)	151(30.20 %)	254(50.80%)
2008-2009	14(2.80%)	71(14.20%)	146(29.20 %)	269(53.80%)
2009-20010	11(2.20 %)	67(13.40%)	134(26.80 %)	288(57.60 %)

As regards damaged caused to the agricultural fields by flood during last year as many as 2200 Bighas (81.48%) of land out of 2700 Bighas were affected. The flood who damaged house of 127 (25.40%) households during last year. Also the flood killed 78 animals during last year. However no damage was done to human beings.

Table-22

Households affected by flood

Sl, No	Item	Total
1	Total Crop area affected during the last year (out of total 2700 Bighas of cultivable land)	2200 Bigha (81.48%)
2	Total home damaged during the last year(out of total 500 no)	127(25.40%)
3	No. of animal lost during last year	78
4	No. of Human life lost	-

The erosion of the river Brahmaputra caused much damage to the people. During last 10 years 3600 Bighas of land were shall by the river. Due to crosion 194 households had to be shifted to safer places during last 10 years. Out of these affected people 34 households were rehabilitated by Government during last 10 years.

Table-23

Households affected by erosion

Sl. No	item	
1	Total area lost during last 10. years	3600 Bigha
2	Shifting of household during last 10 years	194
3	Rehabilitated by Govt. during last 10 years	34

The erosion caused soil erosion in 807 bighas of land during last year. Silting was done in 169 Bighas of land during that years.

Table- 23A

Problems pertaining to Agriculture due to erosion:

Sl. No	Problem	Total area affected last year(in bigha)
1	Soil Erosion	807
2	Sand deposition	169

Government have instituted various welfare schemes for the benefit of the people. The MGREGA scheme benefitted 254 (50.80%) households while the benefits from AY were available for only 34 (6.80%) households. Similarly the crop Insurance Scheme could benefit only 3.40% of the house holds. The AAY scheme, however benefitted 375 (75%) of the households. The family oriented Income Generating scheme could not give much benefit to the villagers as only 11 (2.20%) households were benefitted by the scheme. The newly introduced ASHA scheme benefitted 375 (75%) households while the Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme benefitted a more 32 (6.40%) households. Table 24 shows the details.

Table-24

Showing utilization of Govt schemes of the surveyed household

Sl. no	Schemes/Programmes	yes	no
1	MGREGA	254(50.80%)	246(49.20%)
2	Indira Awaaj Yojana (IAY)	34(6.80%)	466(93.20%)
3	Crop Insurance Scheme	17(3.40%)	483(96.60%)
4	Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	375(75%)	125(25%)
5	Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme of WPT&BC	11(2.20 %)	489(97.80%)
6	ASHA	375(75%)	125(25%)
7	Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme	32 (6.40%)	468(93.60%)

Regarding preference for intercaste are arriage only 140 households had a positive outlook. In case of untouchability only 12.60% households felt that untouchability still prevails and 87.40% households did not feel such social disability.

Table-25

Showing preference for inter cast marriage and existence of untouchability of surveyed household

preference for inter cast marriage in the households	Yes	No
	140 (%)	360 (%)
Whether any kind of untouchability felt by the households	Yes	No
	63(12.60%)	437(87.40%)

CHAPTER- III

Findings of the study

The study on Socio-Economic condition of the tribes living in Majuli Sub Division of Jorhat District covered 20 tribal village of 10 Gaon Panchayats of Kamalabari Development Block of Majuli Sub Division. The villages had 2153 households with a population of 1,31,66 male 6695 (50.81%), female 6476 (49.19%). All the villages belonged to the Misings, a plains tribe and they are located in plains. Most (85%) of the villages are agglomerated and last 15% villages are either dispersed or isolated. As they are a riverine tribe the dwelling houses of most of the villages are of platform type.

As regards land holding pattern 10 villages have 30-50 Bighas of house stead land each while another 10 villages have 51-200 Bighas of house stead land each. Regarding cultivable land of villages have 100-200 Bighas of land each, 6 villages have 200-400 Bighas each at 5 villages have 400-600 Bighas each. Only 10 villages have fisheries covering 2-3 Bighas each. Grazing lands are owned by 50% of the villages.

The villagers do not have easy transport facilities as the nearest transport station for most of the villages lies at a distance of 4-6 kms. Similarly most of the villages have nearest motorable road beyond 2-4 kms. The villagers use the river ghat to contact the outside world and only one villages has such ghat within village and most of the villages get the facility at a distance of 2-6 kms. The Block Development office and Sub-Divisional are located at a distance of 2-6 kms from most of the villages.

Only 10% villages are covered by graveled roads and 10% villagers are not having semblance of a road and they use foot tracks. Besides one village has the boat for conveyance 45% villages have katcha fair weather roads unless the condition of the roads is improved, other development measures will be frustrated. Besides boat is the main mode of conveyance for 20% of the villages.

Modern means of mass communication are available in the villages as 70% of the villagers have TVs and 95% of the people use mobile phones. All the villages have transistor radios..

Majority (75%) of the villages have tube wells for drinking water supply. But 20% villagers still use river / stream water.

