

Report

On

***WOMEN'S STATUS IN TRIBAL SOCIETIES-A
STUDY AMONG THE DEORIS OF ASSAM***

Conducted by-

**Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and
Scheduled Castes, Jawaharnagar,
Guwahati-781022**

Preface

The term status carries different meanings for various sections of people depending upon the cultural ethos, socio cultural modes and morals, topography and inter personal relations. The material culture, fairs and festivals, educational attainment of the members of a community, legal system, women's position in the society, marriage system etc. are closely related to status of a community.

Status of women in tribal societies has to be viewed from certain factors, such as

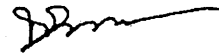
1. Society's attitude towards women.
2. Legal status of women.
3. Adjustment of women in a changing socio psychological milieu.
4. Role of women in the traditional socio political organization.

Women in tribal societies occupy an honorable position enjoying considerable freedom in the day to day life. The tribal social life is not polluted with vices like adultery, domestic violence arising out of suspicion of husband towards wives' ill behavior, premarital affairs, mal treatment of female in petty offences etc. Child marriage is unknown and widow remarriage is practiced without any social stigma. The tribal women contribute in a large measure towards agricultural production although basically agricultural activities are considered as men's' affair. In fact without women's co-operation men cannot perform their duties outdoor. The womenfolk perform the bulk of the labour force and have minimum job opportunities due to illiteracy, social prohibitions, drudgery of household activities. They have little say in the socio political or socio religious matters affecting the community. They are not selected as members of the village councils and they can not take part in the decision making process. Of late, however there are considerable improvements in the life style of women as the data of the present study testifies.

Deori women contribute substantially to the agricultural production besides performing daily chores like cooking, serving, cleaning, caring of children and aged, weaving cloths etc. The men folk co-operate with them in all the above activities and the traditional division of labour between the sexes is not water tight.

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This is to certify that the Research Study on 'Women's Status in Tribal Societies- A study among the Deoris of Assam' conducted under my direct supervision is found to be correct. I personally and physically verified the data and found it to be true.

Farzana Begum

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INTRODUCTION

The term status carries different meanings for various sections of people depending upon the cultural ethos, socio cultural modes and morals, topography and inter personal relations. It is a value loaded term especially in the context of the ethnic communities. The material culture, fairs and festivals, educational attainment of the members of a community, legal system, women's position in the society, marriage system etc. are closely related to status of a community.

Very often status of a community, individual even state or a nation is measured in comparison with the so called advanced status of a country, individual a nation. But broadly status is a relative term. What is considered as status symbol by a community or individual may be down graded by another community or individual.

Status is again related to the social and religious protocol in all societies. Among the ethnic communities, the village head man, religious head (priest), medicine man Ojha, Bez, Kabiraj have had a social status. The elderly women and man who are well versed in the folk lore of the society have higher status. They have definite seat of honour in the socio-religious ceremonies. They also command high respect from other communities. Unless invited they do not visit the villagers houses.

There are certain items of identification of the ethnic communities, which are treated as status symbol of the particular community. Normally an outsider may not realize the importance of that item but for the concerned community the same bears the symbol of speciality or characteristic feature.

Status of women in tribal societies has to be viewed from certain factors, such as

1. Societies attitude towards women.
2. Legal status of women.
3. Adjustment of women in a changing socio psychological milieu.
4. Role of women in the traditional socio political organization.

Women in tribal societies occupy an honorable position enjoying considerable freedom in the day to day life. The tribal social life is not polluted with vices like adultery, domestic violence arising out of suspicion of husband towards wives' ill behavior, premarital affairs, mal treatment of female in petty offences etc. Child marriage is unknown and widow remarriage is practiced without any social stigma. *Purdah*, bride burning, dowry are not existent in tribal societies. Although there are assigned traditional duties like cooking food, cleaning utensils, weaving cloths, collecting fire wood, rearing poultries and pigs, caring children and aged persons yet the men-folk assist them in the smooth functioning of their duties. Besides the women folk do not grumble over the assigned activities nor do they feel any inferiority complex. The tribal women contribute in a large measure towards agricultural production although basically agricultural activities are considered as men's' affair. In fact without women's co-operation men cannot perform their duties outdoor. The womenfolk perform the bulk of the labour force and have minimum job opportunities due to illiteracy, social prohibitions, drudgery

of household activities. They have little say in the socio political or socio religious matters effecting the community. They are not selected as members of the village councils and they can not take part in the decision making process. Of late, however there are considerable improvements in the life style of women as the data of the present study testifies. Today Deori women are becoming members of political party, holding responsible position of Presidents / Secretaries of Self Help Groups, Mahila Samitis and serving in various Government. Departments in responsible posts. Thus the status of women got a new lease of life over last two decades.

The Deoris consider the women as partners in the daily life and not as subordinates. The male ego willy nilly surrenders to the regenerating process. It is true outwardly the virile male ego with superior physical strength tries to control the women but inwardly women are respected and honored. "The virile sex in their heart of hearts know, may, fully realize that without voluntary participative co-operation by women, mankind can hardly hope to survive,..... Willy nilly the male ego surrenders to a regenerative process, yet outwardly he pretends to be superior and undisputed master in an egoistic tussle between the vying sexes".

The tribal women can exert their inheritance in a vital sphere of development i.e. education . As per 2001 Census the percentage of tribal female literacy is 52.4 which is much below the tribal male literacy (72.3%). It is observed that where women are freed from drudgery or social bondage and where there is reasonable improved economic standard the womenfolk can devote much time for educational improvement of their children. This is applicable mainly in the case of tribal urban dwellers and tribal Christian converts. For example the Hmars have a female pc of literacy 67.65 (2001 Census) and the Hajongs have female pc of literacy 29.91percent. The mothers of economically sound and Christian converts realize the importance of educating their children as they do not have much financial worries. They relieve the children from the daily chores like tending cattle, scaring the crow from the spread out paddies in courtyard, carrying small babies in backs when the parents are away in the field and forests.

The tribal women play important role in the socio religious occasions and in fact festivals without dance by both male and female are incomplete. The women not only perform dances, they also prepare the rice beer which is an essential item of the festival. Besides there are certain death rites like the *Chomang Kan* of the Karbis, where the professional weeper *Uchepi* plays a significant role and she commands high respect in society. Whether it is *Porag* or *Ali Aye Ligang* of the Misings, *Kherai/Bagrumba* of the Boros, *Bohagiop Bisu* of the Deoris, *Rongker* of the Karbis, the women dancers are highly honored by the societies cornered.

With the above general introduction, let us peep into the social status of the Deori women, a plains tribe of Upper Assam districts. Deori women contribute substantially to the agricultural production besides performing daily chores like cooking, serving, cleaning, caring of children and aged, weaving cloths etc. The men folk co-operate with them in all the above activities and the traditional division of labour between the sexes is not water tight. Of late, however due to expansion of educational facilities and improvement of modern consumerables, there are superfluous changes among small sections of women but by and large the traditions and customs and regard for women are remaining intact.

A Brief Ethnographic Profile of the Deoris

The original adobe of the Deori was on the banks of the river Dibang, Tengapani and Patorsal, at present within the jurisdiction of the Arunachal Pradesh and Sadiya Chapakhoa Sub Division of Tinsukia District of Assam. Their present habitation are spread in the riverine areas of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sivsagar, Jorhat, Tinsukia and Sonitpur districts of Assam. As per 2001 Census their total population is 41161, male 20809, female 20352 with a literacy of 65.46 percent, male 72.72 percent, female 58.03 percent.

They construct their houses on plinth. A typical Deori house can accommodate more there 20 persons but of late this has changed a lot and a Deori house can accommodate not more than 16.

The Mongolian characteristics are visible on the Deoris. They are strong built and possess charming features. As they eke out their livelihood by agricultural activities, that too in a difficult flood prone areas, the Deoris are very labourious. Both men and women engage themselves in agricultural operations. Except for ploughing, cutting trees and jungles the womenfolk help their men in all other daily activities. Women are treated as partners in the daily life and their position in society is not low.

Agriculture is the principal means of support for the families. *Ahu* paddy is widely grown. Besides paddy they produce mustard seeds, sweet potatoes, pulses, cotton and winter vegetables. The people still follow the traditional method of cultivation. Today richer sections are using tractors.

The staple cereal food is rice. They take meat and rear pigs, fowls, ducks and goats. The poultries and pigs are reared for their various pujas as well as for market also. Fish forms a special delicacy in their menu. Rice beer is produced in the house holds both for consumption and for entertaining guests. It is essential item for the socio religious festivals.

Monogamy is the rule but polygyny is far from extinct. Formerly they preferred joint family but today joint family is fast disappearing. The Dibrugarh Deoris called joint family as '*Jakorua Jupa*'. Father is the head of the family and all the members obey him. Kinship, social and economic ties hold the members of a family together.

Property is divided equally among the sons. After the death of the father his sons become the rightful owners of the property. The wife and daughters do not inherit property.

The Deoris are patrilineal in descent and they count their relationship through the male line.

They have four broad divisions (Khel) viz *Dibangia*, *Tengapania*, *Borgouya* and *Patorgouya* which are exogenous. Each of these divisions is composed of a member of exogamous clans called Bangshas such as *Sundariya*, *Patria*, *Machiatika*, *Ikacharu*, *Hizaru*, *Gosaru* etc. The clans are mainly referred to during marriage only.

Deori society can be broadly divided into two viz secular and religious. In the former category the Gaonbura or village head man reigns supreme. He presides over the village council and gives judgment in consultation with village elderly males. The religious head is

called Bor Deori. To assist him, there are three other office bearers namely Saru Deori, Bar Bharali and Saru Bharali.

The Deoris have four different kinds of marriage called *Bor Biya*, *Maju Biya*, *Bhakat Rupiya* and *Gandharba*. The most widely prevalent form is the *Gandharba* or marriage by elopement. The essential items of a Deori marriage constitute dried fish, pork, rice beer (*suze*), betel leaves and nuts. Marriage takes place at the girl's residence. After marriage, the girl goes to live in her in-law's house.

The *Pathoria* (a mediator) plays an important role in a Deori marriage. Both the families i.e. families of bride and groom appoint *Pathorias* who help in the settlement of bride price which is not a substitute of dowry. The Deoris give dowry as a token of love, money value of which may be many times higher than the bride price. The bride price paid by the groom includes betel leaves and nuts along with a cash of Rs.126.00. The bride price in informal marriage may rise up to Rs.300.00.

The common place of worship among the *Borgouyas* and *Tengapania* sections is known as *Than* while the *Dibangias* call "*Midiku*". *Kundi Mama* is their presiding deity. Another name of the Chief deity is *Gira Girāchi*, *Pisa Dema* or *Balia Baba*. *Pisasi Dema* and *Kechaikhaiti* are the son and daughter of *Gira Girāchi*. Besides the major deities, the Deoris have a good number of household deities. Sacrifices are offered to these deities regularly. Sacrifices of animals (goats) and fowls, pigeons form an important part of the Deori Puja. The Bor Deori performs the Puja. Some of the Hindu rituals like Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja etc. have been incorporated into the religious structure of the Deori.

The Deori observe two major festivals in a year i.e. *Bohagio Bisu* and *Magio Bisu* observed during April and January respectively. Before the entertainment part of the *Bisu*, Pujas are to be performed in the *Than ghar*. The *Deodhani* (sooth sayer) dance forms the most important and essential part of the *Bihu* Pujas. In the *Bohagio Bisu*, dancing and merry making continues for at least seven days. Unlike other non-Deori *Bihu* festival, the Deori *Bihu* starts on Wednesday which is considered an auspicious day in a week. The *Magiyo Bisu* is observed on the *Sangkranti* (January 13/14). If the *Sangkranti* falls on other day than Wednesday, the festival is observed on the following Wednesday. A grand feast is arranged in the *Morongghar* attached to the *Thans*.

Among the Deoris cremation is the rule. The dead bodies of children, pregnant women and epidemic cases are buried. A ceremony is observed on the fourth day. The final purificatory ceremony may be held any time of the year depending upon economic viability as huge amounts of pork, rice beer, vegetables are required for a grand feast to be offered to the villagers.

CHAPTER – I

Analysis of Village Data

District Lakhimpur

The study called Women's Status in Tribal Society covered 20 villages with 400 households under 5 Development Blocks of Lakhimpur district namely Narayanpur, Bihpuria, Karunabari, Baginadi and Nowbaisha of North Lakhimpur Sub Division of Lakhimpur district of Assam.

Table-1

Sample size of village and households.

| Sl. No | District | Subdivision | Block | Number of villages | Total number of households. |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3. | North Lakhimpur | 5. North Lakhimpur | 1. Narayanpur 2. Bihpuria 3. Karunabari 4. Baginadi 5. Nowbaicha | 20 | 400 |

Under Narayanpur Development Block and Narayanpur Police Station there are 11 villages falling under the jurisdiction of Narayanpur Revenue Circle. There are 3 villages under Bihpuria Development Block and Bhipuria Police Station under the Jurisdiction of North Lakhimpur and Bihpuria Revenue circle. Another 3 villages have been selected from Karunabari Development Block and Laluk Police Station under Revenue Circle Bihpuria. There are 2 villages under Boginadi Development Block of which 1 is under Baginadi Police Station under Baginadi Revenue Circle. One village is taken for study in Nowbaicha Development Block, North Lakhimpur Police Station falling under the Revenue Circle Nowbaicha. Details are shown in Table-2

Table-2

Names of selected villages, Block, Revenue Circle and Police Station

| Sl.No | District | Block | Name of villages | Revenue Circle | Police Station |
|-------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Lakhimpur | Narayanpur | Majar chuba (Bardeuri gaon) | Narayanpur | Narayanpur |
| 2. | | | Kuli chuba (Bardeuri gaon) | Narayanpur | |
| 3. | | | Kuli chuba (Bardeuri gaon) | Narayanpur | |
| 4. | | | Shanti Nagar | Narayanpur | |
| 5. | | | Sonapur Deori Gaon | Narayanpur | |
| 6. | | | Kinapothar Deori Gaon | Kinapathar | |
| 7. | | | Baruah suba Bor deori Gaon | Narayanpur | |
| 8. | | | Major Chapori Deori Gaon | Narayanpur | |
| 9. | | | Kerekhjuli Deori Gaon | Narayanpur | |
| 10. | | | Sadial Suba Bor Deori Gaon | Narayanpur | |
| 11. | | | Dukhutimukh Deori Gaon | Narayanpur | |
| 12. | | Joypur Pichola | Narayanpur | | |
| 13. | | Bihpuria | 1No Bahgara | North Lakhimpur | Bihpuria |
| 14. | | | Kachikota Deori Gaon | Bihpuria | Laluk |
| 15. | | Karunabari | 2No Bahgara | North Lakhimpur | |
| 16. | | | Likhak Chapori Deori Gaon | Bihpuria | |
| 17. | | | Harmoti | Bihpuria | |
| 18. | | Baginadi | Krishnapur Deuri gaon | Bihpuria | |
| 19. | | | Padmapur Deuri gaon | Bihpuria | |
| 20. | | Nowbaicha | Badhakora Deuri gaon | Baginadi | Baginadi |
| | Rampur Deuri gaon | | Nowbaicha | North Lakhimpur | |

The total population of the 20 surveyed village is 14820, male 7395(49.89%), female 7425(50.10%). The tribal people constituted 20 Nos. of Deori villages. Besides two villages have Karbis and non tribals along with the Deoris.

Table-3

| Sl. No | District | Names of villages | Population | | | Total no of Household | Characteristic of village population |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Male | Fem. | Total | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Lakhimpur | Majar chuba (Bardeuri gaon) | 425 | 575 | 1000 | 125 | Deori |
| | | Kuli chuba (Bardeuri gaon) | 400 | 445 | 845 | 135 | Deori |
| | | Shanti Nagar | 550 | 600 | 1150 | 200 | Deori |
| | | 1No Bahgara | 308 | 272 | 580 | 79 | Deori |
| | | 2No Bahgara | 565 | 485 | 1050 | 166 | Deori |
| | | Harmoti | 90 | 105 | 195 | 30 | Deori |
| | | Krishnapur Deuri gaon | 280 | 120 | 400 | 30 | Deori |
| | | Padmapur Deuri gaon | 220 | 150 | 370 | 61 | Deori |
| | | Badhakora Deuri gaon | 40 | 65 | 105 | 30 | Deori |
| | | Rampur Deuri gaon | 45 | 75 | 120 | 40 | Deori |
| | | Sonapur Deuri Gaon | 109 | 132 | 241 | 28 | Deori |
| | | Kinapothar Deuri Gaon | 450 | 552 | 1002 | 202 | Deori |
| | | Baruah suba Bor deori Gaon | 215 | 285 | 500 | 62 | Deori |
| | | Major Chapori Deuri Gaon | 533 | 565 | 1098 | 135 | Deori |
| Kerekhjuli Deori Gaon | 948 | 402 | 750 | 100 | Deori | | |
| | | 204 | 246 | 450 | 50 | Karbi | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------------|
| | Sadial Suba Bor Deori Gaon | 305 | 320 | 625 | 120 | Deori |
| | Dukhutimukh Deori Gaon | 184 | 121 | 305 | 30 | Deori |
| | Joypur Pichola | 59 | 64 | 123 | 80 | Deori |
| | | 265 | 243 | 508 | 49 | General |
| | Kachikota Deori Gaon | 638 | 565 | 1203 | 220 | Deori |
| | Likhak Chapori Deori Gaon | 700 | 900 | 1600 | 150 | Deori |
| | Total | 7395 | 7425 | 14820 | 2122 | 20 villages |

All the surveyed villages are located in the plains areas.

Table-4

Topography of the selected villages

| District | Number of Villages | Topography |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|
| Lakhimpur | 20 | Plain |

As regards settlement pattern of the villages 16 villages fall under the category agglomerated while 3 villages are included in dispersed category. There is only one isolated village.

Table-5

Settlement Pattern of the Villages under Survey

| District. | Number of Villages | Settlement Pattern of the selected villages | | |
|-----------|--------------------|---|-----------|----------|
| | | Agglomerated | Dispersed | Isolated |
| Lakhimpur | 20 | 16 | 3 | 1 |

The area of the studied villages is below 1300 hectares.

Table-6

Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares)

| District | Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares) approximate | | | | | Total No Of Villages |
|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|----------------------|
| | <1300 | 1300-1400 | 1400-1500 | 1500-1600 | >1600 | |
| Lakhimpur | 20 | - | - | - | - | 20 |

Thirteen villages have below 500 hectares of agricultural land each, one village each has 500-600 hectares and 800-900 hectares and 5 villages have more than 900 hectares of agricultural land each.

Table-7

Size of Agricultural land in (Hectares) approximate

| District | Size Of Agricultural Land(Hectares) | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| | <500 | 500-600 | 600-700 | 700-800 | 800-900 | >900 |
| Lakhimpur | 13 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 5 |

Regarding transport and communication facilities 20 villages have nearest motorable road within 10 kms. from the villages. The nearest transport station for 17 villages is located within 10kms., while for 2 villages the nearest transport station is located within 10-14 kms. from the villages and the distance of one village to the nearest transport station is 14-18 kms. Same distance is found for the villages to the nearest transport stand also.

Table-8

Transport and Communication facilities

| District | No. Of Villages | Facilities | Distance Of The Villages (In Km) | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | | | < 10 | 10-14 | 14-18 |
| Lakhimpur | 20 | Nearest motorable road | 20 | | |
| | | Nearest transport stand | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| | | Nearest transport station | 17 | 2 | 1 |

The condition of the roads for majority (10Nos.) villages is Katcha fair weather motorable road while 4 villages have gravelled roads and another four villages use foot track. One each village has katcha all weather motorable road and pitch road.

Table-9
Condition of the Roads in the Surveyed Villages

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Foot tract | 4 |
| 2 | <i>Katcha Fair Weather Motorable Road</i> | 10 |
| 3 | <i>Katcha All Weather Motorable Road</i> | 1 |
| 4 | Gravelled Road | 4 |
| 5 | Pitch | 1 |

Bicycle and motor bike are used in all the studied villages while 18 villages use car, 2 villages each use motor bikes and tempo and one village each use boat and bullock cart.

Table-10
Mode of Common Conveyance used by the Villagers

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | Motor Bus | 2 |
| 2 | Bicycle | 20 |
| 3 | Motor cycle | 20 |
| 4 | Car | 18 |
| 5 | Boat | 1 |
| 6 | Bullock cart | 1 |
| | Tempo | 2 |

As regards health facilities, Public Health Centres(PHCs) are located within 2kms. for 6 villages. 8 villages have PHCs within 2-4kms., 3 villages have the same within 4-6kms, 1 village gets the PHC benefits located at a distance of 6-8kms. while 2 villages get PHC benefits at a distance of above 10kms.

10 villages get the Medial Sub Center facilities at a distance of less than 2kms. and one village gets the same facilities at a distance of 2-4kms. 5 villages have medical Sub Centers at a distance of 4-6kms. and 4 villages get the same facilities at a distance of 6-8kms.

State Dispensary facility is available for 1 village within 2kms., 5 villages get such facility within 2-4kms, 2 villages have the state dispensary at a distance of 4-6kms, 3 villages at a distance of 8-10kms, and 9 villages at a distance of above 10kms.

Most of the private hospitals are located beyond 10kms. and 15 villages get such facility at that distance while once each village gets the same facility at a distance of 2-4kms, 4-6kms and 8-10kms respectively. Private hospitals for 2 villages are located within 2kms. Private medical doctor are available within 2kms. for 5 villages, 4 villages have the same at a distance of 2-4kms, 2 villages each have that facility at a distance of 4-6kms and 6-8kms respectively. All the surveyed villages have Village guides within 2kms and all the villages have trained birth attendant within 2kms.

As regards private pharmacy / medical shop 7 villages get such facilities within 2kms, 8 villages get the same within 2-4kms, 3 villages get such facility within 4-6kms and one each village gets such facility within 8-10kms and above 10kms respectively.

Table-11
Health facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| District | Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Lakhim pur | PHC | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | - | 2 |
| | Medical Sub Center | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | - | - |
| | State Dispensary | 1 | 5 | 2 | - | 3 | 9 |
| | Private Hospital | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 15 |
| | Private Medical doctor | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | Village health guide | 20 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Trained Birth Attendant | 20 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Private pharmacy/medical shop | 7 | 8 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 |

Mass communication facilities like TV, radio, newspapers, community centers, telephone etc. are found in all the villages. All the 20 villages possess TV and community centers while 16 each villages have radios and newspapers each. Telephones are found in 14 villages. 6 villages have libraries.

Table-12

Mass Communication facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| SI No | Facilities Available | No Of Villages |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Television | 20 |
| 2 | Radio | 16 |
| 3 | Newspaper | 16 |
| 4 | Library | 6 |
| 5 | Community Centre | 20 |
| 6 | Telephone | 14 |

Regarding civic facilities 12 villages have post offices within less than 2kms, 6 villages have the same within 2-4kms and one village each has the post office at a distance of 6-8kms and 10kms above respectively.

Veterinary hospitals are located within 2kms. from 4 villages and 11 villages have the same at a distance of 2-4kms, one each village has the same at a distance of 6-8kms and above 10kms respectively while 3 villages have veterinary facilities at a distance 8-10kms.

Only 3 villages have banks within 2kms from the villages, 9 villages have banks at a distance of 2-4kms, 3 villages have the same at a distance of 4-6kms, 2 villages have banks at a distance of 8-10kms and above 10kms respectively while one village has banks at a distance of 6-8kms.

Co-operative societies are located at a distance of 2-4kms from 3 villages, 5 villages each have the same at a distance of 4-6kms respectively, 3 villages have co-operative society at a distance of 8-10kms and 4 villages have the same at a distance of above 10kms.

Cinema halls are located above 8-10kms for 4 villages and above 10kms for 16 villages.

Mahila Samitis are found within 2kms for 11 villages, 4 villages have the same at a distance 8-10kms and 5 villages have Mahila Samitis at a distance above 10kms. 5 villages have youth clubs within 2kms and 4 each villages have youth clubs within 2-4kms and 4-6kms, 3 villages have the same at a distance of 8-10kms and 4 villages have youth clubs at a distance of above 10kms.

All the villages have religions institutions within 2kms.

Table-13**Civic facilities in the Villages**

| District | Civic and other Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Lakhimpur | Post Office | 12 | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | Veterinary/Dispensary/Hospital | 4 | 11 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | Bank | 3 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Cooperative Society | - | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| | Cinema Hall | - | - | - | - | 4 | 16 |
| | Mahila Samity | 11 | - | - | - | 4 | 5 |
| | Nearest Children/Youth Club | 5 | 4 | 4 | - | 3 | 4 |
| | Religious Institutions | 20 | - | - | - | - | - |

Most of the educational institutions of the villages are generally located within less than 2kms. All the pre primary schools and lower primary schools are located within less than 2kms from the villages. 19 villages have ME schools within less than 2kms and 14 villages have HE schools within less than 2kms and only 2 villages have colleges within less than 2kms; 5 villages have HE schools within 2-4kms and 9 villages have colleges within 2-4kms. One village has High school and 5 villages have colleges within 4-6kms. One village each has college within 6-8kms. and above 10kms respectively while 2 villages have colleges within 8-10kms.

Table-14**Educational facilities in the Surveyed Village**

| District | No. of villages | Category | Distance of the villages (in km) | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | | <2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Lakhimpur | 20 | Pre-primary school | 20 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Lower primary school | 20 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Middle E School | 19 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| | | High school | 14 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - |
| | | College | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

Interestingly there are no dropout of students in school levels while there are 4 boys and 6 girls in the college standard during 2011-2012.

As regards midday meal in the schools, the same is not regularly supplied. Some times children have been provided with boiled rice, semolina rice with lentils and vegetables.

Table-14-A

No. of drop-outs of students from the institutions during the preceding year in the Surveyed Village

| Sl. No. | Level | 2011-2012 | |
|---------|---------|-----------|-------|
| | | Boys | Girls |
| (I) | College | 4 | 6 |

It is seen that the general health of the profile is good. But some of the villagers suffer from Diarrhea, Dysentery, Scabies, Gastroenteritis, Hypertension. However the over all health of the people may be called good and strong.

There are 4 male and 2 female physically handicapped students in the villages under study.

Regarding sources of drinking water 16 villages each use water from wells and tube wells respectively. Only 2 villages use ponds. Water supply scheme is extended to only 4 villages. 3 villages use water from reservoir.

Table-15

Sources of Drinking water in the Surveyed Villages

| Sl.No. | Sources Of Drinking Water | Number of villages |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Pond | 2 |
| 2 | Well | 16 |
| 3 | Tube well | 16 |
| 4 | Water Supply Scheme | 4 |
| 5 | Reservoir | 3 |

It is praise worthy to note that all the villagers under survey have been electrified.

Table-16

Availability of Electricity

| Sl. No | Provision for electricity | No Of villages Having Electricity (Approx) |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | Yes | 20 |

The villagers sell bamboo products, pigs, poultries and their purchases include mainly grocery items for day today consumption from the weekly markets.

Only MGNREGA scheme is implemented in the villages by the Development Block where 40 (32 male and 8 female) persons were issued job cards.

Table-17

Rural Development Programmes

| Sl. No. | Name of Programme | Programme carried by which agency | No. of Beneficiaries | | Kind of benefits received |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| | | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | MGNREGA | Development Block | 32 | 8 | Job Cards |

Data Analysis of Household Schedule

District Lakhimpur

Altogether 400 households were taken as sample for a micro level study having total population of 2074, male 1085(52.4%), female 989(47.6%).

Table-1

Total number of households with population

| Total No of households | Total Population | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|--------|------------|-------|
| | Male | Percentage | Female | Percentage | Total |
| 400 | 1085 | 52.4 | 989 | 47.6 | 2074 |

Out of the households, the heads of 335(83.75%) households are male and head of 65(16.25%) households are female.

Table-1-1

Sex of Household Head

| Sex of Household Head | No. of households |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 335 |
| Female | 65 |

There are 148(37%) heads of households in the age group 60+ years, 131(32.75%) heads of households in the age group 45-50 years, 108(27%) households heads in the age group of 30-44 years and 13 heads of households in the age group of bellow 30 years.

Table-1-1-A

Age of Household Head

| Age of Household Head | No of Households |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| < 30 years | 13 |
| 30-44 years | 108 |
| 45-59 years | 131 |
| 60 years+ | 148 |

The Deoris are followers of Hinduism and in the sample size it has been found that all the 400 household profess Hinduism.

Table-1-1-B

Religion of Household

| Religion | No. of Household |
|----------|------------------|
| Hinduism | 400 |

Out of total population of 2074, 238(11.47%) persons belong to the age group 25-30 years. Sex wise 115 male and 123 female followed by 228(10.99%) persons, male 121, female 107 in the age grade 30-35 years. Next higher population of 215(10.36%) male 111, female 104 is in the age group 15-20 years followed by 172 persons male 95, female 77 in the age grade 35-40 years and 158 persons, male 86, female 72 in the age group 10-15 years.

There are 35 persons, male 19, female 16 in the age grade of 70-75 years followed by 25 persons, male 16, female 9 in the age grade above 75. In the age group 6-10 years there are 147 persons, male 65, female 82. In the lowest age category below 6 years there are 148 persons, male 80, female 68.

Table-1-2

Household Population by age and sex

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| <6 | 80 | 68 | 148 |
| 6 to 10 years | 65 | 82 | 147 |
| 10 to 15 years | 86 | 72 | 158 |
| 15 to 20 years | 111 | 104 | 215 |
| 20 to 25 years | 109 | 95 | 204 |
| 25 to 30 years | 115 | 123 | 238 |
| 30 to 35 years | 121 | 107 | 228 |
| 35 to 40 years | 95 | 77 | 172 |
| 40 to 45 years | 69 | 49 | 118 |
| 45 to 50 years | 58 | 63 | 121 |
| 50 to 55 years | 57 | 45 | 102 |
| 55 to 60 years | 38 | 32 | 70 |
| 60 to 65 years | 25 | 24 | 49 |
| 65 to 70 years | 21 | 23 | 44 |
| 70 to 75 years | 19 | 16 | 35 |
| 75 > | 16 | 9 | 25 |
| Total | 1085 | 989 | 2074 |

As regards marital status of male, 573 male persons are married and 512 are unmarried. In the age grade 35-50 years and above that age grade there are mostly married males except one unmarried in 50-55 age grade and 2 males unmarried in the grade 55-60 years. In the age grade 35-40 years there are 90 males married against 5 unmarried and in the age grade 45-50 years there are all married persons numbering 58. Similarly in the age grade 50-55 there are 56 married males against one unmarried and in the next age grade 53-60 years there are 36 married males against 2 unmarried. In the following age grades 60-65 years to above 75 there are no unmarried persons.

Table-1-2A

Marital Status of the household Population. (Male)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 80 | 0 | 80 |
| 6 to 10 years | 65 | 0 | 65 |
| 10 to 15 years | 86 | 0 | 86 |
| 15 to 20 years | 100 | 11 | 111 |
| 20 to 25 years | 84 | 25 | 109 |
| 25 to 30 years | 50 | 65 | 115 |
| 30 to 35 years | 38 | 83 | 121 |
| 35 to 40 years | 5 | 90 | 95 |
| 40 to 45 years | 1 | 68 | 69 |
| 45 to 50 years | 0 | 58 | 58 |
| 50 to 55 years | 1 | 56 | 57 |
| 55 to 60 years | 2 | 36 | 38 |
| 60 to 65 years | 0 | 25 | 25 |
| 65 to 70 years | 0 | 21 | 21 |
| 70 to 75 years | 0 | 19 | 19 |
| 75 > | 0 | 16 | 16 |
| Total | 512 | 573 | 1085 |

There are 552 married females against 387 unmarried females. From the age grades 50-55 years to above 75 years there are no unmarried female persons. Majority of the unmarried females 69 are in the age grade 15-20 years followed by 70 females in the age grade 10-15 years (of course this is not the age of marriage among the Deoris but there are 2 married females). There are no unmarried females in the age grade 40-45 years against 58 married.

There are 50 widowed females and highest 9 widows fall in the age grade 65-70 years followed by 7 each in the age grades of 50-55 years, 55-60 years and 70-75 years.

Table-1-3

Marital Status of the household Population (Female)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Widowed | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 68 |
| 6 to 10 years | 82 | 0 | 0 | 82 |
| 10 to 15 years | 70 | 2 | 0 | 72 |
| 15 to 20 years | 69 | 34 | 1 | 104 |
| 20 to 25 years | 39 | 56 | 0 | 95 |
| 25 to 30 years | 30 | 92 | 1 | 123 |
| 30 to 35 years | 18 | 85 | 4 | 107 |
| 35 to 40 years | 9 | 67 | 1 | 77 |
| 40 to 45 years | 0 | 47 | 2 | 49 |
| 45 to 50 years | 2 | 58 | 3 | 63 |
| 50 to 55 years | 0 | 38 | 7 | 45 |
| 55 to 60 years | 0 | 25 | 7 | 32 |
| 60 to 65 years | 0 | 20 | 4 | 24 |
| 65 to 70 years | 0 | 14 | 9 | 23 |
| 70 to 75 years | 0 | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 75 > | 0 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Total | 387 | 552 | 50 | 989 |

In respect of occupational pattern of the members of the studied households it is seen majority 1088 members male 556 female 532 are doing agriculture as primary occupation and 119, 63 male and 56 female are practicing agriculture as secondary occupation. There 98 members, male 69 female 29 in the Govt. service as primary occupation and 7 members, 6 male, 1 female in service as secondary occupation. In business as primary occupation only 18 members are engaged and in non Govt. service 38 male and 3 female are engaged as primary occupation. Animal husbandry is taken by 54 members 27 male and 27 female as primary occupation and 341 members 155 male and 186 females as secondary occupation. Details are shown in Table-2 and Table 2-1

The land tenure pattern of the 400 households shows that 376 households have their own lands. Twenty four households have taken taken land on lease. there are two households who do not have their own land.

Table – 1-4

Land tenure pattern

| SI No | Land Tenure Pattern | | | |
|-------|---------------------|--------|----------|------------------------|
| | Own land | Leased | Landless | Total no of Households |
| 1 | 376 | 24 | 2 | 400 |

Most of the households, 182 possess lands above 15 Bighas of followed by 135 households possessing 7.5-15 Bighas of land. A large number of households, 81 in numbers possess less than 7.5 Bighas of land.

Considering the joint family pattern of the Deoris, the families having less than 7.5 Bighas of land are not having better standard of living.

Table – 1-5

Ownership of Agricultural land

| SI No | No of Household holding own land (Size of landholding, in Bigha) | | | Total no of Households |
|-------|--|----------|-----|------------------------|
| | <7.5 | 7.5 - 15 | >15 | |
| 1 | 182 | 135 | 81 | 398 |

As regards household land 82 households possess below 1Bigha of land, 296 households possess 1-3 Bighas of land, 16 households own 3-5 Bighas and 6 households own >5 of homestead land.

Table – 1-6

Ownership of Homestead land

| SI No | Total no of Households | Homestead Land (in Bigha) | | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| | | Below 1 | 1-3 | 3-5 | >5 |
| 1 | 400 | 82 | 296 | 16 | 6 |

TABLE- 2

Primary Occupational Pattern of the Members of the Households

| Sl.no | Primary Occupation | Number of persons | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Agriculture | 556 | 532 | 1088 |
| 2 | Govt. Service | 69 | 29 | 98 |
| 3 | Business | 18 | - | 18 |
| 4 | Non Government Sector | 38 | 3 | 41 |
| 5 | Animal Husbandry | 27 | 27 | 54 |
| 6 | Wage and others | 1 | - | 1 |
| Total | | 710 | 591 | 1301 |

TABLE- 2-1

Secondary Occupational Pattern of the Members of the Households

| Sl.no | Secondary Occupation | Number of persons | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Agriculture | 63 | 56 | 119 |
| | Service | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | Animal Husbandry | 155 | 186 | 341 |
| 3 | Wage and others | - | 230 | 230 |
| Total | | 224 | 473 | 697 |

As regards educational status of the members of the studied households it is seen that as many as 405 members, 140 male and 265 female are illiterate. It is very sad that inspite of so many educational schemes, such a huge number of persons are remaining illiterate in the beginning of 21st century. In LP standard there are 281 members, 128 males and 153 female, while in primary school complete category there are 182 members male 102 and female 80. In ME level there are 497 members, male 278 and female 219 and High School level there are 507 members male 309 female 198. In the HS complete and above standard there are 166 members male 104, female 62 and in college level there are 19 members male 13 female 6.

It is seen that women are lagging much behind men in all categories of educational standard.

TABLE- 3

Educational level of the Household Members

| SL. No | Educational Qualification | Male | Female | Total |
|--------|---------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 140 | 265 | 405 |
| 2 | < Primary School | 128 | 153 | 281 |
| 3 | Primary School Complete | 102 | 80 | 182 |
| 4 | Middle School Complete | 278 | 219 | 497 |
| 5 | High School Complete | 309 | 198 | 507 |
| 6 | Higher Secondary Complete | 104 | 62 | 166 |
| 7 | Graduate | 13 | 6 | 19 |
| 8 | Technical | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Total | 1075 | 579 | 2095 |

Majority 171(42.7%) of the household members annual income falls in the range below Rs. 15000.00. The annual income of 92 households is in the range of Rs. 15000.00-35000.00 while 37 household earn Rs.35000.00-65000.00 PA and 11 households earn Rs.65000.00-90000.00 PA. There are 89 households whose annual income is Rs.90000.00 and above.

Table-4

Household Income

| SI No | Average household Income (annual) | Number of Household |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | > 15000 | 171 |
| 2 | 15001 – 35000 | 92 |
| 3 | 35001 – 65000 | 37 |
| 4 | 65001 – 90000 | 11 |
| 5 | 90001 – above | 89 |
| Total | | 400 |

The Deoris prefer joint and extended type of families. In the present study out of 400 households 136 households are non nuclear type and 291 are nuclear type.

Table – 4.1

Household type

| Household Type | No of Households |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Nuclear Household | 291 |
| Non- Nuclear Household | 136 |
| Total | 400 |

As regards usual members in the households there are 299 households having 4-6 members, 478 households having 7-8 members, 15 households with 10-12 members and 39 households with 1-3 members.

Table – 4.2

Number of usual members

| Usual Members | No of Households |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1-3 | 39 |
| 4-6 | 299 |
| 7-9 | 47 |
| 10-12 | 15 |
| Total | 400 |

Electricity facilities are available for 280(70%) households and 120(30%) households are yet to be given electric connection.

Table-5

Electricity

| Electricity | No of Households |
|-------------|------------------|
| Yes | 280 |
| No | 120 |

Regarding livestock in the households 382(95.55%) households possess cattle, 207 (51.7%) households possess goat and 344(86%) households possess pigs.

Table-6

Particulars of Household livestock and poultry

| Livestock | No Of Households |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cattle | 382 |
| Goat | 207 |
| Pig | 378 |

The Deoris also rear poultries in almost all the households. 344 households rear fowls, 306 households rear ducks and 110 households rear pigeons.

Table-7

Poultry

| Livestock | No Of Households |
|-----------|------------------|
| Fowl | 344 |
| Duck | 306 |
| Pigeon | 110 |

The households mainly depend upon wells as out of 400 households 287 households have wells as main source of drinking water. Hand pumps are owned by 202 households. Use of pond is limited to 23 households. However pipe water is extended to 4 households under study.

Table-8

Source of Drinking water

| Source of Drinking water | No. of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Hand-pump | 202 |
| Well | 287 |
| Pond | 23 |
| Water Supply | 4 |
| Total no of Households | 400 |

The position of sanitation facility in the households is not at all satisfactory as 120 households use open field and 239 households use katcha latrines. Only 41 households have sanitary latrines.

Table-9

Sanitation Facility

| Sanitation Facility | No. of Households |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Open Field | 120 |
| <i>Kutch</i> a Latrine | 239 |
| Sanitary | 41 |
| Total no of Households | 400 |

The households under survey have no drainage system worth the name.

Table-10

Drainage system facility in their compound

| Drainage system | Number of Household |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Yes | 0 |
| No | 400 |
| Total No of Households | 400 |

The Deori tribe traditionally use '*Chang ghar*' i.e. platform type house as very often they are effected by flood. Originally *chang ghars* were constructed as defense mechanism . Thus there are 333 *Chang ghars* in the studied villages. Besides there are 25 *kutch*a Assam Type houses; 35 pucca Assam Type houses and 7 thatched houses in the surveyed households.

Table-11

Type of Houses

| Type of Houses | Number of Household |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Thatched | 7 |
| <i>Chang Ghar</i> | 333 |
| <i>Kutch</i> a Assam Type | 25 |
| Pucca | 35 |
| Total No of Household | 400 |

A majority of the surveyed households use firewood for cooking. There are 93 households who use LPG.

Table – 12
Fuel used for Cooking

| Fuel used for Cooking | Number of Household |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Wood | 317 |
| LPG | 93 |
| Total no of Household | 400 |

Regarding assets both traditional and modern all 400 households possess loons which are considered as prestigious assets for the womenfolk, ploughs are found in 381 households and 77 households possess bullock carts. As regards modern items 156 households possess Televisions, 325 households possess mobile phones, 157 households possess radios, 129 households have motor bikes, 387 households possess bicycle, 27 households possess other vehicles and one household possess tractor.

Table-13

Number of families owning the following assets

| SI No | Assets Owned | Number of families | SI No | Assets Owned | Number of Households |
|-------|--------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|
| i. | Plough | 381 | vi. | Other Vehicles | 27 |
| ii. | Loom | 400 | vii. | Tractor | 1 |
| iii. | Radio | 157 | viii. | Bi-Cycle | 387 |
| iv. | Mobile | 325 | ix. | Motor-Cycle | 129 |
| v. | Television | 156 | x. | Bullock Cart | 77 |

Out of 400 surveyed particular women respondents 368 (92%) are married while 32(8%) are widows.

Table-14

Marital Status of the respondent

| SI. No | Marital Status | No of Women |
|--------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Married | 368 |
| 2 | Unmarried | 0 |
| 3 | Widow | 32 |
| | Total | 400 |

Most of the selected women members; 169(42.25%) belonged to the age group 30-44 years, 95(23.55%) belonged to the age group 45-49 years, 94 women belonged to less than 30 years of age and 42 women belonged to the age group 60+ years.

Table-14-1

Age of the respondent

| SI No | Age | No. of Women |
|-------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | < 30 Yrs | 94 |
| 2 | 30 – 44 Yrs | 169 |
| 3 | 45 – 49 Yrs | 95 |
| 4 | 60 Yrs | 42 |
| | Total | 400 |

The educational status of the interviewed women members indicates that 133(33.2%) women are in the category illiterate, 134 women read up to class IX-X, 13 women are of class V-VIII standard, 51 women of class I-IV standard and 63 women of class XI-XII standard. There were 5 graduates and 1 others among the selected women members.

Table-14-2

Educational Qualification of the Respondent

| SL No | Educational Qualification | No of Women |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 133 |
| 2 | Class I-V | 51 |
| 3 | Class V-VIII | 13 |
| 4 | Class IX-X | 134 |
| 5 | Class XI-XII | 63 |
| 6 | Graduate | 5 |
| 7 | Others | 1 |
| Total | | 400 |

The tribal women by tradition do not inherit immovable property, so there is no question of owning land.

Table-14-3

Immovable Property

| SI No | Immovable Properties | No of Women |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Land | 0 |
| 2 | Houses | 0 |
| 3 | Both Land and Houses | 0 |
| 4 | Others | 0 |

As regards movable properties owned by the selected women members it was found that 296 women possessed Jewellery, 275 women possessed utensils, 115 women owned household goods, furniture etc, 242 women possessed 242 livestock / poultry.

Table-14-4

Movable Property

| Sl. No | Movable Properties | No of Women |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Jewellery | 296 |
| 2 | Utensils | 275 |
| 3 | Household Goods/ Furniture | 115 |
| 4 | Livestock/ Poultry | 242 |

The contribution of the women members towards family income is not negligible as 2 women contribute 50-75% of the family income while 6 women contribute more than 75% to the family income. There are 42 women who contribute 25-50% to the family income, 163 women contribute 1-25% towards family income, 79 women contribute between 5%-10% towards family income and 108 women contribute less than 5% towards family income.

Table-14-5

Percentage of Family Income contributed by women in households

| SI No | Percentage of Family Income | No of Women |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Less Than 5% | 108 |
| 2 | Between 5% - 10% | 79 |
| 3 | Between 10% - 25% | 163 |
| 4 | Between 25% - 50% | 42 |
| 5 | Between 50% - 75% | 2 |
| 6 | More then 75% | 6 |
| Total | | 400 |

Of late saving habit is increasing among the tribal women and today 314 surveyed women possess bank account in their names which testifies growing self assertion, hither to unknown two three decades back. 188 women save money regularly. Although at present 68 women do not possess bank account they realize the importance of saving.

Table-14-6

Details on saving and debt

| SL No | Details on saving and debt | No of Women |
|-------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Has debt burden | 0 |
| 2 | Saves money | 188 |
| 3 | Owens a saving account in the respondents name | 314 |
| 4 | Wants to save | 68 |

Most of the women prefer to save with SHGs which are established in the villages with local women members and these are easily available. Thus 264 women are keeping money in SHGs. There are 59 women and 38 women members who save in Banks and Post offices respectively. 39 women have not saved in any financial instructions.

Table-14-7

Savings

| SI No | Savings Kept in | No of Women |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Bank | 59 |
| 2 | Post Office | 38 |
| 3 | SHG | 264 |
| Total (Some women do not save money) | | 361 |

Table-14-8

Membership Of Organization

| SI No | Organization | No. of Women |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Mahila Samity | 0 |
| 2 | Self Help Group (SHG) | 273 |
| 3 | Political Party | 0 |
| 4 | Any other Society | 0 |
| Total | | 273 |

Regarding position in SHG, 3 women are playing the role as Residents, 2 women are serving as secretaries and rest 268 women are members.

Table-14-9

Position in Organization

| SL No | Organization | No. of Women |
|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | President | 3 |
| 2 | Secretary | 2 |
| 3 | Treasurer | 0 |
| 4 | General Member | 268 |
| Total | | 273 |

CHAPTER – II
Data Analysis of Village Schedule

District Jorhat

Altogether 6 Deori villages, 2 from Dhekargarha Development Block and 4 from Ujani Development Block of Jorhat Sub-Division and Majuli Sub-Division of Jorhat District with 120 sample households have been selected for the study.

Table - 1.

Sample size of Village and households

| Sl. No | District | Subdivision | Block | Number of villages | Total number of households. |
|--------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Jorhat | 1. Jorhat | 1. Dekargora | 2 | 120 |
| | | 2. Majuli | 2. Ujani Majuli | 4 | |

The two villages under study of Dekargora Development Block falls under the West Revenue Circle under Pulibar Police Station. The names of the villages are Nam Deori and Upar Deori while the four villages under Ujani Majuli Development Block fall under Kamalabari Revenue Circle of Jengrai Police Station. The names of the villages are Major Deori, Bali Deori, Petuajan Bali Deori and Sriram Deori.

Table - 2

Names of selected villages, Block, Revenue Circle and Police Station

| Sl.No | District | Block | Name of villages | Revenue Circle | Police Station |
|-------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Jorhat | Dekargora | Namdeori | West Circle | Pulibar |
| 2. | | | Upardeori | | |
| 3. | Ujani Majuli | Ujani Majuli | Majordeori | Kamalabari | Jengrai |
| 4. | | | Balideori | | |
| 5. | | | Petuajan Bali Deori | | |
| 6. | | | Sririam Deori | | |

The total population of the six surveyed villages is 8785, male 4235 (48.25%), female 4550 (51.79%). The total households of the said villages is 951. The Major Deori village has the highest population of 2954, followed by Bali Deori with a total population of 2500. The female

population is more in Upar Deori, Major Deori, Bali Deori, Petuajan Bali deori and Sriram Deori villages. The percentage of male is 48.2 against female percentage of 51.7%. Only people from the Deori community resides in these villages.

Table - 3.

Names of villages, with population, households and Ethnic Communities of the villages.

| Sl. No | District | Names of villages | Population | | | Total no of Household | Characteristic of village population |
|--------|----------|--------------------|------------|------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Male | Fem | Total | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Jorhat | Nam Deori | 765 | 730 | 1495 | 179 | Deori |
| | | Upper Deori | 200 | 221 | 421 | 140 | Deori |
| | | Major Deori | 1441 | 1513 | 2954 | 345 | Deori |
| | | Bali Deori | 1100 | 1400 | 2500 | 130 | Deori |
| | | Petuajan Balideori | 179 | 221 | 400 | 57 | Deori |
| | | Sriram Deori | 550 | 465 | 1015 | 100 | Deori |
| | | Total | 4235 | 4550 | 8785 | 951 | |

As regards topography, all the villages are located in plains.

Table - 4.

Topography of the selected villages

| District | Number of Villages | Topography |
|----------|--------------------|------------|
| | | Plain |
| Jorhat | 6 | 6 |

The settlement pattern of 3 villages is agglomerated and 3 villages is dispersed.

Table - 5.

Settlement Pattern of the Villages under Survey

| District | Number of Villages | Settlement Pattern of the selected villages | |
|----------|--------------------|---|-----------|
| | | Agglomerated | Dispersed |
| Jorhat | 6 | 3 | 3 |

In respect of area of the sample villages 5 villages has less than 1300 hectares and 1 village has 1300-1400 hectares.

Table - 6.

Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares)

| District | Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares) approximate | | Total No Of Villages |
|----------|---|-----------|----------------------|
| | <1300 | 1300-1400 | |
| Jorhat | 5 | 1 | 6 |

The size of agricultural land for 2 villages each is below 500 hectares and 500-600 hectares respectively while the size of land for one each village is 600-700 hectares and above 900 hectares respectively.

Table - 7.

Size of Agricultural land in (Hectares) approximate

| Name Of District | Size Of Agricultural Land(Hectares) | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| | <500 | 500-600 | 600-700 | 700-800 | 800-900 | >900 |
| Jorhat | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 |

The transport and communication facilities in the villages may be called far from satisfactory as all the villages have nearest motor able road at a distance of less than 10 kms. Regarding transport stand 4 villages have the same at a distance of less than 4 kms and 2 villages have the same at a distance of 10-14 kms. In case of nearest transport station 2 villages each have the same at less than 10 kms. and 14-18 kms respectively and one village each has the transport facility at a distance of 10-14 kms. and 18-22 kms respectively.

Table - 8.

Transport and Communication facilities

| District | No. Of Villages | Facilities | Distance Of The Villages (In Km) | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | < 10 | 10-14 | 14-18 | 18-22 |
| Jorhat | 6 | Nearest motorable road | 6 | - | - | - |
| | | Nearest transport stand | 4 | 2 | - | - |
| | | Nearest transport station | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

Regarding condition of roads 6 villages have foot tracks, 2 villages possess katcha fair weather motorable roads, 4 villages have katcha all weather motorable roads and 4 villages have pucaa pitch road. The roads of Majuli are badly affected by flood. Very often during summer the villages are cut off from outside world.