Regarding electrification 65% villages are yet to be provided with electricity. Those having electricity (15%_ are not getting supply regularly.

Educational facilities, particularly primary and Anganwadi centres require attention as 30% villages have LP schools and 40% Anganwadi centres are only located within the villages. Only 10% of the villages have ME schools within the villages. HE and HS schools are for most of the villages (16 nos) are located beyond 4-6 kms. Some is the case is respect of colleges.

Medical Sub centres are located at a considerable distance from most of the villages. Only one village has such centre within the village. The distance of 14 (70%) villages to sub centres ranges from 6-10 kms. The distance of as many as 90% villages to the PHCs ranges from 6-10 kms. Likewise 80% of the villages have the Govt. dispensary facilities at a distance of a above 20 kms. More or less similar situation prevails in respect of private clinics.

Post and telegraph facilities are available at a distance of 4-6 kms for 70% of the villages. STD booths, however are located at a reasonable distance from 60% of the villages. ranks are located beyond 6-10 kms from the villages. Pharmacies are located beyond 6-10 kms from the villages. Even weekly hats are located beyond 4-6 kms from most of the villatges. The fair price shops are located at a reasonable distance for 35% of the villages.

Regarding supply of credit, as many as 70% of the villages take loans from local money lenders and only 10% villages get credit from NGOs/SHGs. It is surprising to note that only 5% of the villages are in a position to get credit from banks.

In spite of existence of sufficient scope for cottage industries like handloom, sericulture, piggery dry fish, etc. negligible households are found to be engaged in such industries.

The Majuli tribes are the worst sufferers from flood and erosion and all the villages under survey have been effected by flood and 65% of the villages are affected by erosion. The flood have great iompart on the people of the island and 75% of the villages are totally cut off from outside world due to breach of the roads

and bridges. Floods and after effects of flood which continue for 2/3 months compel the tribals of 65% of the studied villages to search for alternative livelihood. The schools and colleges of 53% villages remain non functioning and 20% villages are shifted to safer places / embankments.

The damage caused by recurring flood is immense as during last year alone 5800 Bighas of crop area were made uncultivable. As many as 55 houses were damaged and 35 heads of cattle were carried away by flood waters.

Erosion affected 3 villages fully and 2 villages partly Roads of 8 (40%) villages were partially affected and cultivable lands of 7 (35%) villages were fully affected. Only 5 villages remained unaffected. Intensity of erosion is such that during last three years 2944 Bighas of land were eroded signaling the insistent danger of wiping out the Majuli in future if steps for Majuli protection are not taken in a war footing besides during last 10 years four villages had tube shifted to safer places because of erosion.

Majuli earns the reputation of unique Satra institution having 35 functioning Satras. But there is constant threat the most important Satras like Auniati, Dakhinpat and Kamalabari Satras.

During flood and erosion Government provides relief but 8 villages were reportedly not getting such benefits only 40% villages were provided shelter to affected people. Health facility is a since qua non during post flood period but the study shard that only 15% villages get health facility. Similarly only 10% villaes were rehabilitated.

Regarding implementation of Govt. welfare schemes, 45% villages have been deprived of MGREGA benefits. Likewise 80% villages are not getting benefits of IAY scheme. Th AAY and Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme may be called non starter as 90% villages are not covered under the scheme.

It was reported that 85% villages are not getting the benefits from infrastructure Development Scheme while only 55% villages have been benefitted from the Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. The micro level study conducted among 500 households of the 20 villages covering 3900 populations, male 2012 (51.59%) and female 1888 (48.41%) in corporating persons of various age and sex grades and marital status showed that majority 72.60% of the villagers engage themselves in

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agriculture and allied activities. Rest of the villagers earn their livelihood by petty business, wage earning, Govt. out non Govt. jobs and other miscellaneous jobs.

There are only 23.59% earners supporting 76.41% non earning dependents. Agriculture and home stead lands performing land each and only 16% households possess lands above 10 Bighas each. Due to flood, 31.85% households cultivate land before the onset of flood season and the output is naturally less. Besides 15.74% households have lands but due to sitting these remain barren. Most of the households 52.40% depend upon common land amounting to 1425 Bighas.

Major source of income of 72.6% of the households is cultivation earning between Rs. 25000-50000.00 PA only 1.09% households earn above one lakh PA from cultivation. The annual income of service holders both Govt and non Government is in the range of one lakh and fifty thousand respectively. There are 27 service holders in the households under survey. Only 12 (44.60%) households have some petty business and 9 among them earn Rs. 50,000 to 1 lakh PA. The income of wage earners (66 households) and casual workers ranges between Rs. 25000-50000.00 Pa.

The Misings prefer Ahu rice, Meat, fish, eggs are taken when available. Vegetables are largely taken. Most of the tribal people take locally prepared rice beer (Apong)

Major expenditure is incurred on food items and dress which is followed by expenditure on education and health. Modern way of live with its paraphernalia are interring into the households. Motor cars, TVs, mobile phones, bykes, power tiller, pump sets, tractors are entering into the property list besides the traditional plough and bullock cart.

The villagers are becoming conscious about saving habit and 46% have saving bank account in post office and banks.