Table – 9.

Condition of the Roads in the Surveyed Villages

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Foot tract | 6 |
| 2 | <i>Katcha Fair Weather Motor able Road</i> | 2 |
| 3 | <i>Katcha All Weather Motor able Road</i> | 4 |
| 4 | Pitch | 4 |

Mode of conveyance for the villagers is bicycle, motor bike, car and boats. Six villages each depend upon bicycles and motor bike respectively while 3 villages each depend upon cars and boats respectively.

Table-10

Mode of Common Conveyance used by the Villagers

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | Bicycle | 6 |
| 2 | Motor cycle | 6 |
| 3 | Car | 3 |
| 4 | Boat | 3 |

Regarding health facilities one village each has the PHC within the village and at a distance of 4-6 kms. respectively while 4 villages have the PHC at a distance at 6-8 kms.

The medical Sub Centers are located at a distance of 2-4 kms. for 4 villages and for 2 villages the distance to the Sub Centers is 4-6 kms.

The state dispensary is located at a distance of above 10kms. for all the six villages. Similarly private hospitals are located at a distance of less than 2kms. and 4-6 kms for one village each respectively and for 4 villages the distance for private hospital is above 10 kms.

Regarding availability of private medical doctor, 2 villages get such facility within the villages (less than 2kms.) and one each village gets such facility at a distance of 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, and above 10kms. respectively.

All the 6 villages are served by trained birth attendant who are posted near the villages (less than 2kms) , 4 villages get the facility of private pharmacy / medical shop at a distance less

than 2kms. While one each village has such facility at a distance of 2-4 kms. and 6-8 kms. respectively.

Table - 11.

Health facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| District | Health Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Jorhat | PHC | 1 | | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| | Medical Sub Center | - | 4 | 2 | - | - | - |
| | State Dispensary | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| | Private Hospital | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| | Private Medical doctor | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Village health guide | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Trained Birth Attendant | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Private pharmacy/medical shop | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |

Today mass communication facilities are available even in the far flung tribal villages. Thus all the 6 villages have Televisions and newspapers while 3 villages have radios, one village has a library and 2 villages have Community Centers.

Table - 12.

Mass Communication facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| SI No | Mass Communication Facilities Available | No Of Villages |
|-------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Television | 6 |
| 2 | Radio | 3 |
| 3 | Newspaper | 6 |
| 4 | Library | 1 |
| 5 | Community Centre | 2 |

Regarding civic facilities, 5 villages have the post offices in less than 2kms. from the villages and one village gets postal facilities at a distance of 2-4kms. Only one village has the veterinary dispensary / hospital near the village i.e. less than 2kms., 2 villages get such facility at a distance of 4-6 kms. and 3 villages get the facility at a distance of 6-8kms. Banks are located at a distance of 4-6kms. to above 10 kms. Only one village each has banking facility at a distance of 4-6 kms. and 6-8 kms. respectively while 4 villages get banking facility at a distance

beyond 10 kms. One village gets co-operative society within the village (less than 2 kms) and another one village gets the same at a distance of 4-6 kms. while 4 villages have the facility of co-operative society at a distance of above 10kms. Mahila Samitis are located near (less than 2 kms.) in the villages. All the surveyed villages have religious institutions within the villages. there are no cinema halls and children or youth club within easy distance.

Table - 13.

Civic facilities in the Villages

| District | Civic and other Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Jorhat | Post Office | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| | Veterinary/Dispensary/Hospital | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | - | - |
| | Bank | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 4 |
| | Cooperative Society | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| | Cinema Hall | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Mahila Samity | 4 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Nearest Children/Youth Club | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Religious Institutions | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |

All the surveyed villages have pre primary, Lower primary and M.E. Schools within the villages (less than 2 kms.) while only one village has High school within the village and one village each has High schools at a distance of 2-4kms, 4-6 kms. respectively. 3 villages have High schools at a distance of 6-8 kms. Colleges and Adult Education Centres are not within easy reach.

Table - 14.

Educational facilities in the Surveyed Village

| District | No. of villages | Category | Distance of the villages (in km) | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | | <2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Jorhat | | Pre-primary school | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Lower primary school | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Middle E School | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | High school | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | - |
| | | College | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Adult Education Centre | - | - | - | - | - | - |

In respect of health the villagers appeared to be inadequately alert. Water borne diseases are common in the villages Malaria, Diarrhea, Influenza, Dysentery are the common diseases in the villages.

There are 3 male and 3 female physically challenged children in the studied villages.

As regards sources of drinking water all the villages have tube wells.

Table - 15

Sources of Drinking Water

| SI No | Sources of Drinking Water | No of Villages |
|-------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Tube Well | 6 |

Electricity has been provided to all the studied villages.

Table - 16

Availability of Electricity

| SI No | Provision for electricity | No of Villages having Electricity (Approx) |
|-------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Provision of electricity | 6 |

Marketing facilities are available in Sunday Bazar, Jorhat Daily Bazar, Weekly Friday Bazar, Weekly Monday Bazar, Jengrai Daily Bazar, Daily Naya Bazar and few other weekly bazaars are available near the villages for their buying and selling.

The villagers generally purchase cloths, Utensils, Jewellery, Children school materials, rice, paddy, yarn, meat, fish, turmeric, salt, etc. Selling items constitute rice, paddy, *Mati kalai*, mustard seeds, meat, fish, betel nut and vegetables.

The primary occupation of all the surveyed villages is agriculture. The villagers grow *Ahu*, *Sali*, *Bao* and *Boro* paddy in their fields. The upper Deori villagers earn good income by selling fish as they catch fish in sufficient quantities in the river Brahmaputra and nearby Beels. The Deori womenfolk are rearing poultries, pigs for commercial purpose also.

There are quite a good number of SHGs run by women. Some of the SHGs functioning in the villages are Tamilnadu SHG, Maina SHG, Egabari SHG, Manalisha SHG, Puji SHG, Minushi SHG etc.

Government's rural development programmers like MGNREGA, PMGHY etc have been extended to the Deori villages too but the number of beneficiaries is very small. The MGNREGA scheme implemented by Block authorities could benefit 159 persons, 76 male and 83 female, with job cards, the SHGS benefitted 30 male persons only while PMGHY is implemented by Gaon Panchayats.

The Self Employment Scheme through farming and tourism is implemented by DAC and has enabled 74 persons male 44 and female 30 to obtain tractor, loons etc.

Table – 17

Rural Development Programme

| Sl. No | Name of Programme | Programme carried by which agency | No. of beneficiaries | | Kind of benefits received |
|--------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| | | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | MGNREGA | Block | 76 | 83 | Job Cards |
| | SHGs PMGRY | Gaon Panchayat | 30 | | |
| 2 | Schemes for self employment through farming, Tourism | DAC | 44 | 30 | Tractor, loom |

Data Analysis of Household schedule

District Jorhat

In order to have an in depth study regarding women's status among the Deoris, 120 sample households have been selected with a total population of 599, male 302, female 297.

Table – 1

Total Number of households with population

| Total No of households | Total Population | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| 120 | 302 | 297 | 599 |

Sex wise the sample heads of household are mostly male i.e. out of 120 heads of households 114 are male against 6 female.

Table – 1-1

Sex of House Hold Head

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sex of House Hold Head | |
| Male | 114 |
| Female | 6 |
| Total no of Households | 120 |

The age of the sample household heads are in the 45-59 years age grade. There are 52 heads of households in this grade. 32 heads of households age fall in age grade of 30-44 years and 27 heads of households age are 60+ years. There are 9 heads of households whose age is less than 30 years.

Table – 1-1A
Age of Household Head

| Age of Household Head | No of Households |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| < 30 years | 9 |
| 30-44 years | 32 |
| 45-59 years | 52 |
| 60 years+ | 27 |

Regarding religion of the heads of households, all the heads of households belong to Hinduism.

Table – 1-1B
Religion of Household

| Religion | No. of Household |
|----------|------------------|
| Hinduism | 120 |

Most 63 nos. of the type of households are nuclear and there are 57 non nuclear households. Regarding age and sex composition of the house hold members it is found that majority 75 persons male 33, female 42 belong to the age grade of 15-30 years, followed by 65 persons male 35, female 30 in the age grade 25-30 years and 69 persons, 32 male, 37 female in the age grade 35-40 years. There are only 5 persons, 2 male, 3 female in the age grade 65-70 years. In the lower age group of below 6 years there are 45 members, 22 male and 23 female and in the age group 6-10 years there are 37 members, 22 male, and 15 female.

Details are shown in Table – 1-2

Household Population by age and sex

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| <6 | 22 | 23 | 45 |
| 6 to 10 years | 22 | 15 | 37 |
| 10 to 15 years | 23 | 21 | 44 |
| 15 to 20 years | 33 | 42 | 75 |
| 20 to 25 years | 16 | 35 | 51 |
| 25 to 30 years | 35 | 30 | 65 |
| 30 to 35 years | 29 | 30 | 59 |
| 35 to 40 years | 32 | 37 | 69 |
| 40 to 45 years | 20 | 14 | 34 |
| 45 to 50 years | 23 | 13 | 36 |
| 50 to 55 years | 11 | 15 | 26 |
| 55 to 60 years | 16 | 10 | 26 |
| 60 to 65 years | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| 65 to 70 years | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 70 to 75 years | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Total | 302 | 297 | 599 |

The marital status of male indicates that out of 157 married, 27 married males are in the age group 25-30 years, 21 in the age grade 15-40 years, 20 males in the age grade 55-60 years, 19 married males in the age grade 40-45 years and 18 males in the age grade 45-50 years.

Among the unmarried males majority 30 males are in the age group 15-20 years followed by 25 males in the age grade 20-25 years. In the next higher age grades from 25-30 to 40-45 years there are 17 males.

The 13 nos. of widowers are found in the age grades of 50-55 years to 70-75 years.

Table – 1-2A

Marital Status of the household Population (Male)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Widowed | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 15 | - | - | 15 |
| 6 to 10 years | 23 | - | - | 23 |
| 10 to 15 years | 22 | - | - | 22 |
| 15 to 20 years | 30 | 4 | -- | 34 |
| 20 to 25 years | 25 | 6 | - | 31 |
| 25 to 30 years | 8 | 27 | - | 35 |
| 30 to 35 years | 6 | 8 | - | 14 |
| 35 to 40 years | 1 | 21 | - | 22 |
| 40 to 45 years | 2 | 19 | - | 21 |
| 45 to 50 years | - | 18 | - | 18 |
| 50 to 55 years | - | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| 55 to 60 years | - | 20 | 4 | 24 |
| 60 to 65 years | - | 15 | 2 | 17 |
| 65 to 70 years | - | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 70 to 75 years | - | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Total | 132 | 157 | 13 | 302 |

Out of 297 females, 162 are married and 120 are unmarried. Majority 26 nos. of the married women are found in the age grade 30-35 years followed by 22 nos. in the age grade 25-30 years. The number of married persons came down from the age grades 50-55 years to 65-70 years where there are 30 married women.

Unmarried women are more (33) in the age grade 15-20 years as the Deoris girl prefer to marry late and in this age grade there are only 8 married women. There are no unmarried women in the age grade 45-50 years to 65-70 years.

There are 15 widowed females, 5 of them are in the age grade 35-40 years and 4 in the age grade 65-70 years.

Table – 1-3

Marital Status of the household Population(Female)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Widowed | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 25 | - | - | 25 |
| 6 to 10 years | 17 | - | - | 17 |
| 10 to 15 years | 20 | 2 | - | 22 |
| 15 to 20 years | 33 | 8 | - | 41 |
| 20 to 25 years | 14 | 24 | - | 38 |
| 25 to 30 years | 6 | 22 | - | 28 |
| 30 to 35 years | 2 | 26 | - | 28 |
| 35 to 40 years | 2 | 18 | 5 | 25 |
| 40 to 45 years | 1 | 12 | - | 13 |
| 45 to 50 years | - | 20 | 1 | 21 |
| 50 to 55 years | - | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| 55 to 60 years | - | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| 60 to 65 years | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| 65 to 70 years | - | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 120 | 162 | 15 | 297 |

The land tenure pattern of the 120 households shows that all the households have their own lands.

Table – 1-4

Land tenure pattern

| SI No | Land Tenure Pattern | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Own land | Total no of Households |
| 1 | 120 | 120 |

Most of the households, 66 possess lands above 15 Bighas of followed by 36 households possessing 7.5-15 Bighas of land. Only 18 households possess less than 7.5 Bighas of land.

Considering the joint family pattern of the Deoris, the families having less than 7.5 Bighas of land are not having better standard of living.

Table – 1-5

Ownership of Agricultural land

| SI No | No of Household holding own land (Size of landholding, in Bigha) | | | Total no of Households |
|-------|--|----------|-----|------------------------|
| | <7.5 | 7.5 - 15 | >15 | |
| 1 | 18 | 36 | 66 | 120 |

As regards household land 60 households possess below. Bigha of land, 56 households possess 1-3 Bighas of land and 4 households own 3-5 Bighas of homestead land.

Table – 1-6

Ownership of Homestead land

| SI No | Total no of Households | Homestead Land (in Bigha) | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | Below 1 | 1-3 | 3-5 |
| 1 | 120 | 60 | 56 | 04 |

The primary occupation of the majority of the households 199 is agriculture where 123 male and 26 female are engaged. Next highest members of households 70, are engaged in animal husbandry where only 3 are males and 67 are females. There are 31 Government Service holders; 16 of them are males and 15 females. In business only 6 male persons are engaged while in non Government Service only 1 male is engaged.

Till two three decades back the Deoris were self sufficient and there was mutuality and co-operation. The needy families were helped by the richer sections and wage earning was practically nil. Today in the changing situation, there are 3 wage earners in the surveyed households.

As regards secondary occupation, there are 36 members, 4 male and 35 females who are engaged in animal husbandry. There are 11 daily wage earners in the male category while another 8 males are engaged in other occupations.

Table – 2
Occupation

| SI No | Occupation | Primary | | | Secondary | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Agriculture | 123 | 76 | 199 | - | - | - |
| 2 | Government Service | 16 | 15 | 31 | - | - | - |
| 3 | Business | 6 | - | 6 | - | - | - |
| 4 | Non Government Service | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 5 | Animal Husbandry | 3 | 67 | 70 | 4 | 32 | 36 |
| 6 | Wage Earning | 3 | - | 3 | 11 | - | 11 |
| 7 | Others | 2 | - | 2 | 8 | - | 8 |
| Total | | 154 | 158 | 312 | 23 | 32 | 55 |

In respect of educational level of the household members 130, male 61, female 69 are in the category illiterate. The irony is the Government have taken so many schemes under the banner *Sarba Siksha Abhijan* and education for all, over the last two decades, yet the mass illiteracy is nowhere in solution. Except the Higher School complete category where female members are more than male, female 51 against 39 male, in all other standards females are lagging behind. However it draws attention to the glaring achievement of the single female in post graduate standard as there is no male in this category. In the M.E. Standard there are equal 45 members in both male and female category. The overall educational level of the female members does not show much difference as out of 599 members there are 297 females against 302 males.

Table – 3
Educational level of the Household Members

| SL. No | Educational Qualification | Male | Female | Total |
|--------|---------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 61 | 69 | 130 |
| 2 | Class I-V | 90 | 77 | 167 |
| 3 | Class VI-VIII | 45 | 45 | 90 |
| 4 | Class IX-X | 39 | 51 | 90 |
| 5 | H.S. | 54 | 50 | 94 |
| 6 | Graduate | 12 | 05 | 17 |
| 7 | Post Graduate | - | 01 | 01 |
| 8 | Others | 01 | - | 01 |
| Total | | 302 | 297 | 599 |

Majority of the households 42 nos. earn annually Rs.35,000-65,000.00 while 23 households earn Rs.90,000.00 Per annum. There are 22 households earning Rs.15,000.00-35,000.00 Per annum, 22 nos. of households earning income of Rs.65,000.00-90,000.00 Per annum. The households earning 90,000.00+ can be called richer sections who are in a better position to spend more. The poorer sections consisting of 13 households earn below-15,000.00 Per annum. and they are substituting the income with earnings of subsidiary occupation.

Table - 4

Household Income

| SI No | Average household Income (annually) | Number of Household |
|-------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | below 15000 | 13 |
| 2 | 15001 - 35000 | 22 |
| 3 | 35001 - 65000 | 42 |
| 4 | 65001 - 90000 | 20 |
| 5 | 90001 - above | 23 |
| Total | | 120 |

Table - 4.1

Household type

| Household Type | No of Households |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Nuclear Household | 63 |
| Non- Nuclear Household | 57 |
| Total | 120 |

As regards usual members in the households there are 73 households having 4-6 members, 28 households having 7-8 members and 19 households with 1-3 members.

Table - 4.2

Number of usual members

| Usual Members | No of Households |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1-3 | 19 |
| 4-6 | 73 |
| 7-9 | 28 |
| Total | 120 |

Electricity has been provided to 108, 90% households and 12 households have no electricity.

Table - 5

Electricity

| Electricity | No of Households |
|-------------|------------------|
| Yes | 108 |
| No | 12 |

Regarding livestock and poultries in the households it is found that 115 nos. of households possess cattle, 72 households goat and 113 households possess pigs. Poultries are reared by 116 households while 55 households rear ducks and only 3 households rear pigeons.

Table - 6

Particulars of Household livestock and poultry

| Livestock | No. Of Households |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Cattle | 115 |
| Goat | 72 |
| Pig | 113 |

Table - 7

Poultry

| | |
|--------|-----|
| | 116 |
| Fowl | 55 |
| Duck | 3 |
| Pigeon | |

Drinking water sources of the households constitute hand pipes and all the households have hand pipes.

Table - 8

Source of Drinking water

| Source of Drinking water | No. Of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Hand-pump | 120 |
| Total no of Households | 120 |

As regards sanitary facilities; 38 households use open field, 58 households have katcha latrines and 24 households use sanitary latrines.

Table – 9

Sanitation Facility

| Sanitation Facility | No. Of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Open Field | 38 |
| Katcha Latrine | 58 |
| Sanitary | 24 |
| * Total no of Households | 120 |

There is no drainage facility in the households under study.

Table – 10

Drainage system facility in their compound

| Drainage system facility | No. Of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 0 |
| No | 120 |
| Total No of Households | 120 |

Most 110 nos. households have their traditional *Chang ghars* (platform type of house) while 6 households have Katcha Assam Type houses and 2 households have *pucca* Assam Type house. There is only one RCC house in the studied households.

Table – 11

Type of Houses

| Type of Houses | Number of Household |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Thatched | 110 |
| <i>Chang Ghar</i> | 06 |
| Kutchu Assam Type | 02 |
| Pucca | 120 |
| Total No of Household | |

All the surveyed households use firewood for cooking.

Table – 12

Fuel used for Cooking

| Fuel used for Cooking | Number of Household |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Wood | 120 |
| Total no of Household | 120 |

Regarding assets owned by the households, it has been observed that sizable numbers, 113 households possess ploughs; where as only 8 households possess bullocks. Tribal women are experts in weaving and 115 households out of 120, possess looms, 104 households possess bicycle. Modern gadgets and entertainment articles etc. are also found. 14 households have radios, 112 households possess mobile phones, 64 households possess Televisions, 33 households possess motor bikes, 3 households have tractor and 15 households possess vehicle.

Table – 13

Number of families owning the following assets

| SI No | Assets Owned | No. of families | SI No | Assets Owned | No. of Households |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | | vi. | Other Vehicles | 5 |
| i. | Plough | 118 | viii. | Tractor | 3 |
| ii. | Loom | 115 | ix. | Bi-Cycle | 104 |
| iii. | Radio | 14 | x. | Motor-Cycle | 33 |
| iv. | Mobile | 112 | xi. | Bullock Cart | 08 |
| v. | Television | 64 | | | |

The marital status of the exclusive women respondents indicates that out of 120 women studied 110 are married and only one is unmarried. There are 9 widows.

Table – 14

Marital Status of the respondent

| SI No | Marital Status | No of Women |
|-------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Married | 110 |
| 2 | Unmarried | 01 |
| 3 | Widow | 09 |
| Total | | 120 |

The age of the respondents shows that 55 women are from the age grade below 30 years while ages of 25 women are 30-40 years and the ages of 21 respondents are 45-49 years. There are 19 respondents in the age grade of 60+ years.

Table – 14.1

| Age of the respondent | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| SI No | Age | No of Women |
| 1 | < 30 Yrs | 55 |
| 2 | 30 – 44 Yrs | 25 |
| 3 | 45 – 49 Yrs | 21 |
| 4 | 60 Yrs | 19 |
| Total | | 120 |

Regarding educational standard of the women respondents 57 women have been selected who are illiterates. 35 women respondents read up to class XI and XII and 19 respondents educational qualification is class IX to X. The educational qualification of 2 women is read up to class V to class VII and for 3 women the educational level is read up to I-IV class. Besides there are 14 graduates among the respondents.

Table – 14.2

| Educational Qualification of the Women | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|
| SL No | Educational Qualification | No of Women |
| 1 | Illiterate | 57 |
| 2 | Class I-V | 03 |
| 3 | Class V-VIII | 02 |
| 4 | Class IX-X | 19 |
| 5 | Class XI-XII | 35 |
| 6 | Graduate | 4 |
| Total | | 120 |

The tribal women by tradition do not inherit immovable property, and this is reflected from the findings.

Table-14-3

Immovable Property

| SI No | Immovable Properties | No of Women |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Land | 0 |
| 2 | Houses | 0 |
| 3 | Both Land and Houses | 0 |
| 4 | Others | 0 |

The moveable properties of the women respondents constitute jewellery and money. 65 women possess jewellery and 55 women possess cash.

Table – 14.4

Movable Property

| SI. No | Movable Properties | No of Women |
|--------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Jewellery | 65 |
| 2 | Utensils | 55 |
| | Total | 120 |

The womenfolk of the Deori community contribute considerably to the family income as they rear ducks, pigs, poultries and weave clothes for market too. Thus 48 women contribute 10-25%, 41 women contribute 25-50%, 8 women contribute between 50 to 75%, 7 women contribute above 75% and 10 women contribute less than 5% towards family income.

Besides both men and women are equally engaged in cultivation and if we take into consideration their man days. The contribution of women to the family income is much more.

Table – 14.5

| SI No | Percentage of Family Income | No of Women |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Less Than 5% | 10 |
| 2 | Between 5% - 10% | 06 |
| 3 | Between 10% - 25% | 48 |
| 4 | Between 25% - 50% | 41 |
| 5 | Between 50% - 75% | 08 |
| 6 | More than 75% | 07 |
| Total | | 120 |

Saving habit of the womenfolk is noticed as 97 women save money and 89 women have savings account which till 2/3 decades back was not sighted. Women empowerment has largely been spread among the Deori women. Indebtedness affairs till recently had to deal with the head of the households and womenfolk did not pocked their noses in such affairs. But the changing environment has imparted the decision making to the women. In the present study 4 women replied that they have debt burden.

A question was put to the women respondents whether they want to save for future, 23 women replied in positive.

Table – 14.6

Details on saving and debt

| SL No | Details on saving and debt | No of Women |
|-------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Has debt burden | 04 |
| 2 | Saves money | 97 |
| 3 | Owens a saving account in the respondents name | 89 |
| 4 | Wants to save | 23 |

The women folk save their money in banks, post offices and SHGs. But most of the women 79 nos. keep their money in banks while 6 women save in post offices and 4 women save in SHGs.

Table – 14.7

Savings

| SI No | Savings Kept in | No of Women |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Bank | 79 |
| 2 | Post Office | 06 |
| 3 | SHG | 04 |
| Total (Some women do not save money) | | 89 |

Deori women are coming out from the four walls of their houses to perform public works. Thus 46 women are becoming members of self help groups. Besides 7 women are holding responsible post as Presidents and 4 women are serving as secretaries.

Table – 14.8

Membership Of Organization

| SI No | Organization | No. |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| 2 | Self Help Group (SHG) | 46 |
| Total | | 46 |

Table – 14.9

Position in Organization

| SL No | Organization | No. |
|-------|----------------|-----|
| 1 | President | 07 |
| 2 | Secretary | 04 |
| 3 | General Member | 35 |
| Total | | 46 |

Regarding benefits received from Govt. and other schemes only one woman received Rs.3000.00.

Table – Table – 14.10

Number of women who have benefitted from schemes

| SL No | Benefited Schemes | No of Women |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Rs 3,000/- | 01 |

CHAPTER – III

Data Analysis of Village Schedule

District – Tinsukia

Altogether 10 villages with a total households of 200 under Kakopathar and Sadiya Chapakhowa Development Blocks of Sadiya and Margherita Sub Divisions of Tinsukia district have been selected for the study.

Table – 1

Sample size of village and households

| Sl. No | District | Subdivision | Block | Number of villages | Total number of households. |
|--------|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Tinsukia | 1. Sadiya 2. Margherita | 1. Kakopathar 2. Sadiya Chapakhowa | 10 | 200 |

From Kakopathar Development Block 3 villages under Bordumsa and Doomdooma and Margherita Revenue Circles within the jurisdiction of Madhabpur and Philobari Police stations and 7 villages under Sadiya Chapakhua Development Block of Sadiya Revenue Circle under the jurisdiction of Chapakhowa Sadiya Police Station have been selected for the study.

Table – 2

Names of selected Villages, Block, Revenue Circle and Police Station

| Sl.No | District | Block | Name of Villages | Revenue Circle | Police Station | |
|-------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Tinsukia | Kakopathar | 2 No Mohong | Bordumsa | Madhab | |
| 2 | | | Sunapur | Doomdooma | Philobari | |
| 3. | | | Hulung Gutibari | Margherita | | |
| 4 | | Sadiya Chapkhowa | a | Tokajan | Sadiya | Chapakhowa Sadiya |
| 5 | | | | Bhabanigarh | | |
| 6 | | | | Burha Burhi | | |
| 7 | | | | Nitai Deori Gaon | | |
| 8 | | | | Rukmini Gaon | | |
| | | | | Upper Tokajan | | |
| 10. | | | | Kopow Pathar | | |

The total population of the 10 villages under the study is 7884, male 3770, female 4114 having 1179 households. Out of the 10 villages 9 villages are exclusively inhabited by Deoris while one village is a mixed one with Deori, Sonowal Kachari, Mech, Boro and Adivasi communities.

Table – 3

Names of villages, with population, households and Ethnic Communities of the villages.

| Sl. No | District | Names of villages | Population | | | Total no of Household | Characteristic of village population |
|--------|----------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Male | Fem | Total | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Tinsukia | 2 No Mohong | 250 | 187 | 437 | 73 | Deori |
| | | Sonapur | 200 | 150 | 350 | 52 | Deori |
| | | Hulung Gutibari | 362 | 348 | 710 | 210 | Deori, Sonowal, Mech, Bodo, Adhibasi |
| | | Tokajan | 55 | 650 | 1200 | 160 | Deori |
| | | Bhabanigarh | 450 | 500 | 950 | 140 | Deori |
| | | Burha- Burhi | 550 | 651 | 1201 | 175 | Deori |
| | | Nitai Deori gaon | 350 | 400 | 750 | 87 | Deori |
| | | Rukmini Gaon | 378 | 382 | 760 | 90 | Deori |
| | | Upper Tokajan | 280 | 346 | 626 | 82 | Deori |
| | | Kopow Pathar | 400 | 500 | 900 | 110 | Deori |
| | | Total | 3770 | 4114 | 7884 | 1179 | 10 villages |

As regards topography of the sample villages, all the villages are located in plains.

Table – 4

Topography of the selected villages

| District | Number of Villages | Topography |
|----------|--------------------|------------|
| | | Plain |
| Tinsukia | 10 | 10 |

Regarding Settlement Pattern of the villages, all the villages are agglomerated.

Table – 5

Settlement Pattern of the Villages under Survey

| District | Number of Villages | Settlement Pattern of the selected villages |
|----------|--------------------|---|
| | | Agglomerated |
| Tinsukia | 10 | 10 |

The area covered by 9 villages is below 1300 hectares while the area of one village is above 1600 hectares.

Table – 6

Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares)

| District | Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares) approximate | | | | | Total No Of Villages |
|----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|----------------------|
| | <1300 | 1300-1400 | 1400-1500 | 1500-1600 | >1600 | |
| Tinsukia | 9 | - | - | - | 1 | 10 |

As regards size of agricultural land in the villages, 5 villages have less than 500 hectares, one village each has 600-700 hectares and above 900 hectares respectively and 3 villages have 700-800 hectares.

Table – 7

Size of Agricultural land in (Hectares) approximate

| District | Size Of Agricultural Land(Hectares) | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| | <500 | 500-600 | 600-700 | 700-800 | 800-900 | >900 |
| Tinsukia | 5 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 3 |

The nearest motorable road for 5 villages lies at a distance less than 10 kms, the distance of 4 villages to the nearest motorable road is 10-14 kms. and the distance off 1 village to the nearest motorable road is 14-18 kms.

The distance of 4 villages to the nearest transport stand is less than 10 kms. and the distance of 5 villages to the nearest transport stand is 10-14 kms. while the nearest transport stand of one village is 14-18 kms.

The nearest transport station is located at a distance of above 18-22 kms. from all the villages.

Table – 8

Transport and Communication facilities

| District | No. Of Villages | Facilities | Distance Of The Vill (In Km) | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | < 10 | 10-14 | 14-18 | 18-22 |
| Tinsukia | 10 | Nearest motorable road | 5 | 4 | 1 | - |
| | | Nearest transport stand | 4 | 5 | 1 | - |
| | | Nearest transport station | - | - | - | 10 |

The condition of the roads is not very satisfactory as 4 villages have *katcha* fair weather roads, one each village has foot tract and *katcha* all weather motorable roads respectively and 4 villages have graveled roads.

Table – 9

Condition of the Roads in the Surveyed Villages

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Foot tract | 1 |
| 2 | <i>Katcha</i> FairWeather Motarable Road | 4 |
| 3 | <i>Katcha</i> All Weather Motarable Road | 1 |
| 4 | Gravelled Road | 4 |

Bicycle is the main mode of conveyance for all the villages. However 3 each villages have motor bike and car respectively and one village uses boat. Auto rickshaws are used by all the villages.

Table – 10

Mode of Common Conveyance used by the Villagers

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Bicycle | 10 |
| 2 | Motor cycle | 3 |
| 3 | Car | 3 |
| 4 | Boat | 1 |
| 5 | Others | 10 (Auto rickshaw) |

Two villages each have PHC at a distance of 2-4kms and 8-10kms respectively and one village each has PHC at a distance of 4-6 kms. and 6-8kms. respectively and 4 villages have the PHC at a distance of 4kms. from the villages .Only one village has the medical sub center within less than 2 kms. and another one village has the same at a distance of 4-6 kms., 2 villages have the medical sub center at a distance of 8-2kms. and 6 villages have the same at a distance of 10 kms. and above.

State dispensaries are not at the easy reach of most villages as 8 villages have the same at a distance of 10 kms. and above and one each village has the same at a distance of 2-4 kms and 8-10 kms from the villages.

One village has private hospital within less than 2 kms from the village and another one village has the same at a distance above 10 kms.

Private medical doctor is located in 2 villages and one village gets the help of private doctor at a distance of 2-4 kms. and 7 villages get the facility at a distance of above 10 kms.

Village health guides are available for villages at a distance of less than 2kms. while one village has the same at a distance of 2-4 kms and another 5 villages get health guide assistance at a distance above 10kms.

Six villages have Trained Birth Attendant within or near the villages while 4 villages get the facility at a distance of above 10kms.

Private pharmacies are located at three villages within a distance of less than 2kms while one village each has this facility at a distance of 4-6 kms. and 8-10 kms. respectively. The distance of 5 villages to the private pharmacy is above 10kms.

Table – 11

Health facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| District | Health Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Tinsukia | PHC | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| | Medical Sub Center | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 6 |
| | State Dispensary | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 8 |
| | Private Hospital | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 8 |
| | Private Medical doctor | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 7 |
| | Village health guide | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 5 |
| | Trained Birth Attendant | 6 | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| | Private pharmacy/medical shop | 3 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 5 |

Regarding mass communication in the villages, 6 villages have Televisions, 8 villages have radios, 6 villages have newspapers, 2 villages each have libraries and Community Centers respectively and 5 villages have telephones.

It appeared Televisions and Telephones have invaded the far flung tribal villages lately otherwise at least mobile phones should have been owned by 100% villages.

Table - 12

Mass Communication facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| SI No | Facilities Available | No Of Villages |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Television | 6 |
| 2 | Radio | 8 |
| 3 | Newspaper | 6 |
| 4 | Library | 2 |
| 5 | Community Centre | 2 |
| 6 | Telephone | 5 |

Only limited number of villages have the civic facilities within the villages and some of the studied villages get the facilities beyond 8-10 and above 10 kms. from the villages. The post office are located for 2 villages within the villages (less than 2 kms) and 2 villages each have post offices at a distance of 2-4 km and 8-10 kms. and 4 villages have post offices at a distance of 10 kms. Most, 7 nos. of the veterinary hospitals are located at a distance of above 10kms and 3 each villages have the post offices at a distance of 2-4kms., 4-6 and 8-10kms. from the villages respectively. Two villages have banks within the villages and one village gets banking facility at a distance of 4-6kms and another 2 villages get the facility at a distance of 8-10kms. For 5 villages banks are located at a distance of above 10kms.

Co-operative Society is established for 1 village within the village. Two villages have the same of a distance of 2-4 kms., 4 village have co-operative society at a distance of 8-10 kms and 3 villages have the same at a distance above 10kms. Cinema halls are located at a distance of above 10kms from all the surveyed villages.

Mahila Samitis are found in 7 villages located within the village.

Nearest youth clubs is found in 3 villages within the villages and 7 villages have the same at a distance of above 10kms.

All the villages have religions institutions within the villages.

Table – 13

Civic facilities in the Villages

| District | Civic and other Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Tinsukia | Post Office | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 4 |
| | Veterinary/Dispensary/Hospital | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 7 |
| | Bank | 2 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 5 |
| | Cooperative Society | 1 | 2 | - | - | 4 | 3 |
| | Cinema Hall | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| | Mahila Samity | 7 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Nearest Children/Youth Club | 3 | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| | Religious Institutions | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |

As regards educational facilities all the 10 villages each have preprimary and lower primary schools. The distance of 5 villages to M.E school is less than 2kms and 2 villages have M.E schools within 2-4 kms. and 3 villages have M.E schools at a distance of 4-8 kms from the villages.

The high schools for 2 villages each are located within less than 2 kms, 2-4kms and 6-8kms while 4 villages have High schools at a distance of 4-6 kms.

The distance of 5 villages to the college is above 10 kms, 2 villages each have college at a distance of 4-6, 6-8kms respectively and one village has the same at a distance of 2-4 kms. Adult Education Centre are not within easy reach.

Table – 14

Educational facilities in the Surveyed Village

| District | No. of villages | Category | Distance of the villages (in km) | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | | <2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Tinsukia | 10 | Pre-primary school | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Lower primary school | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | Middle E School | 5 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - |
| | | High school | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | - |
| | | College | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 5 |
| | | Adult Education Centre | - | - | - | - | - | - |

During 2011-12 there was only one L P school in the studied villages where 5 drop out cases, 2 boys and 3 girls were recorded. The reasons for dropout were cited as financial crisis

in the families. Over the years due to the implementation of the *Sarba Siksha Abhijan*, the overall dropout position in schools has been considerably reduced.

The general health of the people is by and large good. However diseases like Diarrhea, Gastroenteritis, Influenza etc effect the children and aged persons. Besides Malaria is common in the villages during summer season. Cases of Paralysis is also traced in some villages.

There are cases of Leprosy, physical disabilities among children below 14 years in the surveyed villages. Two cases of blindness, one male and one female were recorded and Leprosy affected 2 males and one female. There are 4 cases of children 2 male and 2 female who are physically handicapped besides a deaf and dumb boy was also found.

The Deoris of Sadiya suffer badly from annual flood.

Table – 14-A

No. of drop-outs of students from the institutions during the preceding year in the Surveyed Villages

| Sl. No. | Level | No. Of Schools/college | 2011-2012 | |
|---------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| | | | Boys | Girls |
| (I) | Lower Primary School | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Table – 14-B

Children with different Ailments in the surveyed villages

| Sl.No. | Ailment | No. Of Male | No. Of Female |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Blindness | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Leprosy | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | Physically Challenged | 2 | 2 |
| 4 | Deaf and Dumb (by birth) | 1 | - |

The villages depend upon tube wells and 9 villages have tube and only one village uses well for drinking water.

Table – 15

Sources of Drinking water in the Surveyed Villages

| Sl.No. | Sources Of Drinking Water | Number of villages |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Well | 1 |
| 2 | Tube well | 9 |

All the surveyed villages have been electrified.

Table – 16

Availability Of Electricity

| Sl. No | Provision for electricity | No Of villages Having Electricity (Approx) |
|--------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Electricity | 10 |

Markets are located at a distance of 10kms from the villages. The Chapakhowa market is the only place where the villagers perform their business transactions.

Reservation of women in Panchayat is ensured for Deori women where the Deori womenfolk actively participate in the affairs of the Panchayat.

In order to encourage the women for undertaking cottage industries, Government has provided the women with looms, yarns, sewing machines etc. besides training of Deori girls have been arranged to enhance skill formation.

Data Analysis of House Hold Schedule

District – Tinsukia

In order to collect information about the status of Deori women, a micro level study was made covering 200 households with a total population of 970, male 464(47.8%), female 506(52.7%).

Table-1

Total number of Households with Population

| Total No of households | Total Population | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|--------|------------|-------|------------|
| | Male | Percentage | Female | Percentage | Total | Percentage |
| 200 | 464 | 47.8 | 506 | 52.2 | 970 | 100 |

Regarding age and sex of sample population 242, male 112, female 130 belong to the age grade <6-15 years; 272, male 123, female 149 belong to age grade 15-30 years, 251, male 121 female 130 belong to age grade of 30-45 years, 131, male 73 female 58 belong to 45-60 years, 74, male 35 female 39 belongs to age grade 60-75+ years.

Table – 1-1

Sex of Household Head

| Sex of Household Head | No. of Households |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 185 |
| Female | 15 |
| Total no of Households | 200 |

Table – 1-1-A

Age of Household Head

| Age of Household Head | No. of Households |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| < 30 years | 8 |
| 30-44 years | 69 |
| 45-59 years | 85 |
| 60 years+ | 38 |
| Total | 200 |

All the Deoris of the present study profess Hinduism of course in their own style and form giving Deori names to the Hindu God's and Goddess. Their traditional belief system is also in vogue.

Table -1-1-B

Religion of Household

| Religion | No. of Household |
|----------|------------------|
| Hinduism | 200 |

The Deoris prefer joint and extended type of families. In the present study out of 200 households 131 households are non nuclear type and 63 are nuclear type.

Table-1-2

Table showing Household Population by age and sex

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| <6 | 30 | 37 | 67 |
| 6 to 10 years | 38 | 47 | 85 |
| 10 to 15 years | 44 | 46 | 90 |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 15 to 20 years | 40 | 56 | 96 |
| 20 to 25 years | 31 | 41 | 72 |
| 25 to 30 years | 52 | 52 | 104 |
| 30 to 35 years | 36 | 47 | 83 |
| 35 to 40 years | 54 | 55 | 109 |
| 40 to 45 years | 31 | 28 | 59 |
| 45 to 50 years | 32 | 21 | 53 |
| 50 to 55 years | 17 | 20 | 37 |
| 55 to 60 years | 24 | 17 | 41 |
| 60 to 65 years | 6 | 19 | 25 |
| 65 to 70 years | 13 | 12 | 25 |
| 70 to 75 years | 10 | 7 | 17 |
| 75 > | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Total | 464 | 506 | 970 |

The study on marital status of males shows that 56.3 percent males are married and 43.6 percent are unmarried. In the unmarried status 110 males from less than 6 years to 10-15 years can be treated outside married status as marriage does not take place at this period of unadult hood. Hence actual unmarried males would be 94. There are only 4 males married out of 67 persons in the age grades 15-25 years. Maximum numbers 54 of married persons are found in the age grade 35-40 years followed by 35 males in the age grade 30-35 years. However, there are 8 unmarried males in this grade signifying late marriage among the Deoris.

Table – 1-2A

Marital Status of the household population(Male)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 29 | - | 29 |
| 6 to 10 years | 39 | -- | 39 |
| 10 to 15 years | 42 | - | 42 |
| 15 to 20 years | 37 | 1 | 38 |
| 20 to 25 years | 26 | 3 | 29 |
| 25 to 30 years | 23 | 33 | 56 |
| 30 to 35 years | 8 | 35 | 43 |
| 35 to 40 years | - | 54 | 54 |
| 40 to 45 years | - | 30 | 30 |
| 45 to 50 years | - | 32 | 32 |
| 50 to 55 years | - | 21 | 21 |
| 55 to 60 years | - | 18 | 18 |
| 60 to 65 years | - | 8 | 8 |
| 65 to 70 years | - | 12 | 12 |
| 70 to 75 years | - | 9 | 9 |
| 75 > | - | 4 | 4 |
| Total | 204 | 260 | 464 |

Out of 506 female 48.2 percent are married and 45.4 percent are unmarried. There are 6.3 percent widows. Late marriage appears to be preferred by Deori girls as there are 52 girls remaining unmarried till the age of 15-20 years and only 3 girls are married. Maximum 50 married females are found in the age grade 35-40 years, followed by 46 married females in the age grade 25-30 years. Exact unmarried females members would be 95 if we exclude the 135 females of the age grade from below 6 to 10-15 years. There are 9 female married persons in the age grade 65-70 years and 70-75 years age grade, 6 from the 65-70 years age grade and 3 from the 70-75 years age grade. Number of unmarried females gradually comes down from the age grades 25-30 years to 35-40 years and there are 18 females, 9 in the age grade 25-30 years, 6 in the age grade 30-35 years and 3 in the age grade 35-40 years.

Out of 33 widows majority 26 widows are from the age grade 55-60 years 60-75+ years.

Table – 1-3

Marital Status of the household population (Female)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Widowed | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 37 | - | - | 37 |
| 6 to 10 years | 54 | - | - | 54 |
| 10 to 15 years | 44 | - | - | 44 |
| 15 to 20 years | 52 | 3 | - | 55 |
| 20 to 25 years | 25 | 19 | - | 44 |
| 25 to 30 years | 9 | 46 | - | 50 |
| 30 to 35 years | 6 | 43 | 1 | 50 |
| 35 to 40 years | 3 | 50 | 2 | 55 |
| 40 to 45 years | - | 26 | - | 26 |
| 45 to 50 years | - | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| 50 to 55 years | - | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| 55 to 60 years | - | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 60 to 65 years | - | 12 | 7 | 19 |
| 65 to 70 years | - | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| 70 to 75 years | - | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 75 > | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 230 | 243 | 33 | 506 |

As regards sex and age of the head of the households out of 200 sample households, 185 heads of households are male and 15 are female. Maximum 85 heads of households belong to the age grade 45-59 years, 69 heads of households are in the age group 30-44 years, 38 heads are from 60+ years age grade and 8 heads belong to the age grade less than 30 years.

Regarding land tenure pattern, all the Deori households have their own lands.

Table – 1-4

Table showing Land tenure pattern

| SI No | Land Tenure Pattern | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Own land | Total no of Households |
| 1 | 200 | 200 |

Maximum 101 nos. of households possess lands ranging from 7.5-15 Bighas, 76 households possess less than 7.5 Bighas and 23 households possess above 15 Bighas of land.

Table – 1-5

Ownership of Agriculture land

| SI No | No of Household holding own land (Size of landholding, in Bigha) | | | Total no of Households |
|-------|--|----------|-----|------------------------|
| | <7.5 | 7.5 - 15 | >15 | |
| 1 | 76 | 101 | 23 | 200 |

Out of 200 households under survey 180 households possess 1-3 Bighas of homestead land, while 10 households possess 3-5 Bighas and another 10 households possess below 1 Bighas of land.

Table -1-6

Ownership of Homestead Land

| SI No | Total no of Households | Homestead Land (in Bigha) | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | Below 1 | 1-3 | 3-5 |
| 1 | 200 | 10 | 180 | 10 |

The occupational pattern in primary sector indicates that 164 males are engaged in cultivation and as many as 60 individuals have Government service. Only 1 household is engaged in other occupation. The Deori women are coming forward to accept both Government and non government services in a big way as 12 women are engaged in Government service and 31 in non government service. Educational expansion and growing awareness towards employment avenues particularly under 57 quota have led to this division of occupation among the females. There are 48 male Government. service holders among them.

In the secondary occupation sector, only 5 males are engaged in agriculture while there are 1 male and 1 female in non Government service. Secondary occupation is accepted by 18 persons, 13 by males and 5 by females.

Table – 2
Occupation

| SI No | Occupation | Primary | | | Secondary | | |
|-------|-------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Agriculture | 164 | - | 164 | 5 | - | 5 |
| 2 | Govt. Service | 48 | 12 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 3 | Business | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 4 | Non Government. Service | 2 | 31 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | Animal Husbandry | 25 | 31 | 56 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | Daily Earned | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | Others | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Total | | 244 | 77 | 321 | 13 | 5 | 18 |

The overall educational level of the sample household members may be called satisfactory as there are 87 graduates 49 male and 38 female and 9 post graduates, 7 male and 2 female. Besides there are 239 M.E. school completed persons 128 male and 111 female. There are equal 98 members of boys and girls who completed Higher Secondary courses.

Except in graduate and post graduate level as well as in others, in all other categories beginning from primary to H.E. school examination completed, the males are out numbering the females. Out of 950 males and females 494 are females which indicates an awakening of womenfolk towards education. Besides Govt. welfare schemes have contributed largely towards betterment of educational standard.

Table – 3
Educational level of the Household Members

| SL. No | Educational Qualification | Male | Female | Total |
|--------|---------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 22 | 46 | 68 |
| 2 | < Primary School | 84 | 109 | 193 |
| 3 | Primary School Complete | 64 | 89 | 153 |
| 4 | Middle School Completed | 128 | 111 | 239 |
| 5 | High School Completed | 98 | 98 | 196 |
| 6 | Graduate | 49 | 38 | 87 |
| 7 | Post Graduate | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | Other | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | | 456 | 494 | 950 |

In respect of average household annual income majority 56 households earn Rs. 90,000.00 and above while 29 households earn Rs. 60,000.00-Rs. 70,000.00 Per annum and 27 households earn Rs. 70,000.00- Rs. 80,000.00 Per annum and 30 households earning Rs. 50,000.00 - Rs. 60,000.00 Per annum. The income of 23 households is Rs. 40,000.00-50,000.00. The poorer families 14 and 4 earn Rs. 30,000.00-40,000.00 and 20,000.00-30,000.00 Per annum respectively.

Table - 4

Household income

| Sl No | Average household Income (annual) | Number of Household |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 20,000 – 30,000 | 4 |
| 2 | 30,000 – 40,000 | 14 |
| 3 | 40,000 – 50,000 | 23 |
| 4 | 50,000 – 60,000 | 30 |
| 5 | 60,000 – 70,000 | 29 |
| 6 | 70,000 – 80,000 | 27 |
| 7 | 80,000 – 90,000 | 17 |
| 8 | 90,000 and above | 56 |
| Total | | 200 |

Table -4.1

Household Type

| Household Type | No of Households |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Nuclear Household | 69 |
| Non-Nuclear Household | 131 |

As they prefer non nuclear type of families; number of members in a family may increase to 9 as found in 12 nos. of households under study. However major 167 households have 4-6 members and 21 households have 1-3 members.

Table -4.2

Number of usual Members

| Usual Members | No of Households |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1-3 | 21 |
| 4-6 | 167 |
| 7-9 | 12 |
| Total | 200 |

As regards electricity all the 200 households have electric connection.

Table - 5

Electricity

| Electricity | No of Households |
|-------------|------------------|
| Yes | 200 |

The Deori households possess quite a good number of livestock and poultries. It is found that 174 nos. of households possess cattle, 87 households possess goats and 155 households possess pigs. Regarding poultries 79 households rear fowls, 75 households rear ducks and 65 households rear pigeons. They rear pigs not only for their socio-religious occasions but also for commercial purposes. Goats are essential for their *than* worships.

Table - 6

Particulars of Household livestock and poultry

| | No Of Households |
|-----------|------------------|
| Livestock | 174 |
| Cattle | 87 |
| Goat | 155 |
| Pig | |

Table - 7

Poultry

| | |
|--------|----|
| Fowl | 79 |
| Duck | 75 |
| Pigeon | 65 |

For the drinking water purpose the Deoris depend largely on hand pumps as they are affected by floods. Thus 179 households have hand pumps and only 21 households use wells.

Table - 8

Source of Drinking water

| Source of Drinking water | No. of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Hand-pump | 179 |
| Well | 21 |
| Total no of Households | 200 |

As regards sanitation facility the people no longer use open fields, unlike some other tribes as 147 households have *katcha* latrines. However 53 richer households have sanitary latrines.

Table - 9

Sanitation Facility

| Sanitation Facility | No. of Households |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Kutch</i> a Latrine | 147 |
| Sanitary | 53 |
| Total no of Households | 200 |

In respect of drainage system in the compounds of houses, 186 households have the same while 14 households does not have drainage system.

Table - 10

Drainage system facility in their compound

| Drainage system facility | No. of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 186 |
| No | 14 |
| Total No of Households | 200 |

Most of the Deori houses are platform type (*Chang ghar*) houses. The flood prone areas of the Deoris are suitable for such type of houses. There are 146 households having *Changghars*. Some of the households are building *katcha* Assam Type houses, the number of households having such type is 30. Besides 16 households have *pucca* Assam Type houses, 3 households have thatched houses and 5 households have RCC houses.

Table – 11

Type of Houses

| Type of Houses | Number of Household |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Thatched | 3 |
| <i>Chang Ghar</i> | 146 |
| <i>Kutch</i> a Assam Type | 30 |
| <i>Pucca</i> Assam Type | 16 |
| RCC | 5 |
| Total | 200 |

Modern way of life is entering into the culinary practices of the Deoris as 59 households today use LPG. However majority 141 households still use firewood for cooking purposes.

Table – 12

Types of Fuel used for Cooking

| Fuel used for Cooking | Number of Household |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Wood | 141 |
| LPG | 59 |
| Total no of Household | 200 |

Over and above the traditional assets like plough, loom, bullock cart, the Deoris today possess modern assets. Thus 171 households have ploughs, 193 households have looms and 11 households possess bullock carts which are in use through generations. Presently the households under survey possess televisions by 90 households, mobile phones by 169 households, tractor by 6 households, motor bike by 48 households, radios by 55 households besides bicycles by 180 households.