In respect of drinking water facility only 2.20% households have pipe water facility and the rest depend on tube wells and ponds.

All though educational level of the male persons is increasing, females are lagging behind. There is illiteracy, the PC being 53.95. There are 21 graduates (male 17, female-4), 56 HS passed (male 48, female 8), 120 HSLC passed (male 74, female 46) and 2 male MA passed persons in the households.

As regards students in various standards right from pre primary to college level the PC of girls is very too.

The people are using kerosene (39%) and firewood (52%) for cooking purposes 8.40%) households use LPG.

Regarding sanitation much remains to be done. Even in the beginning of 21st Century as many as 23.40% households use the open field for answering call of ... while 68.20% households have katcha latrines.

Ahu and Bao paddy are largely grown. HYV seeds fertilizers are becoming popular. Few households use insecticides.

Only 17.80% households get irrigation facilities and 17.8% households have their own arrangements to irrigate the lands. The villagers follow the traditional practices of agriculture. However 25% households follow both traditional and modern practices only 25% households had surplus agricultural products for sale.

Only 2.40% households are in a position to avail medical facilities because of distance factor. Cottage industry is of neglected although there is scope at least for weaving, carpentry and bamboo products.

The households rear bullocks, buffaloes, cows, pigs and fowls mainly for local use. only 4.80% households have fisheries.

The main problem of the villagers is flood and erosion. During 2007-08 i.e.; 15.60% households lost below 25% crops, 30.20% lost crops between 25% to 50%, and 50.80% households lost crops above 50% due to flood and erosion again during 2008-09; 29.20% households lost 25-50 crops, 53.80% households lost above 50% of crops.

During 2009-10, 57.60% households lost more than 50% of crops while 26.80% lost 25-50% crops due to flood and erosion.

Not only crops were damaged during last year 81.48% of lands were made unfit for cultivation. The houses of 25.40% inhabitants were damaged besides killing 78 animals.

During last 10 years 3600 Bighas of land were grabbed by the Brahmaputra flood erosion. As many as 194 households had to be shifted to safer places out of these only 34 households were rehabilitated.

Only during last year alone 807 Bighas of land were lost due to erosion and 169 Bighas of land were filled up with sand.

Government have instituted several welfare schemes like MGREGP, IAY, Crop Insurance Scheme. AAY, Family oriented Income Generating Scheme etc. but the studied households were partially benefitted from these. From MGREGA 50.80% households were benefitted while only 6.80% households got benefits from IAY. The Crop Insurance Scheme could benefit a meager 3.40% households. The AAY, however, benefitted 75% of the households. The Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme benefitted only 2.20% households. The ASHA Scheme, however benefitted 75% of the households while the Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme benefitted only 6.40% of the households.

The attitude towards inter caste marriage has not changed much as only 28% households had a positive outlook. Regarding prevalence of untouchability, only 12.60% maintain that untouchability still prevails.

CHAPTER- IV

Conclusion

The study on socio-economic condition of the tribes of Majuli covering twenty Mising villages and 500 households spread over ten Gaon Panchayats of Kamalabari Development Block highlighted the miserable plight of the flood and erosion affected tribal people. Living in the sylvan natural surroundings detected from the district head quarters, the tribal people of Majuli river island have had multifarious socio-economic problems, most of which are yet to be addressed. The recurring flood and erosion is the root cause of slower development in these far-flung tribal areas. The study indicated that all the villages under survey are badly affected by flood and 65% of the villages are affected by erosion so much so that during 2007-08, 15.60% of the surveyed households lost below 25% of the standing crops, 30.20% households lost crops between 25% to 50% and 50.80% households lost crops above 50%. Again during 2008-09, 29.20% of the households lost 25-50% crops and 50.80% households lost above 50% standing crops. During 2009-10, 57.60% households lost more than 50% crops. During last year alone 81.48% of the lands were converted to sandy fields becoming totally unfit for cultivation. The residential houses of 25.40% households were damaged besides killing 78 domestic animals by the floods.

During last 10 years 3600 Bighas of land were grabbed by the Brahmaputra flood. As many as 194 households had to shifted to safer places / embankments out of those affected households only 34 households were rehabilitated. During last year alone 807 Bighas of land were lost due to soil erosion and 169 Bighas of land were completely silted.

The above situation prevails over the decades and people's conditions become miserable. Unless this annual damage caused by flood and erosion is checked the development of the riverine tribal people will never be accelerated.

Transport and communication problem hinders the overall socio-economic development as the nearest transport station is located far away from the villages. The villagers use the river ghat (past) to come to the weekly hat or to the BDO or

SDO office located far away. Only 10 villages (50%) have graveled roads and the rest 10 villages are not having the semblance of a road. They use foot tracks. 45% villages have katcha fair weather roads besides boat in the main mode of conveyance for 20% of the villagers.

The communication problem has its ramifications in the total health of the people as the villagers find it utmost difficulty to go to the PHCs or sub centres located beyond 6kms. 80% of the villages conduct get the medical assistance from State Dispensaries as the scheme are located beyond 20kms from the villages. More a less similar distance has to be covered to get medical assistance from private clinics or private doctors.