Table – 13

Number of families owning the following assets

| SI No | Assets Owned | Number of families | SI No | Assets Owned | Number of Households |
|-------|--------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|----------------------|
| i. | Plough | 171 | vi. | Other Vehicles | 10 |
| ii. | Loom | 193 | vii. | Tractor | 6 |
| iii. | Radio | 55 | viii. | Bi-Cycle | 180 |
| iv. | Mobile | 169 | ix. | Motor-Cycle | 48 |
| v. | Television | 90 | x. | Bullock Cart | 11 |

An exclusive study on women was conducted among 200 respondents consisting of 182 married and 8 unmarried and 10 widows to find out their status in the society.

Table – 14

Marital Status of the respondents

| SI No | Marital Status | No of Women |
|-------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Married | 182 |
| 2 | Unmarried | 8 |
| 3 | Widow | 10 |
| Total | | 200 |

The breakup of the 200 women as per age is as follows- 105 women belonged to the age group 30-44 years, 52 belonged to less than 30 years, 35 women belonged to 45-49 years age grade and 8 women belonged to the age grade 60+ years.

Table – 14.1

Age of the respondent

| SI No | Age | No of Women |
|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | < 30 Yrs | 52 |
| 2 | 30 – 44 Yrs | 105 |
| 3 | 45 – 49 Yrs | 35 |
| 4 | 60 Yrs | 8 |
| Total | | 200 |

The educational level of the informants are- Graduate 1 no. ,Class XI-XII-17, class IX-X, 34 nos. class I-IV, 66 nos., class V-VIII 73 nos. and vocational 1 no. besides there are 8 nos. of illiterates in the sample

Table – 14.2

Educational Qualification of the Women

| SL No | Educational Qualification | No of Women |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 8 |
| 2 | Class I-V | 66 |
| 3 | Class V-VIII | 73 |
| 4 | Class IX-X | 34 |
| 5 | Class XI-XII | 17 |
| 6 | Graduate | 1 |
| 7 | Vocational | 1 |
| Total | | 200 |

Regarding immovable properties owned by the informants it is found that 6 women possessed land, 5 women owned houses, 2 women owned both land house. One woman owned other properties.

Table – 14.3

Immovable Property

| SI No | Immovable Properties | No of Women |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Land | 6 |
| 2 | Houses | 5 |
| 3 | Both Land and Houses | 2 |
| 4 | Others | 1 |

As regards movable properties 192 women possessed jewellery, 175 women possessed utensils of her own, 52 women possessed household goods and furniture and 113 women owned livestock and poultries.

Table – 14.4

Movable Property

| Sl. No | Movable Properties | No of Women | Percent |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1 | Jewellery | 192 | 96.00 |
| 2 | Utensils | 175 | 87.50 |
| 3 | Household Goods/ Furniture | 52 | 26.00 |
| 4 | Livestock/ Poultry | 113 | 56.50 |

The Deori women contribute with their mite towards the family income. Thus 106 women contribute less than 5 Percent towards family income, 45 women contribute 5-10 Percent, 25 women contribute 10-25 Percent, 19 women contribute 25-50 Percent, 2 women contribute 50-75 Percent and 3 women contribute more than 75 Percent towards family income. The above contribution is from tangible income only while their overall contribution will be more if their participation in other affairs like cooking, helping aged persons, assisting in agricultural activities etc. are taken into consideration.

Table – 14.5

Percentage of Family Income earned by the women

| Sl No | Percentage of Family Income | No of Women |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Less Than 5% | 106 |
| 2 | Between 5% - 10% | 45 |
| 3 | Between 10% - 25% | 25 |
| 4 | Between 25% - 50% | 19 |
| 5 | Between 50% - 75% | 2 |
| 6 | More then 75% | 3 |
| Total | | 200 |

The Deori women are asserting themselves in various aspects of economic life and they are performing monetary transactions in banks. Thus 40 women are having bank accounts and 61 women saves money in banks. Besides 92 women wants to saves money while 7 women have debts as they borrowed money for meeting various needs.

Table – 14.6

Details on saving and debt

| SL No | Details on saving and debt | No of Women |
|-------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Has debt burden | 7 |
| 2 | Saves money | 61 |
| 3 | Owns a saving account in the respondents name | 40 |
| 4 | Wants to save | 92 |

Out of the 61 women saving money, 31 women save in banks, 9 women save in post offices and 21 women save with the SHG's.

Table – 14.7

Savings

| SI No | Savings Kept in | No. of Women |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Bank | 31 |
| 2 | Post Office | 9 |
| 3 | SHG | 21 |
| Total (Some women do not save money) | | 61 |

Table – 14.8

Membership Of Organization

| SI No | Organization | No. of Women |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Mahila Samity | 106 |
| 2 | Self Help Group (SHG) | 85 |
| 3 | Political Party | 9 |
| Total | | 200 |

In the above organizations, 187 women are serving as members, 8 women are holding responsible post of Presidents and 5 women are holding posts of secretaries.

Table – 14.9

Position in Organization

| SL No | Organization | No. |
|-------|----------------|-----|
| 1 | President | 8 |
| 2 | Secretary | 5 |
| 3 | General Member | 187 |
| Total | | 200 |

Govt. have introduced and implemented plethora of welfare schemes for the benefit of STs and the majority of the Deori women are aware of the same. 163 women are aware of the schemes and 37 women are not aware of the welfare schemes.

Table – 15

The popular scheme MGNREGA of Government is known to 59 respondents while 33 respondents are aware of Sericulture and Textiles scheme and 71 women are aware of the SHG scheme.

| Awareness of Schemes | No. of Women Yes | No. of Women No |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | 163 | 37 |

Table – 15.1

Awareness about Schemes

| SI No | Name of Schemes | Government/ Non Government | No. of Women |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | MGNREGA | Government | 59 |
| 2 | Sericulture and Textile | Government | 33 |
| 3 | SHG Development Scheme | Government | 71 |

Regarding benefits derived from the Govt. welfare schemes only 75 respondents replied in positive and 125 respondents replied in negative.

Table – 15.2

Benefits received from Schemes

| Benefitted from Schemes | No. of Women | No. of Women |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Yes | No |
| | 75 | 125 |

From MGNREGA 14 women got cash benefit . Twenty four 24 women got benefits in kind. One woman received both cash and kind from Sericulture and Textile Scheme. The SHG development scheme benefitted 7 women in cash, 16 women is kinds and 13 women in both cash and kinds.

Table – 15.3

Name of Schemes

| SI No | Name of Schemes | No of Women | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| | | Only Cash | Only Kinds | Both Cash and Kinds |
| 1 | MGNREGA | 14 | - | - |
| 2 | Sericulture and Textile | - | 24 | 1 |
| 3 | SHG Development Scheme | 7 | 16 | 13 |

Data Analysis of Village Schedule

District Dhemaji

Altogether 14 sample village with 280 households from 3 Development Blocks namely Bordoloni, Jonai MurkongSelek and Sissi Bargaon under Dhemaji and Jonai Sub Division of Dhemaji district have been selected for the study - "Status of Women in Tribal Society"

Table 1

Sample size of village and households

| SI.No | District | Subdivision | Block | Number of Villages | Total number of households. |
|-------|----------|------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Dhemaji | 1. Dhemaji 2. Jonai | 1. Bordoloni 2. Jonai Murkong Seleak 3. Sissi Bargaon | 14 | 280 |

Under Bordoloni Development Block, 8 villages of Gogamukh Revenue circle under the jurisdiction of Gogamukh Police Station have been selected as sample villages. Three villages under Jonai MurkongSelek Development Block of Jonai Revenue Circle under the jurisdiction of Jonai Police Station and another 3 villages under Sissi Bargaon Development Block of Sissi Bargaon Revenue Circle under the jurisdiction of Silapathar Police Station have been selected for the present study.

Table -2

Names of selected villages, Block, Revenue Circle and Police Station

| SI No | District | Block | Name of Villages | Revenue Circle | Police Station |
|-------|----------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Dhemaji | Bordoloni | Bamchinia Deori Gaon | Gogamukh | Gogamukh |
| 2 | | | Tigerguri | | |
| 3 | | | Maj Deori Gaon | | |
| 4 | | | Bordam Deori Gaon | | |
| 5 | | | Majarbari | | |
| 6 | | | Chenaiaghat | | |
| 7 | | | Uttarmajgaon | | |
| 8 | | | Uppermajdeori | | |
| 9 | | | Bijoypur Deori Gaon | Jonai | Jonai |
| 10 | | | 2 No Rangkap | | |
| 11 | | | Luhjan Deori Gaon | | |
| 12 | | | Roimapur | Sissi Bargaon | Silapathar |
| 13 | | | Udaypur | | |
| 14 | | | Sripani Deori Gaon | | |

The total population of the 14 surveyed villages is 5708, male 3196, female 2512. The total household of the 14 villages is 850. As regards ethnic composition, 11 villages are solely inhabited by Deoris while 3 villages have mixed groups. The Bordam Deori has Bodo, Deori and Nepali, Roimapur village has Deori, Ahom and Nepali and Cheniaghat has Deori and Ahom. The percentage of male is 55.9 against female percentage of 44.1

Table -3

Names of Villages, with Population, Households and Ethnic Communities of the villages

| Sl. No | District | Names of villages | Population | | | Total no. of Household | Characteristic of village population |
|--------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------|-------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Male | Fem. | Total | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Dhemaji | Bamchinia | 620 | 430 | 1050 | 153 | Deori |
| | | Tigerguri | 276 | 245 | 521 | 70 | Deori |
| | | Maj Deori Gaon | 189 | 111 | 300 | 40 | Deori |
| | | Bordam Deori Gaon | 198 | 202 | 400 | 120 | Deori |
| | | | 31 | 28 | 59 | 10 | Bodo |
| | | | 7 | 10 | 17 | 4 | Nepali |
| | | Bijoypur Deori | 74 | 61 | 135 | 24 | Deori |
| | | 2 No Rangkap | 87 | 65 | 152 | 27 | Deori |
| | | Luhijan Deori | 75 | 81 | 156 | 25 | Deori |
| | | Roimapur | 170 | 130 | 300 | 65 | Deori |
| | | | 40 | 43 | 83 | - | Ahom |
| | | | 10 | 8 | 18 | - | Nepali |
| | | Udaypur | 168 | 132 | 300 | 70 | Deori |
| | | Sripani Deori | 234 | 186 | 420 | 76 | Deori |
| | Majarbari | 191 | 129 | 320 | 41 | Deori | |
| | Cheniaghat | 249 | 165 | 414 | 45 | Deori | |
| | | 20 | 16 | 36 | 5 | Ahom | |
| | Uttarmajgaon | 100 | 120 | 220 | 22 | Deori | |
| | Uppermajgaon | 457 | 350 | 807 | 53 | Deori | |
| | Total | 3196 | 2512 | 5708 | 850 | | |

As regards topography of the villages, all surveyed villages are in plains.

Table-4

Topography of the selected villages

| District | Number of Villages | Topography |
|----------|--------------------|------------|
| | | Plain |
| Dhemaji | 14 | 14 |

The settlement pattern of 10 villages is agglomerated and while 4 villages have dispersed pattern.

Table-5

Settlement Pattern of the Villages under Survey

| District | Number of Villages | Settlement Pattern of the selected villages | |
|----------|--------------------|---|-----------|
| | | Agglomerated | Dispersed |
| Dhemaji | 14 | 10 | 4 |

Regarding area of the surveyed villages, 11 villages have less than 1300 hectares and 3 villages have 1300-1400 hectares.

Table 6

Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares)

| District | Area of Sample Villages (in Hectares) approximate | | | | Total No Of Villages | |
|----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-------|
| | <1300 | 1300-1400 | 1400-1500 | 1500-1600 | | >1600 |
| Dhemaji | 11 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 14 |

Most of the villages, 9 have less than 500 hectares of agricultural land while 1 village has 500-600 hectares of agricultural land and 2 villages each have 800-900 hectares and above 900 hectares of agricultural land respectively.

Table 7

Size of Agricultural land in (Hectares) approximate

| District | Size Of Agricultural Land(Hectares) | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| | <500 | 500-600 | 600-700 | 700-800 | 800-900 | >900 |
| Dhemaji | 9 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 |

The nearest motor stand for 14 villages is at a distance of less than 10 kms and the nearest transport stand lies at a distance of less than 10 kms for the 14 villages. However only 7 villages have the transport station at a distance of less than 10kms and 4 villages have the same at a distance of 14-18 kms, 1 village has the transport station at a distance of 10-14 kms and rest 2 villages get the facilities at a distance of 18-22 kms.

Table 8

Transport and Communication facilities

| District | No. Of Villages | Facilities | Distance Of The Villages (In Km) | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | < 10 | 10-14 | 14-18 | 18-22 |
| Dhemaji | 14 | Nearest motorable road | 14 | - | - | - |
| | | Nearest transport stand | 14 | - | - | - |
| | | Nearest transport station | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 |

As regards condition of the roads most of the roads are katcha fair weather, *katcha* all weather motorable roads and foot tracts. 3 villages have only foot tracts, 2 villages have *katcha* fair weather roads, 6 villages have *katcha* all weather roads, 2 villages have graveled roads and only one village gets the benefit of *pucca* road.

Table 9

Condition of the Roads in the Surveyed Villages

| Sl No | Category | No. Of Villages |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Foot tract | 3 |
| 2 | <i>Katcha</i> Fair Weather Motor able Road | 2 |
| 3 | <i>Katcha</i> All Weather Motor able Road | 6 |
| 4 | Graveled Road | 2 |
| 5 | Pitch | 1 |

The mode of common conveyance for all the villages is bicycle and motor cycle, 8 villages use cars, 2 villages use boats and 6 villages use other vehicles as per convenience and economic support. The overall communication of the villages is very poor. The roads are submerged by annual flood and the villages use improvised bridges with 2/3 bamboos and the villages are completely cut off from outside during flood season. Besides the villagers become lucky if the embankments are not breached otherwise they become victims of poverty due to loss of crops and even houses.

Table 10

Mode of Common Conveyance used by the Villagers

| SI No | Category | No Of Villages |
|-------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | Bicycle | 14 |
| 2 | Motor cycle | 14 |
| 3 | Car | 8 |
| 4 | Boat | 2 |
| 5 | Others | 6 |

Health facilities like PHCs are located at a distance of 2-4kms for 1 village, 4-6 kms for 3 village, 6-8 kms for 5 villages and 10 kms for 5 villages while Medical Sub Centres are located is less than 2 kms for 7 villages, 2-4 kms for 5 villages and 4-6 kms and 6-8 kms for one each villages respectively.

State dispensary is located at a distance of 6-8kms and 8-10 kms for 2 villages each respectively while the distance of 10 villages to the State Dispensary is above 10 km. Exactly the same position in respect of private hospital.

Private medical doctors are available for 3 villages within less than 2 kms and 2 villages have the same facility at a distance of 4-6 kms, 3 villages get the facility at a distance of 6-8 kms and 6 villages get the facility at a distance of above 10 km. Only 4 villages get assistance from Village Health Guide posted in or near the villages. One village has the Trained Birth Attendant in less than 2 kms distance and another one village gets the same at a distance of 4-6 km and 2 villages get the assistance of Trained Birth Attendant at a distance of 6-8 kms.

Private pharmacy/medical shops are located within less than 2 kms for 4 villages and 6 villages get the same at a distance of 2-4 kms and 2 each village get the same facility at a distance of 4-6 kms and 6-8 kms respectively.

Table-11

Health facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| District | Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Dhemaji | PHC | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| | Medical Sub Center | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | State Dispensary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| | Private Hospital | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 |
| | Private Medical doctor | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| | Village health guide | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Trained Birth Attendant | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Private pharmacy/medical shop | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Regarding mass communication facility, 12 villages have televisions, 10 villages have radios, 9 villages have news papers, 11 villages have Community centres and 10 villages possess telephones. Only one village has a library.

The availability of the above mass communication facility is very often nonexistent during flood season.

Table 12

Mass Communication facilities in the Surveyed Villages

| Sl No | Facilities Available | No Of Villages |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Television | 12 |
| 2 | Radio | 10 |
| 3 | Newspaper | 9 |
| 4 | Library | 1 |
| 5 | Community Centre | 11 |
| 6 | Telephone | 10 |

In respect of civic facilities, 3 villages get the facility of post office at a distance of 2-4 kms while 9 villages get the same in less than 2 kms while 9 villages get the same in less than 2 kms from

the villages. One each village gets the postal facilities at a distance of 6-8 kms and 8-10 kms from the villages.

Veterinary dispensary/hospital facility is located for one village within less than 2kms while 2 villages get the facility at a distance of 2-4 kms, 6 villages get the facility at a distance of 6-8 kms and one village has the facility at a distance of above 10kms.

Regarding banking facility one village each has the facility within less than 2 kms, 2-4 kms and 8-10 kms respectively while 4 each villages have the facility at a distance of 4-6, 6-8 kms respectively.

There are co-operative societies within less than 2 kms for 2 villages while 4 villages have such facility at a distance of 2-4 kms, 2 villages get the facility at a distance of 4-6 kms and 3 villages each get the facility at a distance of 6-8 kms and above 10 kms respectively. Cinema halls are located at a distance of above 10 kms for all the villages. Only 2 villages have Mahila Samitiss within less than 2 kms. Same is the case for Youth Club. All the studied villages have religious institutions

Table 13
Civic facilities in the Villages

| District | Civic and other Facilities | Distance of the villages (in km.) | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | >2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Dhemaji | Civic and other Facilities | 9 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Post Office | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| | Veterinary/Dispensary/Hospital | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| | Bank | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| | Cooperative Society | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| | Cinema Hall | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Mahila Samity | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Nearest Children/Youth Club | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Religious Institutions | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The education facilities in respect of the pre primary and lower primary schools are available for all the 11 villages within the villages or in less than 2 kms from the villages while 12 villages have ME schools within less than 2 kms and 2 villages have ME schools within 2-4 kms from the villages.

High schools are located within less than 2 kms for 9 villages and 5 villages have high schools at a distance of 2-4 kms from the villages.

The distance of 3 villages to the colleges is less than 2 kms, for 5 villages the distance to the college is 2-4 kms and 2 villages each have the colleges at a distance of 6-8 kms, 8-10 km and above 10 kms respectively.

Overall the education facilities appear to be satisfactory.

Table 14

Educational facilities in the Surveyed Village

| District | No. of villages | Category | Distance of the villages (in km) | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| | | | <2 | 2-4 | 4-6 | 6-8 | 8-10 | >10 |
| Dhemaji | 14 | Pre-primary school | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Lower primary school | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Middle E School | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | High school | 9 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | College | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | | Adult Education Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

During the preceding year i.e. 2011-12, 10 nos. of lower primary school had no dropout cases while in ME school there were 2 boys and 1 girl dropout. In HE school there were 2 boy dropouts and 1 girl dropout and in college there was one girl dropout.

It may be mentioned that no scheme has been implemented to check the dropouts. The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Assam has been implemented for Class 1 to V. It is found that the midday meal scheme is implemented irregularly. The Children are provided with Rice, Semolina, Biscuits and rice cooked in milk etc.

Table 14 A

No. of drop-outs of students from the institutions during the preceding year in the Surveyed Village

| Sl. No. | Level | No. Schools/college | Of 2011-2012 | |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------|
| | | | Boys | Girls |
| (i) | Lower Primary School | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| (ii) | Middle School | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| (iii) | High School | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| (iv) | College | 9 | 0 | 1 |

As regards health of the common villagers it has been noticed that the villagers suffer from common diseases like Malaria, Diarrhea, Typhoid, Scabies and Gastroenteritis and other water borne diseases.

During last one year 2011-12, due to recurrent flood many villagers lost houses, agricultural products, animals and other valuable properties.

There were two Polio cases one male and one female in the villages who were physically handicapped due to Polio.

Table 14-B

Children suffering from different ailments

| Sl.No. | Ailment | No. Of Male | No. Of Female |
|--------|---|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Physically challenged as a result of polio deficiency | 1 | 1 |

For their drinking water 10 villages depend upon wells and 4 villages depend upon tube wells. Some of the villagers use water from *katcha* wells causing health hazards.

Table 15

Sources of Drinking water in the Surveyed Villages

| Sl.No. | Sources Of Drinking Water | Number of villages |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | Well | 10 |
| 3 | Tube well | 14 |

There are only 8(57.1%) households in the villages having electric connection.

Table 16

Availability Of Electricity

| No. Of villages Having Electricity (Approx) |
|---|
| 8 (57.1%) |

The villagers go to Gogamukh, a semi town marketing centre for their business transactions. Some people go to Dhemaji to make purchases of essentials. The Friday weekly bazaar and the daily market at Corpatani Tiniali are the marketing places of the villagers. These centres are mainly used by Bamchimiya, Tigerguri villages, Jonkareng and Jonai town are the main market places of Bijoypur, 2 no Rongkap and Kahijan villages. Generally most of the people prefer Jonai town to make their business transactions. The Roimapur, Udaipur and Sripani villages under Sissi Bargaon go to Dhemaji for their business transactions. The weekly market at Phukia provide easy business centre for the villagers where the villagers sell cottage industry products and purchase goods like vegetables,

grocery articles, meat, fish, clothes etc. Besides the daily markets at Sripani and at Sissi Borgaon are also providing convenient business centres for the villagers.

The villagers sell their products like paddy, bamboo made implements of day to day use, cows, ducks, goats, pigs, fish, etc and buy clothes, grocery articles, vegetables, school students requirements, medicines and other items of day to day use.

The main occupation of the villages is cultivation. They also rear cattle, pigs, poultries both for local consumption and for market. Winter vegetables like potatoes, cabbage, brinjals, pumpkins etc are grown. Mustard seeds are widely grown.

In respect of implementation of the rural development programmes, the MGNREGA scheme is implemented by the Development Blocks providing jobs to 511 male and 353 female villagers.

The Handloom Development Programme was implemented by the Handloom Society providing raw materials and weaving implements to 10 female beneficiaries.

The piggery farming scheme was implemented by Development Block and DAC, providing pigs to 30 beneficiaries.

Table 17
Rural Development Programmes

| Sl. No. | Name of Programme | Programme carried by which agency | No. of Beneficiaries | | Kind of benefits received |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Male | Female | |
| 1 | MGNREGA | Development Block | 511 | 353 | Job Cards |
| 2 | Handloom | Handloom Society | 0 | 10 | Raw material and weaving implements |
| 3 | Piggery | Block DAC | | 30 | Animals |

Women and SHGs

There are quite a good number of SHGs in the studied villages. The Bamchinia Deori Gaon, Ebasi, Rupjyoti, Janakalyan and Hewali Female SHGs are producing weaving objects, producing crops and providing loans @ 5 percent interest to the members.

The Majgaon Kundimama SHGs are giving loans at 5 percent interest and the Digiji SHGs arrange leasing of land, produce crops and give loans to the members @ 5 percent interest.

The Barbam Deori Gaon – Hirusima Male SHGs groups are doing pig farming and social work. The Ebasi female SHG are producing clothes in the looms and growing vegetables. The group is also giving loan at 5 percent interest.

In the Bijoypur Deori Gaon- Dagasi Female SHG group are producing cotton while Eagaisi Female SHG is providing loans to members @ 5 percent interest.

The Bijoypur Deori Jimasia SHG are doing social work among the co-villagers.

In No.2 Rangkap village Ebasi SHG group are weaving clothes, producing crops and providing Loans to the members @ 5 percent interest.

The Jimasia Female SHG of Luhijan Deori village is producing clothes in looms, growing vegetables and providing loans to members @ 5 percent interest while the Swarna Jayanti Deori Female SHG is rearing goat and pig farms commercially.

The Ebasi, Binapani and Jalasta Female SHG of Roimapur is starting very recently and the group has chalked out plans and programmes.

There are two SHGs in Udaipur Deori village namely Junaki Female SHG and Janakalyan Female SHG. The groups are giving loans to members at 5 percent interest.

The Rimjini Female SHG is starting recently and it is busy in organizing affairs.

The Malini, Ebasi, Nikha and Kundimama SHG are doing welfare work. It is also preparing clothes in the looms, producing crops and providing loans to the members at 5 percent interest.

The womenfolk of the villages under survey have been able to improve the economic condition by involving themselves in SHG activities. The SHGs have instilled on them a zeal for work outside the purview of the day today chores at homes. Today Tribal women are no longer shy to approach Bank officials or officers of Block Development Office to get things done. A general awakening among the womenfolk is noticed.

Analysis of Household Schedule

District Dhemaji

Altogether 280 households with a population of 1548 male 830 (53.63%) female 718 (46.36%) have been taken for a micro level study of the women status among the Deoris.

Table -1

Total number of Households with Population

| Total No of households | Total Population | | | | Total | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|--------|------------|-------|------------|
| | Male | Percentage | Female | Percentage | | |
| 280 | 830 | 56.63 | 718 | 46.36 | 1548 | 100 |

As regards sex of the studied households heads it is seen that males highly pre dominate with 249 (88.9%) against 31 female heads.

Table-1-1

Sex of Household Head

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Male | 249 |
| Female | 31 |
| Total no of Households | 280 |

Regarding age of head of households 109 heads are in the age grade 45-59 years which is followed by 73 heads having 60 years and 72 head of households in the age grade 30-44 years. There are 26 heads of households in the age grade below 30 years.

Table -1-1A

Age of Household Head

| Age of Household Head | No of Households |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| < 30 years | 26 |
| 30-44 years | 72 |
| 45-59 years | 109 |
| 60 years+ | 73 |

Hinduism is the religion of all the studied house hold heads. They are the followers of 'Sakta' section of Hinduism and believe in worshipping of Gods, Goddess and spirits.

Table 1-1B

Religion of Household

| Religion | No. of Household |
|----------|------------------|
| Hinduism | 280 |

Deoris in recent past had preferred joint and extended family type of households. Of late due to various socio- economic factors they are switching over to nuclear type and in the present study it is reflected in the existence of 152 nuclear families against 128 non nuclear families.

Out of 1548 total population majority 227 male 122, female 105 belong to the age group 25-30 years which is followed by 212, male 113, female 99 in the age group 20-25 years and 209, male 114, female 95 in the age group of 15-20 years. There are 121 population male 63, female 58 in the age group 30-35 years and 113, male 53, female 60 in the age group 35-40

years. These populations of 882 (56.9%) in the age grades from 15-20 years to 35-40 years contain the highest number of female population 417 (58%). There are 290 persons in the first three age categories from 1-5 year, 5-10 years and 10-15 years while in the last three age grades 60-65 years, 65-70 years and 70-75 years there are 87 persons .

Table 1-2

Household population by age and sex

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| <6 | 34 | 22 | 56 |
| 6 to 10 years | 63 | 57 | 120 |
| 10 to 15 years | 65 | 49 | 114 |
| 15 to 20 years | 114 | 95 | 209 |
| 20 to 25 years | 113 | 99 | 212 |
| 25 to 30 years | 122 | 105 | 227 |
| 30 to 35 years | 63 | 58 | 121 |
| 35 to 40 years | 53 | 60 | 113 |
| 40 to 45 years | 56 | 35 | 91 |
| 45 to 50 years | 30 | 41 | 71 |
| 50 to 55 years | 36 | 24 | 60 |
| 55 to 60 years | 36 | 31 | 67 |
| 60 to 65 years | 18 | 23 | 41 |
| 65 to 70 years | 18 | 16 | 34 |
| 70 to 75 years | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Total | 830 | 718 | 1548 |

Regarding marital status of males it is seen that 51.8 males are married while 48.1% males remain unmarried and 0.7% are widowers. The percentage of unmarried will be less if we consider the males in the age group 0-6 years, 6-10 years and 10-15 years, where there is no married persons or these are not the age grades for marriage. Most of the married males belonging to age grade 15-20 years and 20-25 years.

Table 1-2A

Marital Status of the Household Population (Male)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Widowed | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 28 | - | - | 28 |
| 6 to 10 years | 56 | - | - | 56 |
| 10 to 15 years | 69 | - | - | 69 |
| 15 to 20 years | 104 | 12 | - | 116 |
| 20 to 25 years | 74 | 39 | - | 113 |
| 25 to 30 years | 46 | 72 | - | 118 |
| 30 to 35 years | 6 | 56 | - | 62 |
| 35 to 40 years | 9 | 63 | - | 72 |
| 40 to 45 years | - | 42 | - | 42 |
| 45 to 50 years | 2 | 41 | - | 43 |
| 50 to 55 years | - | 31 | - | 31 |
| 55 to 60 years | - | 35 | 1 | 36 |
| 60 to 65 years | - | 16 | - | 16 |
| 65 to 70 years | - | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| 70 to 75 years | - | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Total | 394 | 430 | 6 | 830 |

The data on female marital status show that 58.43% female and 6.41% are widows. There are no married persons 06 to 15 years as the Deoris generally prefer to enter conjugal relation after the age of 15. Hence most of the marriages take place in between the age grades 15-20 years to 35-40 years. There are no unmarried females from 50-55 years to 65-70 years. There are 16 widows in the age categories 25-30 years to 45-50 years.

Table 1-3

Marital Status of the Household Population (Female)

| Age | Unmarried | Married | Widowed | Total |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------|
| <6 | 29 | - | - | 29 |
| 6 to 10 years | 54 | - | - | 54 |
| 10 to 15 years | 55 | - | - | 55 |
| 15 to 20 years | 65 | 30 | - | 95 |
| 20 to 25 years | 40 | 60 | - | 100 |
| 25 to 30 years | 19 | 73 | 4 | 96 |
| 30 to 35 years | 6 | 50 | 2 | 58 |
| 35 to 40 years | 4 | 54 | 3 | 61 |
| 40 to 45 years | 1 | 30 | 4 | 35 |
| 45 to 50 years | 1 | 35 | 3 | 39 |
| 50 to 55 years | - | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| 55 to 60 years | - | 25 | 6 | 31 |
| 60 to 65 years | - | 11 | 8 | 19 |
| 65 to 70 years | - | 11 | 14 | 25 |
| Total | 274 | 398 | 46 | 718 |

As regards occupational pattern of the members of the households, majority members 471, 55.41% male 274, female 197 are engaged in agriculture which is the primary occupation while 134 members, 127 male, 7 female have agriculture as secondary occupation. There are quite a good number of Government employees as primary occupation among the members of the households. Out of a total of 123 Government employees there are 83 male employees and 40 female employees. In business only 37 members, male 34 and female 3 are engaged. The number of females in business is much less as the women folk prefer other jobs and activities to business. Only 12 members, 8 male and 4 females are engaged in business as secondary occupation. Non Government service is selected by 59 members, male 50, female 9 as primary occupation and only 4 males are taking non Government service as secondary occupation.

In the animal husbandry sector 43 members, 8 male and 35 female, are engaged and they are accepting it as primary occupation while only 9, male 1, female 8 members are taking animal husbandry as secondary occupation. In this sector there is preponderance of female members both in primary and secondary occupation. Traditionally animal husbandry is the prime concern of the Deori women.

As many as 100 male and 3 female members are accepting Daily wage earning as primary occupation while the same occupation is accepted by 72 members, 66 male, 6 female as secondary occupation.

It may be mentioned that till 2/3 decades back wage earning was not considered by the Deori as prestigious occupation and egalitarian Deori society maintained fellow feeling and good neighborliness among the needy. Today the ego is vanished due to urbanization, acculturation and globalization.

It is observed that the Deori women are coming out to accept other occupations, other than agricultural and home keeping activities. Thus in primary occupation of Government service the female percentage is 32.5 while in secondary occupation of Government service the female percentage is nil.

Table -2
Occupation

| SI No | Occupation | Primary | | | Secondary | | |
|-------|------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Agriculture | 274 | 197 | 471 | 127 | 7 | 134 |
| 2 | Government Service | 83 | 40 | 123 | - | - | - |
| 3 | Business | 34 | 3 | 37 | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| 4 | Non Government Service | 50 | 9 | 59 | 4 | | 4 |
| 5 | Animal Husbandry | 8 | 35 | 43 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | Daily Earned | 100 | 3 | 103 | 66 | 6 | 72 |
| Total | | 549 | 287 | 836 | 206 | 25 | 231 |

The education level of the members of households provided a big surprise when amidst 121 Higher Secondary Complete and 16 t graduates in the households there are 273 illiterates, male 113 female 160. Besides there are 563 male 345 female 218 in the class XI-XII standard. The educational environment appeared to be quite satisfactory in the upper level. Although the number of persons in class I-V is 192, male 97 female 95, and number of persons in class VI-VII is 152, male 71, female 81, there is a sudden rise in the number 205, male 102, female 103 in class IX and class X and 563, in class XI-XII. It appeared much drop out took place in class I-V and class VI-VII standard. Number of female is more, 160 against illiterate males of 113. There are 44 female Higher Secondary Complete against 77 male Higher Secondary Complete and 3 female Graduates against 13 Graduates. In the other category however there are 14 females against 12 males.

The percentage of female is 46.3% against male of 53.7% in respect of educational level.

Table -3

Educational level of the Household Members

| SL. No | Educational Qualification | Male | Female | Total |
|--------|---------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 113 | 160 | 273 |
| 2 | < Primary School | 97 | 95 | 192 |
| 3 | Primary School Complete | 71 | 81 | 152 |
| 4 | Middle School Completed | 102 | 103 | 205 |
| 5 | High School Completed | 345 | 218 | 563 |
| 6 | Higher secondary complete | 77 | 44 | 121 |
| 7 | Graduate | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| 8 | Other | 12 | 14 | 26 |
| Total | | 830 | 718 | 1548 |

As regards annual income majority 4 house holds earn Rs 35,000/- to Rs 65,000/- while 73 households earn Rs 90,000/- and above per annum. The annual income of 44 households is Rs 65,000/- to Rs 90,000/-. These households may be included in middle income group. There are poorer households among the Deoris and 60 nos. of such households earn Rs 15,000/- to Rs 35,000/- while 19 very poor households earn less than Rs 15,000/- per annum.

Table -4

Household Income

| SI No | Average household Income (annual) | Number of Household |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 10000 - 15000 | 19 |
| 2 | 15001 - 35000 | 60 |
| 3 | 35001 - 65000 | 84 |
| 4 | 65001 - 90000 | 44 |
| 5 | 90001 - above | 73 |
| Total | | 280 |

Table -4.1

Household Type

| Household Type | No of Household |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Nuclear Household | 152 |
| Non Nuclear Household | 128 |

There are 178 households having 4-6 members each while 31 households have 1-3 members and 63 households have 7-8 members. 8 extended families have 10-12 members.

Table -4.2

Number of usual members

| Usual members | No of Household |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 - 3 | 31 |
| 4 - 6 | 178 |
| 7 - 9 | 63 |
| 10 - 12 | 8 |
| Total | 280 |

Not all the villages are electrified although the Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is being implemented in Assam. Only 76.7% households are electrified and 23.3% households remain to be electrified.

Table 5

Electricity

| Electricity | No of Households |
|-------------|------------------|
| Yes | 215 |
| No | 65 |

The Deoris rear pigs, fowls, cattle, duck, goats, pigeons for household consumption as well as for market. Pigs are largely reared as the same are required in the socio-religious festival feasts. There are 260 households who rear fowls, 122 households ducks, 88 households rear goats and 12 households rear pigeons.

Table -6

Particulars of Household livestock and poultry

| Livestock | No Of Households |
|-----------|------------------|
| Cattle | 243 |
| Goat | 88 |
| Pig | 260 |

Table 7

Poultry

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Fowl | 235 |
| Duck | 122 |
| Pigeon | 12 |

For drinking water supply the households depend mostly on hand pipes and 205 households have the same while 74 households use wells and one household uses pond.

Table -8

Source of Drinking water

| Source of Drinking water | No. of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Hand-pump | 205 |
| Well | 74 |
| Pond | 1 |
| Total No. of Households | 280 |

As regards sanitary facility 217 households use *katcha* latrines and 34 households use open field. Only 29 households possess sanitary latrines.

Table -9

Sanitation Facility

| Sanitation Facility | No. of Households |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Open Field | 34 |
| <i>Kutch</i> a Latrine | 217 |
| Sanitary | 29 |
| Total No. of Households | 280 |

As many as 207 households have no drainage while 73 households have drainage.

Table -10
Drainage system facility in their compound

| Drainage system facility | No. of Households |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 73 |
| No | 207 |
| Total No. of Households | 280 |

Traditionally the Deoris build *Chang Ghar* (platform type home) about 5 feet above the ground. In the present study 261 (93.2%) house holds have *Chang ghar*, 13 (4.6%) house holds have *Katcha Assam Type house*. 4 (1.5%) house holds have *pucca Assam Type House* and 2(16%) house holds possess RCC house.

Table -11
Type of Houses

| Type of Houses | Number of Household |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Chang Ghar</i> | 261 |
| <i>Kutchra Assam Type</i> | 13 |
| <i>Pucca Assam Type</i> | 4 |
| R.C.C. | 2 |
| Total No of Household | 280 |

The major numbers of households 188 (67.3%) use fire wood as fuel for cooking while 90 (32.1%) house holds use both wood and LPG for cooking purposes. Only 2 (0.6%) households use kerosene for cooking.

Table - 12
Fuel used for cooking

| Type of Fuel used | Number of Household |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Wood | 153 |
| Kerosene | 2 |
| LPG | 45 |
| Total No. of Households | 280 |

Besides the traditional assets like plough, loom, bullock cart, the Deoris of the studied households possess modern assets like Television, radio, motor cycles, tractor etc. Thus 253 households possess bullock carts while 109 households possess radio, 7 households possess

vehicles, 13 households possess tractors, 1 household possess Rice mill and as many as 252 households possess bicycles.

Table -13

Number of families owning the following assets

| Sl. No. | Assets Owned | Number of families | Sl.No. | Assets Owned | Number of Households |
|---------|----------------|--------------------|--------|--------------|----------------------|
| | | | vii. | Telephone | 1 |
| i. | Plough | 253 | viii. | Tractor | 13 |
| ii. | Loom | 269 | ix. | Bi-Cycle | 253 |
| iii. | Radio | 115 | x. | Motor-Cycle | 60 |
| iv. | Mobile | 251 | xi. | Bullock Cart | 13 |
| v. | Television | 109 | xii. | Others | 1 Rice Mill |
| vi. | Other Vehicles | 7 | | | |

Information was collected from 280 women respondents regarding marital status, age, educational qualification etc. and it is found that 255 are married, and only 6 women are unmarried. There are 19 widows among the respondents.

Table 14

Marital Status of the Respondents

| Sl.No | Marital Status | No. of Women |
|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Married | 255 |
| 2 | Unmarried | 6 |
| 3 | Widow | 19 |
| Total | | 280 |

As regards age of the respondent women 102 women belong to the age grade 30-44 years, 69 women belonged to the age 60+ years, 66 women belonged to the age of below 30 years and 43 belonged to the age grade of 45-49 years.

Table 14.1

Age of the respondent

| SI No | Age | No. of Women |
|-------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | < 30 Yrs | 66 |
| 2 | 30 – 44 Yrs | 102 |
| 3 | 45 – 49 Yrs | 43 |
| 4 | 60 Yrs | 69 |
| Total | | 280 |

There are 98 women respondents who are illiterate. 81 women are of class XI-XII standard, 43 women are of class IX-X, 29 women are of class V-VII standard and 20 women belong to the Class I- IV standard. Besides there are 9 graduates among the respondents.

Table- 14.2

Educational Qualification of the Women

| SL No | Educational Qualification | No. of Women |
|-------|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 98 |
| 2 | Class I-V | 20 |
| 3 | Class V-VIII | 29 |
| 4 | Class IX-X | 43 |
| 5 | Class XI-XII | 81 |
| 6 | Graduate | 9 |
| Total | | 280 |

The women of the Deori tribe do not inherit property as the Deoris are patrilineal. However in specific cases women may inherit late husband's property. In the instant study therefore only 10 women owned land and house as immovable property. Another 2 women owned other immovable properties.

Table -14.3

Immovable Property

| SI No | Immovable Properties | No of Women |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Both Land and Houses | 10 |
| 2 | Others | 2 |

As regards moveable property 180 women owned jewellery and 124 women owned utensils. Besides 43 women owned households goods, furniture and 44 women owned livestock and poultry. There were 50 women who owned cash.

Table-14.4

Movable Property

| Sl. No | Movable Properties | No of Women |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Jewellery | 180 |
| 2 | Utensils | 124 |
| 3 | Household Goods/ Furniture | 43 |
| 4 | Livestock/ Poultry | 44 |
| 5 | Money | 50 |

The women folk earn money by selling clothes, poultries, pigs and the money thus received belong to them. Besides the present day educated women earn money through employment in Government and private sectors. They therefore can contribute with their income to the family expenditure.

The study showed that 44 women contributed between 25-50 percent , 13 women contributed 50-75 percent and 11 women contributed more than 75 percent towards the expenditure of their respective households. Only 10-25 percent of money earned by themselves could be shared by 19 women to the family expenditure while 15 women contributed between 5 to 10 percent and 178 women could contribute less than 5 percent towards family expenditure.

Whatever the amount may be this sharing of monetary responsibility is praiseworthy as it emboldens family tie and togetherness.

Table- 14.5

| SI No | Percentage of Family Income | No of Women |
|-------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Less Than 5% | 178 |
| 2 | Between 5% - 10% | 15 |
| 3 | Between 10% - 25% | 19 |
| 4 | Between 25% - 50% | 44 |
| 5 | Between 50% - 75% | 13 |
| 6 | More then 75% | 11 |
| Total | | 280 |

As many as 194 (69.28 percent) out of 280 women saves money and they have their own savings account. They realize the need for savings for emergency expenditures as well as to meet large expenses of the family particularly in marriage, death rites and education of their children. Thus 86 women replied that they want to save.

Table- 14.6

Details on saving and debt

| SL No | Details on saving and debt | No of Women |
|-------|--|-------------|
| | | 194 |
| 1 | Saves money | 99 |
| 2 | Owens a saving account in the respondents name | 86 |
| 3 | Wants to save | |

No longer the Tribal women hesitate to go to Banks and Officers and women empowerment has done enough to rouse the consciousness of the rights of women. Thus 115 women save their money in Banks, 12 women save in post offices, 25 women save in SHGs while 42 women save in other sources.

Table -14.7

Saving Details

| SI No | Savings Kept in | No of Women |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | 115 |
| 1 | Bank | 12 |
| 2 | Post Office | 25 |
| 3 | SHG | 42 |
| 4 | Others | 194 |
| Total (Some women do not save money) | | |

As regards membership in organization 145 women are members of SHGs, 2 women are members of Mahila Samity and 6 women are accepting membership of political party. These activities signify a tangible change of outlook of the women folk which till 2/3 decades back was not visible in Deori society.

Table -14.8

Membership Of Organization

| SI No | Organization | No. |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Mahila Samity | 2 |
| 2 | Self Help Group (SHG) | 145 |
| 3 | Political Party | 6 |
| Total | | 153 |

It is interesting to note that the women respondent are not merely members of socio-political organizations, rather some enthusiastic women are coming out to accept responsible position in organization. Thus 14 women are becoming presidents, 10 women are secretaries and 129 are the general members.

Table -14.9

Position in Organization

| SL No | Organization | No. |
|-------|----------------|-----|
| 1 | President | 14 |
| 2 | Secretary | 10 |
| 3 | General Member | 129 |
| Total | | 153 |

Information was sought regarding awareness of the respondents towards Government Welfare Schemes and 19 women replied in positive.

Table -15

| Awareness of Schemes | No of women |
|----------------------|-------------|
| | Yes |
| | 19 |

The name of the scheme is piggery and 19 women got benefit from the scheme in kinds (pigs).

Table -15.1

| SI No | Name of Schemes | No of women |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Piggery | 19 |

CHAPTER – V

Findings of Study

District – Lakhimpur

The study entitled 'Women's Status in Tribal Society' covered 20 villages with 400 households under 5 Development Blocks of Lakhimpur district of Assam. The total population of the 20 surveyed villages is 14,820 male 7395 (49.89%) and female 7425 (50.10%). The population of the tribal people of the surveyed village is 122(14.21%). All the 20 nos. of villages are inhabited by Deoris but 2 villages have mixed populations belonging to Deoris and Karbis. The settlement pattern of the tribal villages is agglomerated for 16 villages, dispersed for 3 villages and isolated for a lone village. Most of the villages have less than 500 hectares of agricultural land. Transport and communication facilities are located within 10kms. from most of the villages. However some of the villages have these facilities beyond 14-18kms.

Regarding condition of roads most of the roads are *Katcha* fair weather roads while 4 villages have graveled roads and another 4 villages have foot tracts. Only one each village has *Katcha* all weather motorable road and pucca road respectively.

The villages use bicycles, motor bike, bus and tempo. One each village uses boat and bullock cart as means of conveyance.

Most of the villages get health facilities provided by Primary Health Centres(PHCs), Medical Sub Centers, State Dispensaries within a reasonable distance of 2-4 kms. Most of the Private hospitals are located at a distance of 10-5 kms. from the villages while private medical doctors are available within 2-4 kms. for most of the villages. Same is the case for private pharmacy / medical shops which are located at an average distance of 2-4 kms.

All the mass communication facilities like television, radio, telephone are found in the surveyed villages. All the 20 villages possess televisions and Community Centers.

As regards civic facilities majority of the studied villages have the facility in less than 2 kms. from the villages. Veterinary hospitals / dispensaries are located at an average distance of 4-6 kms. from the villages while majority of the villages have banks at an average distance of 4-6 kms. Co-operative societies are located at a similar distance from the villages. Most of the Mahila Samitis and Youth clubs are located at an average distance of 4-6 kms. from the villages. All the studied villages have religions institutions within the villages.

Educational institutions like pre primary, primary and M.E are located within the villages. H.E schools are located at an average distance of 2-4 kms. from the villages. Colleges however are located at an average distance of 6-8kms.

It is interesting to find that in the school level there is no drop out cases while there are 4 boys and 6 girls drop outs in college level.

As regards health condition, the general health of the people is good, however some of the villagers suffer from Diarrhea, Dysentery, Scabies, Gastroenteritis and Hypertension.

Government's welfare scheme of school going children, popularly known as Midday meal is implemented not in a desired way. The food materials are not regularly supplied. Sometimes the children have been provided with simple boiled rice and sometimes boiled rice with *dal* and vegetables.

There are 4 males and 2 females physically challenged students in the surveyed villages.

The villages use water from ring wells and tube wells. Pipe water is extended to only 3 villages.

It is praiseworthy to note that all the surveyed villages have been electrified.

As regards business transactions, the villagers are in a position to sell pigs, poultry and their purchases include grocery items, school students items, yarns and vegetables.

The Government welfare schemes include MGNREGA which is implemented by the Block Development office has provided employment opportunities to 32 males and 8 females.

During summer the students abstain from attending schools because of flood. Besides some students do not go to school because of economic reasons.

The Sarva Siksha Mission arranges non formal education in all the villages.

Cultivation is the major economic activities of the villagers. Paddy, mustard seeds, potatoes, black pulse are grown in the fields. A micro level study covering 400 households was made to ascertain the status position of the Deori womenfolk. Altogether 2074 population male 1085(52.4%), female 989(47.6%) were studied.

Out of 400 households 335 head of households are male and 65 head of households are female. The age grades of the heads of households are below 30 years to 60+ years. The age grades of the population covered 6-10 years to 75+ years. Among the males out of 1085, males 573 are married 512 are unmarried and among 989 females, 552 are married and 387 are unmarried and 50 widows.

Majority of the people 1088, male 556 and female 532 are engaged in agriculture which is the primary occupation and 119, 63 male 56 female are taking agriculture as secondary occupation. There are quite a good number of population in the Government service as a primary occupation 98 in absolute numbers, male 69, female 29 while only 7 members, 6 male and 1 female are accepting service as secondary occupation. The Deoris are shy to take business as occupation and only 18 men are doing business as primary occupation and there is none in secondary occupation. In non Govt. service 38 male and 3 female are engaged and they are accepting it as primary occupation. The animal husbandry as primary occupation is accepted by 54, members, 27 male and 27 female but the same is accepted by 341 members, 155 male and 186 female as secondary occupation.

In spite of the implementation of well meaning schemes like Sarva Siksha Abhijan, Education for all, Right to education, the impact on removing illiteracy is not felt as the study shows a disheartening figure of illiterate numbering as much as 405 members, 140 males and 265 females. In the education standard starting from primary school complete to college level the females are lagging much behind.

Majority (42.7%) of the household members annual income falls in the range below Rs. 15000.00. But there are 22.2 percent households earning Rs. 9000.00 and above Per annum. Thus the economy of the Deori households members is by and large unsatisfactory.

As regards electricity 70 percent of the households have electric connection.

The Deoris rear livestock and poultries and as many as 95.53 percent households rear cattle; 51.7 percent households possess goats and 86 percent households rear pigs. Poultries are reared by 86 percent households. It may be mentioned that pigs and fowls are essential items in socio religious feast and festivals. Some of the households take pigs and fowls as business proposition.

The drinking water supply sources are wells, hand pumps, ponds and pipe water supply. As many as 70.1 percent households use wells and 50 percent households use hand pipes. Pipe water is extended to only 4 households. It is observed that during flood season the water sources become polluted and it is therefore imperative to extend pipe water to the households.

Sanitation facilities are utterly inadequate. It is a sad commentary that in spite of implementation of so much money on health schemes for the rural people 30 percent of the households use open field to ease themselves and 59 percent households are *Katcha* latrines causing health hazards. Only a few richer families 41(10 percent) use sanitary latrines. Besides the households have no drainage facility.

Traditionally the Deoris live in '*Changghars*' (Platform type house) as they suffer from recurring flood and 83.2 percent households have this type of houses. There are few *Katcha* Assam Type and thatched houses. Only 35 households have *pucca* Assam type houses.

Both traditional and modern assets are seen in the Deori households. Almost every households possess loom as weaving is a traditional occupation of the womenfolk. 95 percent households possess ploughs Bullock carts are used by 19 percent households. As many as 81 percent households possess mobile phones and 46.5 percent households possess Televisions and 30.2 percent households possess motor bikes. As many as 96.7 percent households possess bicycles. Cars are owned by 27 households while one family possesses a tractor.

Modernism has crept in to the society and these are superfluous changes in life pattern of the Deoris, particularly among the younger sections. In order to get a woman specific exclusive information 400 women were interviewed. Out of the 400 selected women 92 percent are married and 87 are widows.

Most (42.2 percent) of the selected women members belonged to the age group 30-44 years.

The educational level of the women varies from illiterate to Graduate degree holders. Illiteracy is still rampant among the females as 33.2 percent women are illiterate. 261 women are in Class I to XII standard and 5 are graduates, and 1 other vocational course candidate. Unless illiteracy is removed, the overall socio-economic progress will be hampered as women's development largely depends upon conscious and literate (educated) womenfolk.