Educational facilities, particularly primary and Anganwadi centres require more attention from the concerned authorities as 30% villages have LP Schools and 40% Anganwadi Centres only are located within the villages. Considering the geographical location and lack of easy communication at least the LP schools and Anganwadi centres should have been provided to each villages. Although educational level of the male persons is horsing the females are lagging behind.

In spite of the constraints, the villagers are adopting modern agricultural practices like tractors, pumsets, power tillers, fertilizers and pesticides etc. only 17.80% households have been provided with irrigation facilities and another 17.80% households have their own arrangements to irrigate land.

Regarding drinking water facility only 2.20% households get pipe water facility and rest of the households depend on tube wells and ponds. It may be mentioned that the tube wells too are submerged during flood and contaminated flood water enters to the tube wells less said is better regarding the villagers using pond water.

As regards electric connection in the villages 65% villages are yet to be provided with electricity. Those having electric connection are not getting supply regularly. The villagers find it difficult to operate the modern gadgets.

Although agriculture is sole means of livelihood of majority of the villagers. The people are handicapped due to in sufficiency of land as 29.21% households possess 5-10 Bighas each including home stead land and only 16% of the surveyed households possess above 10 Bighas each. Due to fear of flood 31.85% households cultivate the lands before the onset of the flood season. The output is obviously low.

The tantalizing part is that 15.74% households own land but due to sitting of sands, the lands could not be cultivated. Most of the households 52.40% depend upon common land amounting to 1425 Bighas.

There are only 23.59 earners supporting 76.41% non earning dependents and most of the villagers find it difficult to meet both ends together. Major source of income of 72.6% households in cultivation earning between Rs. 25,000-50000 each PA. Only 1.09 PC households earn above one lakh PA from cultivation. The economic life of 27 service holders is somewhat better. Business was not in their blood and due to opening up of the tribal villages due to acculturation process and for meeting the pressing needs 44.60% households have undertaken petty business and 9 households among them earn Rs. 50,000.00 to one lakh PA. Because of the uncertainly of income from agriculture and less productivity, able bodied Mising youths go for daily wage earning, which was against their psyche till two three decades ago. In come of this category is not regular and the wage is meagre.

The major expenditure is incurred on food items and dress followed by expenditure on education and health. It is noticed that the present generation is eager to get education Expenditure on life style changes is noticeable, particularly in respect of cooking fuel. Kerosene is used by 39% of the households and LPG is used by 8.40% households while fire wood is used by 52% of the households special drive is necessary to educate the tribal people about the adverse effect of using open field to answer the call of nature as 23.40% households use open field in spite of scheme undertaken by the Health Department under TSP. The position of 68.20% households is no better as they use Katcha latrines.

Of late Government have undertaken various welfare schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee, Indira Awas Yojana, Crop Insurance Scheme, Antodaya Awas Yojana, Family oriented Income Generating Scheme, Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, Asha Karmi etc. but except AAY and Asha Karmi where by 75% households have been benefitted. The role of rest of the schemes deserves much improvement. The MGREGA scheme could benefit 50.80% households while IAY benefitted only 6.80% households, Crop Insurance Scheme benefitted a meager 3.40% households, Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme benefitted only 2.20% households and Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme benefitted 6.40% of the households.

The tribal people appeared to be conscious about saving habit and 46% households are having S.B account in post officers and banks. More and more households could have opened account but for their excessive expenditures on rice beer on festive and religions occasions. A good gesture has been shown by the educated sections to minimize use of rice beer if not totally abandoned. A sizable quantity of paddy is required to prepare rice beer.

The attitude towards, inter caste marriage has not changed as desired, as only 28% households have a positive outlook towards inter caste marriage. Untouchability however is not favoured by 87.40% of the villagers which is praiseworthy.

CHAPTER- V

SUGGESTIONS

1. Flood and erosion control measures should be expedited as sizable cultivable and house stead lands were grabbed by the recurring floods on post flood erosion.
2. Rehabilitation measures should cover the centre affected households.
3. Protective measures should be adopted to provide loans at cheap rates of interest to the petty business holders who entered into the business due to loss of lands in flood as erosion.
4. The Misings rear pigs and poultry mainly for local consumption. There is couple scope for piggery and poultry in commercial basis as there is a flourishing market of these items.
5. During summer, particularly in the post flood season the populations catch sizable quantities of fish. There is enough scope for dry fish business and Govt. may provide modern techniques to the entrepreneurs to start dry fish business. There is a good market of dry fish in the neighbouring status of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Manipur.
6. Female education is logging behind. Special incentive scheme for education of girl child should be chalked out.
7. L.P. Schools should be established within the villages as many villages are not having the same within the villages considering the geographical situation, LP schools may be established even if the standard norm of establish meant of such school does not agree.
8. The existing health facilities are inadequate. Radical sub centres, should be established near the villages preferably within 1-2 km from the villages.
9. The roads passing through the villages need urgent empowerment as most of the villages have katcha fair weather roads or foot tracks out during summer most of the villages are cut off from outside world. The nearest transport station for most of the villages lies beyond 6 kms.