Question was asked to the selected women whether they own landed property the reply was an emphatic 'no' as Deoris are patrilineal and women do not inherit property, however they owned jewelries, utensils furniture's and poultries .

The women's financial contribution to the family is not negligible as 2 women contribute 50-75 percent of the family income while 6 women contribute more than 75 percent to the family income. Besides 42 women contribute 25-50 percent to the family income, 163 women contribute 1-25 percent towards family income. There are 79 women who share 5-10 percent of the family expenditure while 108 women contribute less than 5 percent toward family income.

The above contribution is in terms of money but if we broadly think, even the ordinary house wife contribute much in kind i.e. labour, to the family income. But their 24 hour labour is not measured in terms of cash.

The study showed an increasing saving habit among the women as 78.3 percent women have own bank accounts and 47.50 percent women save money regularly. 68 women realize the importance of saving. Most of the women 66 percent prefer to save money in SHGs as SHGs are located in the villages. Rest 59 women save in banks and 36 women save in post office. The women do not have any debt burden.

The Deori women are coming out from the four walls of the houses to perform socio political activities by enlisting there as members of SHGs. 68.25 percent women respondents are members of SHGs. Even 3 women are becoming Presidents and 2 women are serving as sectaries of the SHGs. Thus a considerable change of outlook is noticed among the womenfolk.

CHAPTER - VI

Findings of the Study

District - Jorhat

The study covered 6 Deori villages of Dhekargarha Development Block and Ujani Majuli Development Block under Jorhat and Majuli Sub Divisions respectively of Jorhat district. The total population is 8785, male 4235 (48.20%), female 4550(51.79%) covering 951 households. All the surveyed villages are in plains and the settlement pattern of 3 villages is agglomerated and of 3 villages is dispersed. The area covered by 5 villages is 1300 hectares and by 1 village is 1300-1400 hectares. The size of agricultural land for 2 villages each is below 500 hectares and 500-600 hectares respectively while the size of agricultural land for one village each is 600-700 hectares and above 900 hectares respectively.

The transport and communication facilities in the Deori villages are far from satisfactory as all the villages have nearest motorable road at a distance of less than 10kms.

Condition of the roads, if the road status is to be given to foot tracks, is pitiable. All the six villages use foot tracks. Although there are *katcha* fair weather road, all weather motorable roads and even *pucca* pitch road, the villages have to use foot tracks to the approach of the roads. In Majuli the roads become unusable during summer season and the villages are cut off from outside world.

The common mode of conveyance of the people is bicycle, motor bike and boat, cars are also used by few rich people of 3 villages.

As regards health facilities all the six villages do not have PHCs within the villages. Only 2 villages have PHCs within the villages. Rest of the villages have the same at an average distance of 4-5kms. The Medical Sub-Centers are located at an average distance 3-4kms. from the villages. Private hospitals are also located at the same distance while the State Dispensary is located beyond 10 kms. from the villages. Private medical doctors are available at an average distance of 4-6kms. All the villages are served by Trained Birth Attendants, posted within 2kms. from the villages and most of the villages have private pharmacy / medical shop at an average distance of 2-4kms.

Mass communication facilities like televisions, radio, Community Centers are found in the villages. televisions are found in all the villages while 3 villages have radios and 2 villages have Community Centers.

Civic facilities like post office are located within 2-3kms while veterinary hospitals are located at an average distance of 4-6kms. Banks are located at a distance of 4-6kms to 10kms above. Co-operative societies are also located at an average distance 4-6kms. The Mahila Samitis and religious institutions are found within the villages.

All the surveyed villages have pre primary, lower primary and ME schools within the villages, H.E. schools, however are locate at a distance of 2-4kms. to 6-8kms.

Water borne diseases are common in the villages . Malaria, Diarrhea, Influenza, Dysentery are the common diseases of the people. There are 3 male and 3 female physically challenged children in the villages.

Regarding sources of drinking water, all the villages have tube wells.

Electricity has been provided to all the villages. Marketing facilities are available at Jorhat daily bazaar, Sunday bazaar, Monday weekly bazaar, Jengrai daily bazaar where the people make their purchases and sales.

The primary occupation of all the people of six villages is agriculture. *Ahu, Sali* and *Bao* paddies are grown in their fields. Some of the Deoris of Upper Deori villages sell fish locally caught in the *beels* and the river Brahmaputra. The womenfolk rear pigs and poultries both for local consumption and for market.

There are quite a good number of SHGs in the studied village catering to the financial needs of the villages.

Although Government welfare schemes like MGNREGA, PMGRY etc. have been extended to the villages the number of beneficiaries are too small. The MGNREGA implemented by Blocks provided job cards to 159 persons, 76 male and 83 females. The SHGs benefitted 30 male persons only while PMGRY scheme is implemented by Gaon Panchayats .The Self employment scheme through farming and tourism is implemented by DAC ,enabled 74 persons, 44 males and 30 female to obtain tractor, looms etc.

In order to have an in depth study regarding the status of women among the Deoris, 120 sample households have been selected with a total population of 599 male 302(50.41%) female 297(49.58%).

Regarding age and sex composition of the members majority 75 persons male 33 female 42 belong to the age group 15-30 years. Therefore only 5 persons, 2 male, 3 female the age grade 70-75 years. In respect of marital status of males out of 157 married males majority 27 males are in the age group 25-30 years and among unmarried males majority 30 males are in the age group 15-20 years. The 13 nos. of widowers are in the age grades of 50-55 to 70-75 years.

Out of 297 females, 162 are married and 120 are unmarried. Majority 26 married women are in the age grade 30-35 years. Unmarried women are more (33 nos.) in the age grade 15-20 years. There are no unmarried women in the age grades 45-50 years to 65-70 years.

The land tenure pattern of the 120 households shows that all the households possess own lands. Most of the households 66 nos. possess lands above 15 Bighas followed by 36 nos. of households possessing 7.5 Bighas to 15 Bighas of land. Only 18 house holds possess less than 7.5 Bighas of land falling under lower middle class category. For a family of 4-6 members this land is insufficient even to meet the basic needs.

As regards household land 60 households possess below 1 Bighas of land each and 56 households possess 1-3 Bighas and 4 households own 3-5 Bighas.

The primary occupation of majority of the households is agriculture. Next important occupation of the households is animal husbandry. Today the Deori households under study

have good number of Govt. service holders. There are 31 Govt. service holders male 16, female 15. Two or three decades back there were only 4/5 Govt. employees and among women practically there were one or two. But over the decades women are being status conscious and in this respect media has played a big role. Besides the Govt's reservation policy has done tangible impact.

The Deori people are much involved in business and in the present filled study on households only 6 male persons were found in some petty business. Wage earning as an occupation was unknown to the Deori till 2/3 decads back and egalitarian tribal society of the Deori assisted the needy in times of distress. But today in the changing scenario there are 3 wage earner households serving in other peoples house was once against the principle.

In the secondary occupation there are 36 members 4 male and 32 female who are engaged in animal husbandry. There are 11 male wage earners in the secondary occupation category and 8 males are engaged in other occupation.

In respect of educational level of the household members, ironically there are 130 illiterate, 61 male and 69 females in spite of implementation of well meaning scheme like Sarba Sikha Abhijan and Education for all etc. Except in H.E. school complete category where females out number males i.e. 51 females against 39 males in all other standards females are lagging behind males. However a female Post Graduate draws our attention when there is no postgraduates among males.

Six wise the sample heads of households are mostly male. Out of 120 heads of households 114 are males. The ages of most of the heads of households 52 nos. are in the age grades 45-59 years. There are 32 heads in the age grade 30-44 years and 27 heads in the age group 60+ years. In the age grades less than 30 years, there are 9 heads of households.

All the heads of households profess Hinduism of course in their style which is a mixture of animism and pure Hinduism.

The Deori are changing today in respect of family type and majority of the households 63 nos. prefer nuclear type. Most of the households 73 no have 4-6 members while 28 households have 7-8 members and only 19 households have 1-3 members. A few decades back large family was the characteristic feature of the Deori Social life.

Electricity is provided to the 90 percent sample households. As regards drinking water, all the households use hand pumps.

The sanitation is in a bad shape as 31.66 percent households still use open field to ease themselves and 48.33 percent use *katcha* latrines which create health hazard. Only 24 households possess sanitary latrines Government intervention is required so that at least the rural semi sanitary provisions may be available for the users of open field and *katcha* latrines.

There is no drainage system in the households under survey.

Traditionally the Deoris live in 'Chang Ghar' i.e. platform type house and today 110 households use this type of dwelling which protects them from annual recurring flood. Except a lone RCC, other 9 households possess either *Katcha* Assam Type or Pucca Assam Type houses.

As firewood is locally available and as the fire place is not only used for cooking, the same has socio religious significance and therefore the all Deori households use firewood for cooking.

The studied households possess both traditional and modern assets. As many as 94.16 percent households possess the plough and 95.83 percent households possess looms, mobile phones, Televisions, radios, motor bikes, cars or tractor are owned by quite a good number of households.

Majority of the households 42 nos. earn Rs.35000.00-65000.00 Per annum while 23 households earn Rs.90,000.00+ Per annum. There are 22 households earning Rs.15000.00-35000.00 and they fall under low income category. 20 nos. of households earn Rs. Rs.65,000.00-90,000.00 Per annum. It appeared that the 58 families fall in the BPL category.

In order to get a first hand information about women status in Deori society an exclusive interview of 120 women was taken. The marital status of the exclusive women respondents show that out of 120 women, 110 are married, 9 widows and one unmarried. Age wise, 55 women are below 30 years, 25 women are in 30-40 years age, 21 women's age is within 45-49 years and 19 women are from the age group 60+ years.

There are 57 illiterate respondents and the educational qualification of 59 women are in the range of Class I to class XII. There are 4 graduates among the respondents.

The movable properties include jewellery and cash 65 women possess jewellery and 55 women possess cash.

The contribution of women towards the household income is significant. The housewives rear pigs, poultries, ducks, goats which are used not only for household consumption but for selling purposes. The womenfolk weave colorful cloths for all the members of a family. Besides cooking food for all members, caring children they contribute largely in the agricultural activities. Rather it is difficult to measure in percentages the contributions of women which are mostly in kind. However the studied women contribute cash towards the common family income. Thus 10-25 percent of the family income is shared by 48 women, 25-50 percent income is shared by 41 women 50 to 75 percent income is shared by 8 women, above 75 percent income is contributed by 7 women and less than 5 percent income is shared by 10 women.

Saving habit of the womenfolk is gaining momentum of late as 97 women save money and 87 women have savings accounts, a phenomenon that was not found till three decades back. Till two / three decades back indebtedness was the problem of the male head of households but today individual women are also faced with indebtedness problem as 4 women replied. The women folk are realising the need of saving for future security and they save money in banks SHGs and post office. But most of the women 79 nos. prefer to save money in banks.

Deori women are caring out to assert their capabilities in sphere hitherto meant for men exclusively 46 women are becoming members of Self Help Groups and 7 women are holding responsible position of Presidents and 4 women are serving as Secretaries of SHGs.

Till the date of survey only one woman received Rs.3000.00 as grant / loan from Govt. schemes.

CHAPTER – VII

Findings of the Study

District – Tinsukia

The study included 10 villages with 200 households under Kakopathar and Sadiya Chapakhowa Development Blocks of Sadiya and Margherita Sub Division of Tinsukia district. The total population of 10 villages is 7884, male 3770(47.81%), female 4114(52.18%) with 1179 households. Out of 10, 9 villages are exclusively inhabited by Deori while one is a mixed one with Deori, Sonowal Kachari, Mech, Boro and Adivasi communities. All the villages are located in plains and they are agglomerated. The total area of the villages is 2000 hectares. There are 5 villages having less than 500 hectares, one village each has 600-700 hectares and 900 hectares respectively and 3 villages have 700-800 hectares of agricultural land.

The transport and communication of the villages are in a bad shape as the distances to the nearest motor able road, nearest transport stand and nearest transport station are more than 10kms from the villages of most of the villages under study.

The condition of the roads is far from satisfactory. Only 4 villages have gravelled roads and the rest 6 villages have foot tracks, *katcha* fair weather and *katcha* all weather roads. Bicycle is the main mode of conveyance of the villagers. However 3 each villages have motor bike and car respectively and village depends on boat. The vehicles could not be used during summer as the approach road to the graveled roads are flooded. Some of the villages use auto rickshaws.

The medical facilities like PHC, medical sub centers are located at an average distance of 4-6kms. State dispensaries are located at a distance of 8-10kms Same in the case in respect of private medical doctor. Only 50 percent villages get the services of Village Health Guides within 2-4 kms. and rest of the villages get such facilities at a distance of above 10km.

Only 6 villages get the facilities of Trained Birth Attendant within or near the villages while 4 villages get this facilities at a distance of above 10kms.

Private pharmacies / medical shops are located within less than 2kms for 3 villages only while 7 villages have such pharmacies at an average distance 6-10kms.

Mass communication facilities like televisions, radio, news paper, libraries, Community Centers phone are found in most of the villages. Televisions are found in 60 percent of the villages while mobile phones are found in 50 percent of the villages. 80 percent villages have radios. Libraries and community centers are found in 2 villages each.

As regards civic facilities only 4 villages have the same within the villages or less than 2kms, while other villages get the facilities at a distance of 8-10kms. and above 10kms. The post offices, banks, co-operative societies are located within the villages for 2 villages only. Rest of the villages get the same beyond 2-4kms to above 10kms. Only 7 villages have Mahila Samitis within the villages while Youth clubs are found in 3 villages located within less than 2kms. and 7 villages have the same at a distance beyond 10kms.

Regarding educational facilities all the villages have pre primary and lower primary schools within the villages. The average distance of 8 villages to the ME schools is 2-4kms. while 2 villages have ME schools within less than 2-4kms. The average distance of 8 villages to HE schools is 4-6 less while 2 villages have HE schools within less than 2kms. Most of the villages have colleges beyond 10kms and only 2 villages each have colleges within 4-6kms. and 6-8kms. respectively while one village has the college at a distance of 2-4kms.

Drop out cases are fast coming down. During 2011-12 there was only one LP school where 5 drop out 2 boys and 3 girls was recorded. The reason for drop was financial crisis.

The general health of the villagers is by and large good. However common diseases like diarrhea, influenza, gastroenteritis, dysentery affect the children and aged persons. During summer season malaria occurs. Paralysis cases are also recorded but there are not many affected person. Besides there are cases of leprosy, physical disabilities among children 2 males and one female. There are 4 cases of differently abled children, 2 male and 2 female and deaf and dumb boy in the surveyed villages. The Sadiya region is badly affected by water borne diseases as the communities each year experience devastating flood causing loss of men, animal and houses.

In respect of drinking water facility, all the villages except one have tube wells. The lone village depends upon well. Tube well water is comparatively safe but excess iron creates health problems. Ring well water is not safe at all, immediate health Department's intervention is necessary. Besides there is risk of entering flood water during summer.

The Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme extends electricity to all the studied villages.

Regarding marketing facilities the Chapakhowa daily market, Rupai, Doomdooma, Margherita, Ledo daily markets located more than 10kms. from the villages cater to the business needs of the villages.

Reservation of women in Panchayat is ensured for Deori women where the women folk actively participate in the affairs of the Panchayat.

In order to encourage the women for undertaking Cottage industries, Government have provided the women with looms, yarns, sewing machines etc. to boost up the morale of the women folk, as lack of due patronage many men and women have stopped the production of the cottage industries. Training of Deori girls has also been arranged by Government to enhance their skill and expertise.

In order to collect data about the status of women, a micro level study was conducted covering 200 households with a total population of 970; male 464(47.8%), female 506(52.2%).

Regarding age and sex composition of sample population 242, male 112, female 130 belong to the age grade 6-15 years; 272, male 123, female 149 belong to the age grade 15-30 years; 251 male 121 female 130 belong to the age grade of 30-45 years; 131, male 73, female 58 belong to the age grade of 45-60 years; 74, male 35, female 39 belong to the age grade of 60-75+ years.

As regards marital status of males 56.3 percent males are married and 43.6 percent males are unmarried. Out of 506 females 48.2 percent are married and 45.4 percent are unmarried. Among the females there are 33 widows and majority 25 widows are in the age grade 55-60 years and 60-75+ years.

Out of 200 household heads, 185 household heads are male and 15 are female.

The Deoris profess Hinduism in its crude form. In the present study all the Deoris replied Hinduism as their religion.

The joint families as well as extended families prevalent $\frac{3}{4}$ decades back have undergone changes today. Out of 200 households 131 households are non nuclear type and 63 are nuclear type. There are 12 nos. of households having 9 members each and 167 households have 4-6 members each and 21 households have 1-3 members each.

All households have their own land and 101 nos. of households possess lands ranging 7.5 to 15 Bighas; 76 households possess less than 7.5 Bighas and 23 households possess above 15 Bighas of land. Regarding homestead land 180 households possess 1-3 Bighas while 10 households each possess bellow one Bigha and 3-5 Bighas of homestead land.

The occupational pattern in primary sector of the households shows that 164 males are engaged in cultivation and as many as 60 individuals are having Govt. service posts. There are 12 women in Government service against 48 male Government service holders. Only one household is engaged in other occupation.

In the secondary occupation sector, only 5 males are engaged in agriculture while there are 1 male and 1 female in non Government service. Secondary occupation is accepted by 18 persons, 13 by males and 5 by females.

The overall educational level of the sample households may be called satisfactory as there are 87 graduates 49 male and 38 female and 9 post graduates 7 male and 2 female. Besides there are 239 HE standard completed persons, 128 male and 11 female. In the HS complete standard there are 196 persons, 98 male and 98 female.

Out of 950 male and females there are 494 females in all categories beginning from primary to HE standard completed which indicates an a awakening of womenfolk towards education. Besides Govt. educational schemes for betterment of educational standard had positive impact.

It is heartening to note that all the households have electricity. The Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme has contributed largely towards this end.

The people rear pigs, goats, poultries and cattle. They rear pigs in considerable numbers as the same are required for their socio religions festivals. Besides pigs are reared for commercial purposes too. For their drinking water supply the grater section of households 179 use hand pumps while 21 households use wells.

Regarding sanitation none of the households use open field. 147 households use *Katcha* latrines and 53 households use sanitary latrines.

Drainage system is found in 186 households while the same is absent in 14 households.

As many as 146 households use the traditional 'Chang Ghar' (Plat form type of house). Rest 46 households use *Katcha* Assam Type and Pucca Assam Type houses and 3 households use thatched houses. There are 5 households having RCC buildings.

As regards fuel for cooking, 141 households use firewood and 59 household use LPG.

The studied households possess quite a good number of assets both traditional and modern. Ploughs, looms, bullock carts are largely used by the households. Besides many households own televisions mobile phones, motor bikes and radios. Only 6 households possess tractors.

The average annual income of the households is Rs.50, 000.00

An executive study on women was conducted among 200 respondents consisting of 182 married 8 unmarried as 10 widows to assess the social status of the womenfolk in the society. Out of 200, 105 women belonged to the age group 30-44 years, 50 women belonged to less than 30 years, 35 women belonged to 45-49 years and 8 women belonged to 60+ age years.

The educational level of the 200 respondents was 190 class I-XII, Graduate-1, vocational-1 and illiterates-8.

Regarding immovable properties 6 women possessed land, 5 women owned houses and 2 women possessed both land and houses. 192 women possessed movable properties in the form of jewellerys and 175 possessed utensils, 52 women possessed household goods and furniture and 103 women possessed livestock and poultries.

The womenfolk contributed to the household income ranging from 5 percent to 75 percent out of their earnings, depending on the earning status. Thus 3 women contributed more than 75 percent 2 women contributed 50 to 75 percent, 19 women contributed 25-50 percent, 25 women contributed 10-25 percent, 45 women contributed 5-10 percent and 106 women contributed less than 5 percent to the family income. The womenfolk are no longer shy to approach officials to get things done. Thus 40 women have saving accounts and 61 women are saving money. 7 women are indebted to money lenders.

In reply to a question whether they want to save in the future 92 women replied in positive. Out of the 61 women who are saving money, 31 women are saving in banks, 9 women are saving in post offices and 21 women are saving in SHGs.

Government have formulated and implemented plethora of welfare schemes for STs and majority 163 women aware of the same. Only 37 women are not aware of the schemes. The popular MGNREGA scheme is known to 59 respondents while 33 respondents are aware of Sericulture and Textile scheme and 71 women are aware of SHG scheme. Regarding benefits derived from the schemes 75 respondents replied in positive and 125 women replied in negative. From the different scheme 14 women received cash benefits and 24 women received benefits in kind. Only one women received both cash and kind from the Sericulture and Textiles scheme. The SHG benefited 7 women by cash, 16 women in kinds and 13 women in both cash and kind.

CHAPTER – VII

Findings of the study

District – Dhemaji

The study included 14 villages with 280 households under Bordoloni, Jonai Murkongselek and Sissi Borgaon Blocks of Dhemaji and Jonai Sub Division of Dhemaji district.

The total population of the surveyed villages is 5708, male 3196(55.09%), female 2512(44%) with 850 households. As regards ethnic composition 11 villages are exclusively inhabited by Deori while 3 villages have mixed groups consisting of Bodo, Deori, Ahom and Nepali.

All the villages are located in plains areas. The settlement pattern of 10 villages is agglomerated and 4 villages is dispersed. 11 villages have less than 1300 hectares of land and 3 villages have 1300-1400 hectares of land. Most (9Nos) of the villages have less than 500 hectares of agricultural land while one village has 500-600 hectares and 2 villages each have 800-900 hectares and above 900 hectares of agricultural land respectively.

The transport and communication facilities are far from adequate as transport stand, transport station, motor stand are located less than 10kms from the village.

As regards condition of roads, except one *pucca* road in a village and two graveled roads in two villages all the village roads are either *katcha* fair weather, *katcha* all weather roads and foot tracks.

For conveyance the villagers mostly use bicycle.. Two villages use boats to contact with outside world. The richer households, which are limited, use car and motor bike.

The PHCs are located at an average distance of 6-8kms. from most of the villages. The State Dispensaries are located at a distance of 8-10kms. Private medical doctors are available at an average distance of 4-6kms. from the villages. The Village Health Guides are located at a distance of less than 2kms from 4 villages and other villages have the facilities at a distance of above 10kms. Trained Birth Attendants are available at a distance of 4-6kms from most of the villages. Private pharmacies are available at a distance of 4-6kms for most of the villages.

Mass communication facilities like television, radio, Community Centers, libraries, telephones are available for most of the villages.

The civic facilities like post offices, veterinary dispensary, banks, co-operative societies are located within 4-6kms average for the villages. Cinema halls are located at a distance of 10kms from the villages.

Only 2 villages have Mahila Samiti's and youth clubs within 2kms.

Regarding educational facilities pre primary and lower primary schools are located within on near villages. The ME schools are located within 2kms from the villages. Most of the villages have HE schools within less than 2kms. The colleges are located within 2-4kms from the villages. The overall educational facilities appear to be satisfactory.

In the matter of dropout cases, there are was no drop out in primary standard in last year i.e 2011-12 while in ME there were 3 dropouts 2 boys and a girl. There were 3 dropout cases in HE standard, 2 boys and one girl and in college there was one girl dropout.

It may be mentioned that no scheme has been undertaken to check the dropout. The Sarba Siskha Abhijan has been implemented for class I to V.

The Midday meal scheme is implemented irregularly. The children are provided with rice, semolina, biscuits and rice boiled in milk.

Regarding health problems the villagers generally suffer from Malaria, Diarrhea, Dysentery, Typhoid, Scabies, Gastroenteritis and other water borne diseases.

There were two cases of Polio; one male one female during 2011-12 who were physically disabled.

For drinking water 10 villages use water from wells while 4 villages depend upon tube wells. Not all the wells are *pucca* and naturally water borne diseases are common in the villages.

As regards electricity, only 8(57%) households in the studied villages have electric connection.

For their business transactions the villagers usually go to Gogamukh, Dhemaji, Carpatani Tini Ali Bazar, Jon Karang, Jonai town, Sissi Bargaon, Phukia and Sripani. Normally they buy cloths, grocery items, school items, medicines, kerosene oil etc. and sell cows, ducks, goats, pigs, fowls, fish, mustard seeds, woven articles etc.

There are quite a good number of SHGs in the villages where the members produce vegetables, weaving objects, arrange leasing of land and provide loans to the members @5 percent interest. Both males and females SHGs are functioning.

The main occupation of the villagers is cultivation. The villagers rear cattle, pigs, poultries both for local consumption and for market. Besides paddy, winter crops like potatoes, cabbages, brinjals, pumpkins are grown. Mustard seeds are widely grown mainly for market. The womenfolk weave designed cloths and *Eri* shawls which fetch good income..

In respect of implementation of the Rural development programmes the NREGA scheme, implemented by the Block Development Offices provided jobs to 511 males and 353 females of the villages.

The Handloom Development Programme was implemented by Handloom society providing raw materials and weaving implements to 10 female beneficiaries.

The pig farm scheme has been implemented by the Development Blocks and D.A.C providing pigs to 30 beneficiaries.

The womenfolk of the studied villages have been able to improve the economic condition by involving themselves in SHG activities. The SHGs have instilled on them a new enthusiasm for work other than day to day agricultural activities and daily chores at homes. Today the tribal womenfolk are no longer shy to approach bank and Block development Offices to get the work

done. A general awakening among the women is noticed of late auguring a healthy socio economic life of the people.

In order to get actual information regarding the status of women , a micro level study was conducted among 280 households covering a population of 1548 male 830(53.63%), female 718(46.36%).