10. Electricity should be extended to all the villages.
11. Pipe water should be extended to all the villages. The water tube wells of most of the villages is not free from contamination as flood waters enter into the tube wells. The poor families have only ponds for their drinking water supply.
12. The new schemes for over all development like MGREGP, IAY, Crop Insurance Scheme, Family Oriented Income Generating Schemes, Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme etc. should cover all the villages.
13. Financial institutions should be set up near the tubal villages. Because of the distance factor, and irksome families, the villagers avoid approaching the financial institution, providing scope to the local money lenders who provide loans with excessive rate of monthly interest.
14. Although the scale of rice beer consumption has been reduced, yet during festivals and religious occasions rice beer consumption is not negligible. A sizable quantity of paddy is used for the preparation of rice beer. The educated youths are trying to put a stop to the rice beer consumption. But tradition bound Misings find it hard to avoid rice beer. The dynamic youths can play a role.

GOVERNMENT OF ASAAM
ASSAM INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH FOR TRIBALS AND
SCHEDULED CASTES: JAWAHARNAGAR: GUWAHATI-781022

Research Study on 'Socio economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes of Majuli Sub Division of Jorhat district'

VILLAGE SCHEDULE:

1. General information

- (I). Name of the Informant _____
- (ii) Age _____
- (III) Sex _____
- (iv) Education _____
- (v) Occupation _____
- (vi). Name of the village _____
- (vii) Name Of The Gaon Panchayat _____
- (viii) Police station _____
- (ix) Block _____
- (x) Sub division _____
- (xi) District _____
- (xii) Total no. of households _____
- (xiii) Total no. of Tribal households _____
- (xiv) Total population (a) Male _____ (b) Female _____ (C) Total _____
- (xv) Total tribal population (a) Male _____ (b) Female _____ (C) Total _____
- (xvi) Name of the tribes living in the village _____

2. Topography

- (i) Hilly, (ii) Plain,
- (iii) Un-Dwelling Plain, (iv) Others
- (Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

3. Settlement pattern

(I) Agglomerated

(Iii) Isolated

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

(Ii) Dispersed

(Iv) Others

4. Cropping pattern

(a). Major crops grown —

(i). Rabi.. —

(ii). Kharif .. —

(III) All seasoned —

5. Type of (tribal) houses

(i). No of R.C.C. House. —

(ii). No of Pucca Assam Type House. —

(iii). No of Kutcha Assam Type, House. —

(iv). No of Thatched Roofed Bamboo Made House —

(v). No of Chang Ghar —

(vi) Others —

6. Land holding particulars of the tribals population at the time of survey

Category of land (in bigha)

I) Homestead land

II) Total cultivable land -

III) Fishery -

IV) Others -

7. Transportation and communication facilities.-

(a) Distance of The Village From –

- (i) Nearest Motorable Road _____
(ii) Nearest transport station _____
(iii) Nearest Ghat _____

(b) Condition of The Road To The Village –(Use Tick Mark Wherever Is Applicable).

- (i). Foot Tract _____
(ii). 'Katcha' Fair Weather Motorable Road _____
(iii). 'Katcha' All Weather Motorable Road _____
(iv). Gravelled Road _____
(v). Other (Specify) _____

(c) Mode of Conveyance (for winter or dry season):
–(Use Tick Mark Wherever Is Applicable).

- i) Bus _____
ii) Other vehicle _____
iii) Cycle _____
iv) Private Boat _____
v) Public boat _____
v) Others (Specify) _____

(d) Mode of Conveyance (for winter or dry season):
–(Use Tick Mark Wherever Is Applicable).

- i) Bus _____
ii) Other vehicle _____
iii) Cycle _____
iv) Private Boat _____

- v) Public boat —
vi) Others (Specify) —

11. Other means of mass communication available:

(Use Tick Mark Wherever Is Applicable).

- (a) Television —
(b) Radio —
(c) News Paper —
(d) Library —
(e) Community Centre —
(f) Telephonic Facility —
(g) Others (Specify) —
(i) Not available —

9. Civic facilities.

Facilities.	Total No	Distance from the village to the nearest one
(i) Distance from Majuli town		
ii) Nearest Police Station		
iii) Nearest Block office		
iv) Nearest post office		
v) STD Booth Bank		
vi). Weekly Market		
vii) Pharmacy/Medical Shop		

10. . Particulars of the (tribal) household occupation.