Out of the total population of 1548 majority 227(14.66%) male 122, female 105, belong to the age grade 25-30 years. There are 290 persons in the first three age categories viz 1-5 years, 5-10 years and 10-15 years while in the last three age grade viz. 60-65 years, 65-70 years and 70-75 years there are 87 persons. The population of 882(56.9%) in the age grades from 15-20 years to 35-40 years contain the highest members of female population i.e. 58%.

Regarding marital status of males 430(51.8%) males are married while 394(48.12%) males remain unmarried there are (0.7%) widowers.

Among the females 398(55.43%) are married and 274(38.16%) are unmarried. There are 46(6.41%) widows. Most of the marriages took place between the age grades 15-20 years to 35-40 years. There are no unmarried females in the age grades 50-55 years to 65-70 years. The ages of 16 widows in the age grades 25-30 years to 45-50 years appear to be unnatural, calling for determining census.

Regarding occupational pattern 55.41 percent members of the households are engaged in agriculture as primary occupation. Agriculture is also taken as secondary occupation by 134 members households. There are 123, male 83, female 40 government employees in the primary occupation sector. Very few members are engaged in business; only 37 members of the households are doing business in the primary occupation sector. Out of them 3 are women Government employees. Secondary occupation is accepted by 12 members, 8 males and 4 females. 59 members, 50 males, 9 females are accepting non Government service as primary occupation. Only 4 males are taking non Govt. service as secondary occupation. In the animal husbandry sector both in primary and secondary occupations there is preponderance of female as traditionally animal husbandry is the main business of womenfolk.

As many as 100 male and 3 females are engaged in daily wage earning as primary occupation while there are 72 members, 66 males and 6 females in wage earners as secondary occupation. It may be mentioned that till 2/3 decades back wage earning was treated in the society as derogatory occupation and the egalitarian Deori society cared for the downtrodden in the different times. But in the changing socio-political scenario, the tradition is last and the poverty stricken people go out from the villages to search for any occupation.

It is observed that the Deori women are coming out to accept other occupations, other than agriculture or home keeping activities. Today 32.5 percent women are in Government service as primary occupation. In the daily wage earners, however there are 3 in the primary and 6 in the secondary occupation.

The educational standard of the members of the surveyed households provided a big contrast when amidst 121 higher secondary (44 are women) and 16 graduates (3 are women) there are as many as 273 illiterates, male 113, female 160. Besides there are 563 male 345, female 213 HS complete members. The educational environment appeared to be satisfactory at

least in the higher category level. The percentage of female is 46.3 against male 53.7% in respect of educational level of the members.

Majority 109 heads of the households are in the age grade 45-49 years. Sex wise males predominate 88.9% among the heads of households.

They are the devout followers of Sakta section of the Hinduism.

The Deoris traditionally preferred joint and extended family type of household. Of late due to various socio economic factors they are gradually switching over to nuclear type. At present there are 152 nuclear households against 128 non nuclear type.

Majority 178 households have 4-6 members while 31 households have 1-3 members and 63 households have 7-8 members. The extended families numbering 8 are having 10-12 members in the families.

In spite of the implementation of the Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification scheme only 76.7% households have been electrified.

The Deori rear pigs, fowl, cattle, ducks, goats, pigeons for household consumption, socio religious occasion as well as for market. Pigs are largely reared as the same are required in socio religious occasions.

For drinking water, 205 households use hand pumps and 74 households use wells. Only one household use water from pond.

Even in these days of advanced technology, educational upliftment and implementation of so many health related schemes under National Rural Health Mission, 34 households of the surveyed households use open field and 217 households use *katcha* latrines causing health hazards. An urgent intervention from the Health Department is necessary to improve the sanitation. The richer families numbering 29 are having sanitary latrines. 93.92 percent households do not have drainage facilities.

The Deoris live in platform type house called '*Chang Ghar*'. 93.2 percent of the households have this type of house which protects them from the fury of recurring flood. Rest of the households have Assam Type houses. However there are 2 RCC house owned by two richer families.

As regards fuel for cooking 67.8 percent households use firewood which are available locally and 32.1 percent use both firewood and LPG while 0.6 percent households use kerosene.

Besides the traditional assets like plough, loom, bullock cart, the Deori households also possess modern assets like televisions, radio, mobile phones, motor bike, tractor etc. Large section of the Deoris (90%) use bicycle.

The annual income of the majority 84 household is Rs.35000.00-65000.00 while 73 households earn Rs.90,000.00 and above per annum and they constitute the well to do section. The annual income of 44 households is in medium range of Rs.65000.00-90000.00. These Rs. 35000.00-65000.00 come under the middle income group possessing modern amenities lesser than the well to do sections. The poor section constituting households earn Rs.15000.00 to

35000.00 per annum falling under the BPL category. The poorest 19 households earn Rs.15000.00 per annum also falling under BPL category.

An exclusive information of 280 selected women was collected to assess their status in the society. The marital status of the respondents is 255 married, 6 unmarried and 19 widows. Most of the women 102 Nos. belonged to age grade 30-44 years followed by 69 women in the age grade 60+ years, 66 women in the below 30 years of age and 43 women in the age grade 45-49 years.

Regarding educational qualification 98 were illiterate 173 women were in the standard of class I to XII, and 9 graduates.

The patrilineal Deori society has not allowed women to inherit property. However in special cases women inherits late husband's property. In the instant study there were 10 women who owned land and house and 2 women owned other immovable properties.

The women could possess movable property like jewellery, utensils, household goods, furniture, livestock poultry and cash earned by themselves through employment and selling cloths woven in their looms, pigs, poultries etc. Depending on the earning the womenfolk are contributing amounts of cash to the family income. Thus 11 women contributed more than 75 percent, 13 women contributed 50-75 percent,, 44 women contributed 25 to 50 percent,, 19 women contributed 10-25 percent, 15 women contributed 5 to 10 percent, and 178 women contributed less than 5 percent, to the family income. The contribution of the womenfolk to the expenditure of households enhances the bond of intimate relationship among the members.

The women are saving money in banks / post offices and they have own back accounts. Thus 69 percent, women have opened bank accounts in their names and 31 percent, are feeling the necessity of saving money for future. The study shows that 115 women are saving money in banks, 12 women are saving in post offices and 25 women are saving with SHGs and 42 women are saving in other financial institutions.

CHAPTER – IX

Conclusion

The study entitled 'Women Status in Tribal Society – A study among the Deoris of Assam' covered 50 villages viz, 20 villages from Lakhimpur District, 6 villages from Jorhat District, 10 villages from Tinsukia District and 14 villages from Dhemaji Districts of Assam. Altogether 1000 households viz. from Lakhimpur 400 households, Jorhat 120 households, Tinsukia 200 households and Dhemaji 280 households with total population 97,197 male 18,596(47.99%), female 18601(50%) (Lakhimpur 14820, male 7395(49.89%), female 7425(50.10%); Jorhat 8785, male 4235(48.20%), female 4550(51.79%); Tinsukia 7884, male 3770(47.81%), female 4114(50.18%); Dhemaji 5708, male 3196(55.09%), female 2512(44%) were selected for micro level study. Out of the 50 villages, 44 villages are exclusive Deori inhabited villages while 6 villages are mixed having Deori as a majority community. The lone mixed village of Tinsukia district includes Deoris, Sonowal Kacharis, Meches, Bodos and Adhivasis while the 2 Nos. of mixed villages of Lakhimpur district include Deori and Karbis. There are 3 mixed villages in Dhemaji district which include Deoris, Bodos, Ahoms and Nepalis.

Transport and communication; condition of roads of all the surveyed Deori villages of the four districts are far from satisfactory. Bicycle is the most common conveyance followed by motor bikes. Boats are also used. Most of the roads are either *katcha* fair weather motorable roads or *katcha* all weather roads. Foot tracks are used by the Deori for most of the villages of all the four districts under survey. Bus station and transport stands are located at an average distance of 5kms. from the villages and during rainy season the condition of most of roads of the Deori villages of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji becomes worst.

It is seen that PHCs in most of the villages are located in or near the villages but other medical facilities like dispensaries, Govt. hospitals, private hospitals are available at a distance 8-10 kms. The services of Village Health Guides, Trained Birth Attendants are available in or near the villages. A few villages of all the surveyed districts get private pharmacies / medical shops within 2/4kms.

All the Deori villages of the four districts have mass communication facilities like televisions, radio, newspapers, libraries and community centers. At least 80 percent households have mobile phones.

Civic facilities like banks, post offices, co-operative societies are available at a distance of 4-6kms. from the villages. Mahila Samitis and Youth Clubs are located in or near the villages of all the four districts.

Educational facilities appear to be adequate so far pre primary, lower primary and ME schools are concerned and most of the villages have these schools in or near (less than 2kms) the villages. HE schools are located at a distance of 2/4kms. from the villages while colleges are available at a distance of 4-6kms. For most of the villages dropout is fast coming down. During 2011-12, LP drop out cases were recorded in the Deori villages of Tinsukia district. There were 2 boys and 3 girls dropouts in LP standards. In Dhemaji district 2 boys and 1 girl each of ME and HF standard dropped out while in college standard there was a girl drop out. In Lakhimpur

district 4 boys and 6 girls left colleges midway due to economic problems. The study showed that the reason of dropping out was mainly economic.

The overall health of the Deoris in all surveyed villages of four districts is good. However the common diseases of all the Deori villages are Diarrhea, Dysentery, Influenza, Malaria, Gastroenteritis, fever, jaundice etc. Physically challenged boys and girls were found among the Deoris of Jorhat, Tinsukia and Dhemaji districts. In Jorhat there were 3 boys and 3 girls, in Tinsukia there were 2 boys and 2 girls and in Dhemaji 1 boy and 1 girl and all beyond less than 14 years of age.

The Deori villages of Sadiya region are badly affected by water borne diseases and recurring annual flood causes considerable loss of men, animal and properties.

Except Dhemaji district, where only 52 percent, households have electricity, all the Deori villages of Jorhat, Tinsukia and Lakhimpur districts have been electrified. The Rajib Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme covered the Deori villages of the studied districts.

Regarding sources of drinking water almost all the Deori villages for four districts use tube wells and wells. Ring wells and ponds are used by a few villages only. Very few households are provided with piped water.

The primary occupation of all the villagers is agriculture. *Ahu*, *Bao* and *Sali* crops are widely grown. The villagers have a special liking for *Ahu* rice which are grown as major crop as due to flood *Sali* paddy production is much less. Animal husbandry is an important occupation. Besides cattle, pigs and poultries are reared which are also required for their socio religious occasions.

There are quite a good number of SHGs in all the studied villages catering to the financial needs of the villagers. Besides providing loans @5 percent, interest, the SHGs have instilled among the womenfolk a feeling of empowerment. The MGNREGA, PMGRY, Handloom Development Programme, Pig farm scheme, Sarba Sikha Abhijan, Midday Meals scheme etc. are extended to the Deori villages. But much remains to be done in case of beneficiaries of MGNREGA. The Midday Meal scheme is implemented irregularly. Government loans to the women entrepreneurs are far from adequate.

In order to find out actual status of the Deori women of the studied villages under four districts, a micro level study was made covering 1000 households (400 households from Lakhimpur; 120 households from Jorhat, 200 households from Tinsukia and 280 households from Dhemaji) of the four districts with a population of 5191 (2074 for Lakhimpur, 599 from Jorhat 970 from Tinsukia and 1548 from Dhemaji districts) male 2681(51.64%), female 2510(48.35%).

The age grades of the population included 6-10 years to 75+ years. Out of a total of 5191 sample persons in the four districts, 1420(27.35%) are married males and 1242(23.92%) unmarried males, 1355(26.10%) are married females and 1011(19.47%) are unmarried females. Besides there are 144 widows and 19 widowers.

Agriculture in the primary occupation of the Deoris in all the four surveyed districts. Among the womenfolk animal husbandry is the primary occupation and agriculture is the

secondary occupations. Involvement of business is negligible. However in Government and private job matters the Deori male and female of all the four districts are holding quite a good number of jobs. For instance among the studied households of Deori of Lakhimpur districts as many as 98 members male 69, female 29 persons are in the Government service as primary occupation and 7 members 6 male and 1 female are non Government service as secondary occupation. In the non Government service sector 38 male and 3 female are engaged and they are accepting it as primary occupation. The animal husbandry as primary occupation is accepted by 54 members, 27 male and 27 female but the same is accepted by 341 members' 155 males and 186 females as secondary occupation.

In Dhemaji district also 123 Deori males and females are engaged in Government service as primary occupation and out of these 40 are females. The females are not accepting the challenging task of business. Out of 37 members doing business, only 3 are females. Another 59 members male 50, female 9 are accepting non Government service as primary occupation. Only 4 males are taking non Govt. service as secondary occupation.

Among the Deoris of Jorhat district, besides agriculture and animal husbandry as primary occupations. Government service is also considered as primary occupation 31 persons male 16, female.

There are 158 households in the studied Deori villages of Tinsukia district. As many as 12 women are serving in various Government department offices. Thus Deori women are coming out to accept jobs both in Government and private sectors which was not found at least 2/3 decades back. The growing consciousness among Deori women, expansion of educational facilities Governmental measures of providing various amenities, reservation of posts for STs, have encouraged the womenfolk to take jobs and other outdoor responsibilities.

Wage earning as an occupation was unknown to the Deoris till 2/3 decades back and egalitarian Deori society assisted the needy families in times of distress. But the society changes today. The old joint family system is fast disappearing. In Dhemaji district as many as 100 male and 3 female are engaged in daily wage earning as primary occupation while there are 66 male and 6 female wage earners in the secondary occupation. The wage earning as occupation is accepted by only one male in Tinsukia Deori village signifying a somewhat stable economic life of the people. In Jorhat district, there are 3 wage earning households among the Deoris and all are male wage earners.

In spite of the implementation of well meaning schemes like Sarba Siksha Abhijan, Right to Education Act, Education for all, the positive impact of removing illiteracy is not felt in the desired level as revealed by field survey among the Deoris. Illiteracy is rampant among Deoris in all the surveyed districts. Among the Deoris of Lakhimpur there are 405 illiterates, 140 males and 265 females. In Jorhat, there are 130 illiterates, 61 male and 69 female among the studied households while in Dhemaji district there are 273 illiterates, male 113, female 160. Intervention of the Education Department is necessary, particularly among the females of tribal people as the study revealed that there were quite a big difference of illiterates among the females. But the overall educational level of the Deoris has shown much improvement. For example in Lakhimpur district there are 507 members, males 309, female 198 in the HE complete standard

and 166, male 104, female 62 in HS complete standard. Out of 19 graduates 13 are male and 6 are female.

The educational level of the Deoris of the surveyed households of Jorhat, shows a mixed development of women's education. Except in HE school complete category where women outnumber males (51 females against 39 males) in all other standards females are lagging behind. However a female post graduate is shining in the dim horizon when there is no male post graduate.

The Deori male and female of the surveyed district of Tinsukia have advanced educationally. Out of 950 persons there 494(52%) females in all categories beginning from primary to H.E completed indicating a growing consciousness among the womenfolk toward education. There 87 graduates, 49 male 38 female and 9 post graduates 7 male , 2 female. There are 239 HE complete persons, 128 male and 111 female. In the HS complete standard also there are 196 persons 98 males and 98 females. Compared to the educational attainment of the last 2/3 decades, the present educational standard is much better, a visible impact of the various educational schemes implemented for the benefit of the tribal people.

The self sufficient Deori economy is no longer traced. The rich poor divide is prominent. In all the surveyed Deori villages of four districts majority of the households earn below Rs.15000.00 Per annum.

The traditional Joint / extended family pattern is replaced by nuclear type. However the traditional house type i.e. '*Chang Ghar* (Platform type house)' is maintained. At the same time one can find Assam Type *katcha* and AT *Pucca* and even RCC house in the Deori villages but the number of such houses is less.

Regarding electricity, the Deori households of Lakhimpur district have electric connection in 70 percent of the surveyed households while in Dhemaji 76.7 percent households in Jorhat 90 percent and in Tinsukia 100 percent households have been electrified.

The sanitation in the surveyed Deori households is in a bad shape as in this technologically advanced age some of the members are using open field to respond to nature's call. Thus in Lakhimpur 30 percent households, in Jorhat 31.66 percent households, in Dhemaji 12.1 percent households still use open field much to the health hazard. However the surveyed Deori households of Tinsukia, have left that habit.

Although LPG has penetrated into the Deori households of a few richer sections, firewood as fuel is largely used by the Deoris. Besides the fireplace is considered as a sacred place where oblations are offered to the deities and the Deori women have traditional fascination towards fireplace.

Both traditional and modern assets are found in the Deori households in all the surveyed districts. Almost every Deori household possess a loom as weaving is a traditional occupation, a way of life, of the womenfolk. A marriageable girl must know weaving as she is supposed to wear cloths during marriage woven by her.

Another traditional asset is plough. Although tractors are used by rich families the plough dominates as vital agricultural implement. Ninety five percent of the surveyed households of four

districts possess plough. Bullock cart once a symbol of economic affluence has almost lost that position. Hardly 20 percent of the households possess bullock cart. Televisions, radios, mobile phones, motor bikes are found in the Deori villages acquiring the status of the property. Bicycles are largely used by the people and in fact a Deori house without at least one bicycle can not be imagined.

To determine the status of Deori women in the patrilineal Deori society, selected groups of 1000 women were interviewed from the Deori villages of four districts of the survey. The district wise break up is Lakhimpur 400 women, Jorhat 120 women, Tinsukia 200 women and Dhemaji 280 women. The women belonged to the age groups 30 years to 61+ years. The district wise marital status of the selected women is:

Lakhimpur District – Married - 368 Nos.

Widow - 32 Nos.

Total – 400 Nos.

Jorhat District – Married - 110 Nos.

Unmarried – 01 Nos.

Widow - 09 Nos.

Total – 120 Nos.

Tinsukia District – Married - 182 Nos.

Unmarried - 08Nos

Widow - 10 Nos.

Total - 200 Nos.

Dhemaji District –

Married - 255 Nos.

Unmarried - 06Nos

Widow - 19 Nos.

Total - 280 Nos.

As the social status varies from married to unmarried and widows, data were collected from 915 married women 15 unmarried girls and 70 widows from the four districts.

Educational qualification of selected women varied from district to district. There were 133 illiterates out of 200 women in Lakhimpur which formed the majority of the selected women. The next highest 134 women had educational qualification class IX-X. There were 5 graduates in the selected group.

There 57 women illiterates, 35 women read up to class XI-XII, 19 women read up to class IX-X, 2 women read up to class V-VIII, 3 women read up to class I-IV and 4 graduation in Jorhat district.

In Tinsukia district there were 8 women illiterates, 66 class I-IV standard, 73 class V-VIII standard, 34 class IX-X standard, 17 class XI-XII standard one graduate and one others.

There were 98 women illiterates, 20 women read up to class I-IV, 29 class V-VIII standard, 79 class XI-XII standard, 9 graduates among selected group of women of Dhemaji district.

Question was asked whether the women possessed any immovable property, none of the Deori women of Lakhimpur and Jorhat districts replied in positive while women of Tinsukia replied that 6 women possessed land, 5 women possessed houses, 2 women possesses both land and houses and one women possessed other immovable properties is in their names.

As regards movable properties like jewellery, utensils, household goods / furniture, livestock / poultry the women of all the four districts own sizable properties. In Lakhimpur, 74 percent women possess jewellery, 68.75 percent women possess utensils, 28.75 percent women possess household goods / furniture and 60.5 percent women possess livestock / poultries.

In Jorhat, 54.16 percent women possess jewellery and 45.83 percent possess money.

In Tinsukia district 96 percent women possess jewelry 87.5 percent women possess utensils, 26 percent women possess household goods / furniture and 56.5 percent households possess livestock / poultry.

In Dhemaji 64.28 percent women possess jewellery, 44.28 percent women possess utensils, 15.35 percent women possess household goods / furniture, 15.7 percent women possess livestock / poultry and 17.85 percent women possess money.

Thus from the above data it can be ascertained that although the womenfolk are not holding immovable property of Jorhat and Lakhimpur districts. The womenfolk do not resent for this as traditionally the immovable properties are owned by men and women are not deprived of their dues. There is mutual understanding among males and females. However the womenfolk of Tinsukia and Dhemaji districts under study own land and house and these women inherited those property because of husband's death and lack of male inheritors.

The Deori women today are no longer subservient to the males and besides attending daily chores they are earning and contributing to the family economy.

In Lakhimpur 2 women contributed 50.75 percent, 6 women contributed more than 75 percent, 42 women contributed 25-50 percent, 163 women contributed 10 percent -25 percent, 79 women contributed 5 percent -10 percent and 108 women contributed less than 5 percent to the family economy.

The Deori women of Jorhat contribute a reasonable percentage of money to the family income. 48 women contributed 10 percent -25 percent, 41 women contributed 25-50 percent, 8 women contributed 50-75 percent, 7 women contributed 75 percent and 10 women contributed less than 5 percent of the family economy.

The contribution of Deori women of Tinsukia to the family income is also not negligible. 3 women contributed more than 75 percent, 2 women contributed 50-75 percent, 19 women contributed 25-50 percent, 25 women contributed 10-25 percent, 45 women contributed 5-10 percent and 106 women contributed less than 5 percent to the family income.

The contribution of the Deori women of Dhemaji to the family income shows that 11 women contributed more than 75 percent, 13 women contributed 50-75 percent, 44 women contributed 25-50 percent, 19 women contributed 10-25 percent, 15 women contributed 5-10 percent and 178 women contributed less than 5 percent to the family income.

The above contributions of the womenfolk enhance the family bond leading to happy conjugal life between husband and wife and better relationship with other members of a family.

The study showed an increasing trend of saving habit among the women. In Lakhimpur district 78.5 percent women have own saving accounts and 47 percent women save regularly 68(17%) women realize the need for saving. Sixty six percent women prefer to save money in SHGs while 14.75 percent women save in banks and 9 percent women save in post office.

The Deori women of Jorhat district have debt burden a rare phenomenon as debt burden generally falls on men. Thus 4 women have debt burden. 97 women save money and 89 women have own saving accounts in their names. However, only 23 women expressed their

motive to save. 70 women save money in banks, 6 women save in post offices and 4 women save with SHGs.

In Tinsukia district 7 women have debt burden and 61 women saves money while 40 women have their own accounts. 92 women wanted to save for future security. 31 women save in banks, 9 women save in post offices and 21 women save with SHGs.

The Deori women of Jorhat do not have debt burden. As many as 194 women save money and 99 women have own accounts on their names. 86 women desire to save for future security. 115 women are saving money in banks and 12 women are saving in post offices. There are 25 women who are saving with SHGs. Other private financial organizations are functioning in the district and 42 women are saving with those organizations.

The Deori women, of late coming forward to assert their capabilities into the spheres hitherto reserved for male by becoming members of Mahila Samitis, SHGs and political parties. In Lakhimpur district 273 women are members of SHGs. Out of them 3 women are Presidents and 2 women are secretaries. In Jorhat district there are 57 SHG women members. Out of them 7 are holding responsible position of Presidents and 4 women are holding the post of secretaries.

In the Tinsukia district 105 Deori women are members of Mahila Samitis and 85 women are members of SHGs. Out of these members 8 women are holding the post of Presidents and 5 women are serving as secretaries.

It is interesting to note that 6 women of Dhemaji are becoming members of political party and 145 Deori women are members of SHGs and 2 women are members of Mahila Samitis. As many as 14 women are becoming Presidents and 10 women are becoming secretaries of SHGs.

No more the shyness is the criteria for enlisting any community in the ST list. Over the decades winds of change have swept the shackles of bondage among the women. They are becoming aware of various welfare schemes implemented by Govt. The Deori women of Tinsukia district were benefitted from the schemes like MGNREGA Sericulture and Textile and SHG Development Schemes. Only 14 women got cash from MGNREGA, 24 women got kinds from Textile scheme one women received cash and kind from Textile scheme, one woman received cash and kind from that scheme while SHG benefitted 7 women with cash, 16 women in kind and 13 women in both cash and kind.

One Deori women of Jorhat district received cash of Rs. 3000.00 from Piggery Scheme. Similarly only 19 women of Dhemaji district received assistance from Piggery scheme.

Suggestions

1. Illiteracy among, the Deori women of all the four districts becomes a problem, Educational expansion, no doubt takes place but illiteracy prevails which is recorded in the findings of the report. The Sarba Sikha Abhijan may take note of this.
2. Drop out is still continuing even at High school and college level both of male and female. The reasons were mostly economic. Arrangements should be made to provide free studentship to these drop out students.
3. The condition of the roads of most of the Deori villages in the studied districts needs improvements as quite a few villages have only foot tracts and fair weather motorable roads.
4. Sanitation deserves more attention as even in this 21st century, the people are using open field to ease themselves. Besides most of the villages / households have *katcha* latrines.
5. Electricity should be extended to all the households.
6. Government grants / loans should be provided to the women. The Hand looms and Textiles Department should enhance the number of weavers for granting loans / grants. At present only negligible women are getting one time loan.
7. In all the surveyed districts, there are 4-6 physically challenged boys and girls. These disabled children should be provided succor. The parents are mostly unaware about the facilities provided by Government. The Block Development authorities of the concerned districts should provide necessary facilities to the physically challenged.
8. Majority of the Deori people under study fall under BPL category. The recurring flood creates havoc to them in form of man and materials. Special relief should be provided to those people whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 40000.00.
9. MGNREGA should cover more people.
10. The Midday Meal should be regular as the children of BPL category people need the midday meal most.