<i>Source</i>	<i>No of families</i>
<i>a)Service (govt.)</i>	
<i>b). Service(private)</i>	
<i>c). Cultivation</i>	
<i>d). Fishing</i>	
<i>e)Daily wage earner</i>	
<i>f)Business</i>	
<i>g)Others (specify)</i>	
<i>Total-</i>	

11. Annual family income(tribals)

<i>Annual Income(Rs)</i>	<i>No Of (Tribal) Household</i>
<i>BPL Family</i>	
<i>Above BPL but below 50,000/</i>	
<i>Above 50,000/</i>	
<i>Total:-</i>	

12. Whether credit facility is available within the village

(yes/no)

(a) If yes mention the source

(i) From Bank

(ii) From Govt. Agencies —

(iii) From NGO / Self Help Group —

(iv) From village money lenders —

(v) from others (specify) —

13. Details of the Self Help Group / N G O presents or working in the village

<i>Name Of The Organisation</i>	<i>Is It Situated Within The Village</i>	<i>Functions(Economical, Social ,Cultural)</i>

14. Marketing facilities:

(i). No. Of Fair Price Shops Within The Village :-

(ii). No. Of Other Shops Within The Village (Specify):-

(iii). Other Marketing Facilities :-

15. Whether any cottage industry/small scale industry is available within the village

(yes/no)

(a) If yes mention the following details

<i>Name Of The Industry</i>	<i>Total No. Of Families Engaged</i>	<i>Run By Individuals/Groups/</i>
<i>1.Handloom/Sericulture</i>		
<i>2.Boat making</i>		
<i>3.Bamboo and Cane product making</i>		
<i>4.Carpentry</i>		
<i>6.Poultry</i>		
<i>7.Pig firm</i>		
<i>8.Cattle firm</i>		
<i>9.Potary</i>		
<i>10. others</i>		

16. Whether the Village has any tourist related facility: (yes/no)

i) If yes, mention detail of the lodge/resort /facility

17. Village electrification.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Village Electrification</i>	<i>Use tick mark</i>
<i>i.</i>	<i>Not Electrified</i>	
<i>ii.</i>	<i>Electrified but irregular supply</i>	
<i>iii.</i>	<i>Electrified and regular supply</i>	

18. Health related facilities.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Health facility</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Distance from village</i>
<i>i)</i>	<i>Sub centre</i>		
<i>ii)</i>	<i>Primary Health centre</i>		
<i>iii)</i>	<i>Community health centre</i>		
<i>iv)</i>	<i>Govt. Dispensary</i>		
<i>v)</i>	<i>Govt. Hospital</i>		
<i>vi)</i>	<i>Private clinic</i>		
<i>vii)</i>	<i>Private Hospital</i>		

(If the above mentioned facilities are available within the village itself, mention it clearly.)

19. Availability of Health Provider in the Village: (yes/no)

- i) Private Doctor
- ii) Village Health Guide
- iii) Traditional Birth attendant
- iv) Mobile Health Unit
- v) Asha Karmi/Supervisor etc.

20. Educational facilities available

(Mention the number of institutions present within the village if not write the distance to the nearest one)

Source	Nos (present within the village)	Distance from the Village to the nearest one
(i) Primary School		
(ii). Middle English School		
(iii). High School		
(iv) H. S. School		
(v) College		
(vi) Anganwadi		

21. Sources of drinking water:

(a) Details Of The Water Resources

Source	No.	Privately Owned	Govt. Agencies
(i). Pond			
(ii). Well			
(iii). River			
(iv). Tube Well			
(v). Reservoir			
(vi). Water Supply Scheme			

22. Whether the following schemes are implemented in the village

(Use Tick Mark).

Sl. no	Schemes/Programmes	(yes/no)
1	NREGA(<i>Panchyat & Rural Development</i>)	
2	Indira Awaaj Yojana (IAY-(<i>Panchyat & Rural Development</i>))	
3	Midday Meal Scheme	
4	Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	
5	Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme of WPT&BC	
6	<i>Scheme of infrastructure development (WPT & BC)</i>	
7	<i>Educational development programme (WPT & BC)</i>	
8	<i>Economic development programme (WPT & BC)</i>	
9	Others	

23. . Name and distance from the nearest 'Satra'

24.. Whether the village is effected by flood

Yes/No

(a) If yes, mention the following (*Use tick mark wherever is applicable*).

i) Partially affected (road and communication only)

ii) Fully effected

(b) Whether the villagers have to take shelter out side the village for safety during flood

(c) Whether the govt. provide relief to the villagers during flood ? Yes/No

If yes, mention the following (*Use Tick Mark Wherever Is Applicable*)

i) Sufficient

ii) insufficient

d). Distance of the nearest river from the village (*Mention the name*).....

25. Whether the village is effected by erosion (within last 25 years)

i) If yes, mention the area lost (in bighas)

ii) Whether the village had to be shifted within last 25 years – Yes/No

If yes, mention the year of last shifting

26. *Did the village experience any other natural calamity during the last three years ?*
Yes/No

27. *Any other worth mentioning information not covered by the schedule.*

28. *Remarks :-* _____

Data Collected By : _____

Supervised By : _____

GOVERNMENT OF ASAAM
ASSAM INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH FOR TRIBALS AND
SCHEDULED CASTES: JAWAHARNAGAR: GUWAHATI-781022

Research Study on 'Socio economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes of Majuli Sub Division of Jorhat district'

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE:

1.. Identification

(i) *Sl. no. of sample household*

(ii) *Village*

(iii) *Police Station*

(iv) *Block*

(v) *Sub-Division*

(viii) *Name of the informant*

(ix) *Occupation*

(x) (a) *Name of the tribe he belongs*

(b) *Age* _____

(d) *Education* _____

(c) *Sex ---M / F* _____

(e) *Occupation* _____

2. Family structure of household :

<i>Sl.No. Name of family(start with head of family</i>	<i>Relation with head of the family</i>	<i>Sex Age M/F yes</i>	<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Edu-cation</i>	<i>Present occupation</i>	
					<i>Main</i>	<i>Subsidiary</i>

3. Particulars of household land possessed (in bighas)

(A) Total area of land under cultivation :-

(i). Wet Paddy Land :-

(ii) Others :-

(B) Total area under homestead:-

(i). Total Area Under Fishery, If Any:-

(ii) Fallow Land , If Any :-

(iii) Total Area Under Gardening:-

(iv) Others :-

4. Particulars of household properties.

No of rooms

(A) Type of houses,

(i). R.C.C.

(ii). Pucca Assam Type

(iii). Kutcha Assam Type,

(iv). Thatched.

(v) Chang Ghar

(B). Other properties.

<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No</u>
(i) Motor Cycle		(ix). Other Vehicles (Specify)	
(ii). Bi-Cycle		xi). Plough	
(iii). Television		xii) Fishing net	
(iv). Radio		xii) Fishing net (for commercial purpose)	
(v). Bullock Cart		xiii) Mobile phone	
(vi). Boat (Big, more than 5 seater)		xiv) Valuable ornaments	
(vii) Boat (Small)		(xv). Others (Specify) (Telephone)	
(viii) Boat (fishing)			

5. Particulars of household income

(A). Total income of the household from all sources :

Source	Income
i) Service	
ii) Cultivation	

iii) Business	
iii). Others (Specify)	

:

6. Particulars of household expenditure

(B). Total approximate annual expenditure of the household:

Head	Expenditure
i). Food Items	
ii). Dress & Ornaments	
iii). Education	
iv). Other Social Obligations	
v). Health	
vi). Liquor/Tobacco	
vii) Others (Specify)	

7. Consumption pattern of the Household:

Sl. No	Item	Daily	Weekly	Occasionally	Never
1	Milk or Card				
2	Pulses or bean				
3	Green vegetable				
4	Eggs				
5	Chicken/meat/Fish				
6	Rice Beer				

8. Particulars of savings:

(a). Do you have a savings accounts in a Post Office/Bank, Etc.

Yes/No.

Yes/No.

(i). If Yes, Do You Save Money Regularly ;

(b) Saving details of last three years

The Year	Amount Deposited	Deposited in
2004-2005		

2005-2006		
2006-2007		

7. Particulars of household indebtedness:

i) Did you receive any loan in cash or kind from any sources during the last one year?

(√)

Yes	
No	

a) If yes, state the principle amount

Cash _____ Kind _____

b) Source _____

c) Rate of interest:

Cash _____ Kind _____

d) Amount repaid

Cash _____ Kind _____

e) Purpose for which the loan was taken-

8. Earner details

(i) Total family members

(ii) No of Earners :-

(iii) No. of Non-Earning Dependent :-

9. Is there any unemployed adult member in the household? Yes/No

If Yes, state the number-

a) Educated unemployed.....

i) Male....

ii) Female.....

i) Male....

ii) Female.....

b) Uneducated Unemployed...

10. Particulars of cultivation

(a) State the principal crops grown and their yield during the last year.

Name Of The Agriculture Crops/Horticulture/Sericulture	Area Of Land Utilised	Total Yield
I)		
ii)		

Iii)		
------	--	--

(b) Do You use high yielding variety ?

(√)

Yes	
No	

(c) Do You use fertiliser / insecticide or any other chemicals for agricultural purpose?

(√)

Yes	
No	

11. Did you have any surplus agricultural product to sell during the last year ?

(√)

Yes	
No	

12. (a) Do you have any fishery in your household.

(√)

Yes	
No	

(b). If yes, is it used for personal or commercial purpose.

No. of fisheries	An amount gained from selling the fish annually	Verity of fish-Local / Hybrid

13. What kind of fuel does your household mainly used for cooking ?

Type of fuel	Use tick mark	Type of fuel	Use tick mark
(a) Wood		(e) Charcoal	
(b) Cow Dung		(f) LPG	
(c) Kerosene		(g) Bio gas	

(d) Coal lignite		(h) Others	
------------------	--	------------	--

14.(a). *What is the main source of drinking water for the members of your family ?*

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| (i). Well ; | (ii). Pond ; |
| (iii). Hand-Pipe ; | (iv). Pipe water ; |
| (v). Rivers / streams ; | (vi). Any other. |

(b). *Source of drinking water (present in)*

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| (i). Your own residence; | (ii). Public place |
| (iii). Neighbour's residence | |
- (Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

15. *Particulars of household livestock and poultry:*

<i>Livestock</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Poultry</i>	<i>Number</i>
(a) <i>Cattle</i>		(e) <i>Fowl</i>	
(b) <i>Buffalo</i>		(f) <i>Duck</i>	
(c) <i>Goat</i>		(g) <i>Pigeon</i>	
(d) <i>Pig</i>		(h) <i>Others</i>	

16. *When members of your household falls sick where do you generally take the patient?*

- a). *Govt. Hospital*
- b). *Primary Health Centre*
- c). *Private Hospital*
- d). *Village medicine man/magic man*
- e). *Others.*

17. *Which system of medicine you have more faith in ?*

(Use tick)

<i>System Of Medicine</i>	<i>Ist Preference</i>	<i>2nd Preference</i>
<i>Allopathic</i>		
<i>Ayurvedic</i>		
<i>Homeopathic</i>		

Occult Medicine		
Any Other (Please Specify)		

18. Mention the curative measures taken by your family against of following diseases.

Diseases	Curative measures	
	Traditional	Modern
i). Acute Diarrhoea		
ii). Acute respiratory infection		
iii). Pneumonia		
iv). Enteric fever		
v). Viral Hepatitis		
vi). Measles		
vii). Tuber culosis		

19. Have you administered any vaccinations to your children ? Yes/No.

If yes,

Vaccination	Use tick mark	Where the vaccination were admissible
(a) Polio		
(b) BCG		
(c) DPT		
(d) Chicken Pox/measles		
(e) Any other (please specify)		

20. Sanitation :

What kind of toilet facility does your house hold have ?

(Use tick mark)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (i). Open field
iii) Sanitary | (ii) Katcha Latrine
(iv) Any other |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

21. *Have you got electric connection in your house ?* *Yes/No.*

22. **Do you make handicraft item (Cane , Bamboo Basketry etc) ?** Yes/No.

(a) If yes, where from you get the raw materials ?

.....

(b) Do you have any surplus produce to sell during the last year ? - Yes/No.

(c) Where do you usually sell your surplus produces ?

(i) In the market:

(ii) In the village:

(iii) To the middle men:

(iv) To Marketing Societies/Co-Operative Societies

(d) Did you receive any grants etc. from the Government, ? - Yes/No.

- Yes/No.

23. **Do you weave cloth ?**

(a) If Yes, what do you produce in the loom ?

(i) Women wear

(ii) Endi Chadder / Gamocha/shawl etc.

(iii) Others(specify)

(b) do you have any surplus product to sell in during the last year ? - Yes/No.

(c)Where do you usually sell your surplus produce ?

(i). In the market:

(ii). In the village:

(iii). To the middle men:

(iv) To Marketing Societies/Co-Operative Societies ;

24. **Is there any cottage industry in your family.**

Sl.No.	Type of industry	Yes/No	Amount gained from sell the product annually
i)	Weaving		
ii)	Bell metal		
iii).	Silk industry		
(iv)	Carpentry		
(v)	Rice mill		
iv).	Others.(specify)		

25 .Particulars of students and school dropouts:

(i). How many students you have in your family ?

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total

1). L. P. School Going			
2). M.E. School Going			
3). H.E. School Going			
4). College Level			

ii) Any dropout in your family?
If yes, Mention how many?

Yes/No

standard	boys	girls	Total

26.(I) Is there any scholarship holder student in your family ?

Yes/No.

- (a). If yes, how many ?
(b). What type of scholarship does he/she receive ?
(c). State the amount of the scholarship.:-
(d). Interval at which this scholarship is received.:-

27. Has the respondent taken advantage of the following schemes ?

Sl. no	Schemes/Programmes	(yes/no)
1	NREGA(Panchyat & Rural Development)	
2	Indira Awaaj Yojana (IAY-(Panchyat & Rural Development))	
3	Midday Meal Scheme	
4	Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)	
5	Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme of WPT&BC	
6	Scheme of infrastructure development (WPT & BC)	
7	Educational development programme (WPT & BC)	
8	Economic development programme (WPT & BC)	
9	Others	

28. Did flood/natural calamity do any damage to your crops?
(√)

Yes	
No	

(I) If yes for what is the average annual lost ?

The Year	Below 25%	Between 25% To 50%	Above 50%
2004-2005			
2005-2006			
2006-2007			

29. Have you lost any permanently cultivable land due to (during last three years) mention the area in Bighas

- i) erosion*
- ii) sand deposition*
- iii) water logging*

30. How often you have to travel to Jorhat (during last three years)

- i) For official (govt) purpose*
- ii) For marketing/purchasing*
- ii) For treatment*
- iii) For others*

31. Are you disciples of any of the Satras?

(√)

Yes	
No	

32. Untouchability:

(i). Do You Think That Untouchability Prevails In The Society So Far The Relationship Between Your Community And Other Communities Is Concerned ?

(√)

Yes	
No	

(A). If Yes, To What Extent ?

(ii). Do You Feel An Inferiority Complex When You Visit The Residence Of Your Co-Villagers Belonging To other Caste ?

(√)

Yes	
No	

(A). If Yes, Why

?

33. Miscellaneous:

(A) Do you want to leave this village? Yes/No.

(I). If Yes, Give Reasons.

(Ii). If No, Give Reasons.

(B) Do you prefer inter caste marriage ? Yes/No

(I). If Yes, Give Reasons.

(Ii). If No, Give Reasons.

34. Mention about three major problems you faced in Majuli

i)

ii)

iii)

36. Any other information.

Date:-

Collected By _____

Supervised By _____