

**REPORT ON
THE SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS
FACED BY THE TRIBALS LIVING IN THE FOREST VILLAGES
OF GOLAGHAT AND NAGAON DISTRICTS OF ASSAM**

CONDUCTED BY

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

PREFACE

In the early decades of the twentieth century the Forest Department had established some forest villages within the limits of reserved forests. These forest villages were established under the Forest Regulation Act 1891 . The original idea for setting up such villages was to protect the forest from damage done by the intruders and at the same time to have a full time or residential labour force for the Forest Department. The first forest village of Assam was established in Longai reserve forest in the year 1901.

Initially, the Government allotted a fix area of land to the villagers for grazing and agricultural purpose. The forest villagers were allowed to use the allotted land but the right of transfer or Miaddi- Patta was not given to them and at the same time most of the villages did have the requisite basic infrastructure facilities.

Since then, no major changes has occurred in the developmental scenario or regarding the administrative provision of these villages. In such an environment the villagers had to adopt some new socio economic habits for their survival. Apart from facing these common problems, the tribals living in those villages had to face some critical problems like rights of land, political isolation, identity crises etc.

The present study aims to highlight the socio – economic aspect of the tribals living in the forest villages of Assam and the problems faced by them.

For this purpose Golaghat and Nagaon districts are selected where a sizeable number of forest villages with a good number of tribal populations are found. In order to get a true and comparative picture of forest villages, all the forest villages of these two districts are approached for required information. The main findings of our study are incorporated in the last part of the report of the study . Hope these findings will help the Govt as well as other concerned agencies to sort out the problems of the forest villagers.

I would consider it a privilege to offer my thanks to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and WPT&BC Deptt. of Government of Assam for giving us the opportunity to conduct a research study on such an important subject apart from providing the necessary fund for the same.

I offer my thanks to Dr. (Mrs.) S.Das, I.A.S., Ex. Director, AIRTSC who took utmost initiative to complete this study within the stipulated time.

I am thankful to Mr. G. C. Kakati, Joint Director, Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes who virtually monitored the research study.

I offer my special thanks to Dr. G C Sarma Thakur, Ex Director, Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes for his guidance and help in various way.

The research team who carried out the study was led by Mr. Ashim Borah, ARO, Directorate of Assam Institute of research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes assisted by six nos of temporarily engaged Field Investigators. Sri Manish Chakraborty and Sri Lakhyadhar Das have taken the pain of typing the study report within a least possible time while Mr. Birendra Kr. Barman (A.R.O.), Mr. Harichandra Morang and Mr. Debobrata Laskar (Senior Investigator) have provided valuable contribution in library work. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my hearty thanks to all of them.

Last but not least, I am thankful to my office staff who were very much cooperative in carrying out the entire study smoothly and the respondents who provided necessary information as per the requirement of this research study .

K. Mahanta, A.C.S.

Director,
Assam Institute of Research for Tribals
And Scheduled Castes, Guwahati-22.

CONTENTS

	Page
CHAPTER - I	Introduction -- Forest Tribal Relation in Retrospect.- Forest Villages of Assam Inhabited By Tribals -- Concept of Forest Villages -- Tangia Villages -- Facilities Provided to the Forest Villages -- Forest Villagers and Non Forest Villagers -- Forests and Tribals Administration of Forest Villages -- Joint Forest Management and Tribal Forest Villages -- Forest Rights Act of 2008
CHAPTER – I (A)	Objective of the Study -- Jurisdiction -- Sampling -- Methodology.
CHAPTER – II	(A)Data Analysis of Village Schedule (a) Forest Villages of Golaghat District (b) Forest Villages of Nagaon District (B)Data Analysis of Household Schedule (a) Forest Villages of Golaghat District (b) Forest Villages of Nagaon District
CHAPTER – III	<u>FINDINGS OF THE STUDY</u> (A) Forest Villages of Golaghat District (Village Schedule)

	(B) Forest Villages of Nagaon District (Village Schedule)	100-102
	(C) Forest Villages of Golaghat District (Household Schedule)	103-106
	(D) Forest Villages of Nagaon District (Household Schedule)	107-110
CHAPTER - IV	CONCLUSION	111-115
CHAPTER - V	SUGGESTIONS	116-118

<u>ANNEXURE</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. Village Schedule of Golaghat and Nagaon Districts-	119-127
II. Household Schedule of Golaghat and Nagaon Districts	128-137
III. A sketch map (approx) of Golaghat District showing location of the Forest Villages	-138
IV. A sketch map (approx) of Nagaon District showing location of the Forest Villages	-139

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Forest Tribal Relation in retrospect:

Forest and tribal are inseparable identities and the symbiotic relation has its origin since man's existence in the world throughout the various evolutionary stages. From hunting and food gathering stage to the present highly sophisticated human civilization, the linkage between forest and tribal is uninterrupted although mode of utilization of forest resources has undergone tangible changes over the millennium. Forest products including birds, reptiles, etc. have sustained the 'homo sapiens' throughout the ages. Without forests, green pastures, animals and birds there will be no human race.

The status of forests in India underwent drastic changes with the entry of the Aryans into the mainland. Large tracts of forests were cleared for agricultural purposes. That was the beginning which culminated in large-scale destruction of forests for human habitation and agricultural activities in the millennium there after. The utility of forests was, however, recognized officially during the Maurya period when a separate forest department was created. Sri A.K. Srivastava in his book 'Restructuring Forest Eco System' has mentioned five phases of forest use and in all these phases the interface between forests and human beings is well illustrated. The first phase extended for a period of 2000 BC to 300 BC and the forest use during this period was limited to hunting, collection of herbs, roots for performing religious activities centering round animistic beliefs and practices. The second phase characterized by hunting, domestication of animals, grazing and clearing of forests for agricultural operations continued from 301 BC to 650 AD. The third phase from 651 AD to 1700 AD also was largely used for hunting and shifting cultivation. Forest produce came to be used as revenue earning source from this period. The fourth phase from 1701 AD to 1850 AD experienced large scale cutting of trees due to industrial revolution. Timbers were used for ship building and other industrial activities. The last phase 1851 onwards was crucial for existence of flora and fauna as two world wars required large scale forest materials. Bamboo plantations were largely cut for defense purposes. Large-scale commercial use of forest took place. The pressure on forests and forest produce increased manifold causing sharp depletion of forest cover.

The interdependence of forest and men has suffered a great deal when man started senseless cutting of trees for their immediate gains. The life style of the present generation of

people, industrial expansion, population explosion, pollution, and natural calamities brought out due to imbalance of forest human ratio, put heavy pressure on forests and thousands of hectares of forests have been indiscriminately cut to meet the requirements of men. In India, during the last decade of the 20th Century 91710 sq. km. i.e. 2.79% of the forests have been cut. The estimated per minute destruction of forests came to 2500 hectares leading to snow balling effect of power shortage and eco balance.

The total land in Assam under forest at the last decade of the 20th century is 19,84,449 hectares or 25.27% of the gross geographical area of which 3,36,853 hectares are in the hills and 17,47,596 hectares are in the plains districts. The percentage of forest cover falls short of national norm of 33.3%. One of the major causes of depletion of the forest cover in Assam is the prevalence of shifting cultivation, which is widely practiced in the Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills districts.

The serious shortage of forest cover has affected the people adversely particularly rural and tribal people who use firewood for cooking as well as for building houses. The National Commission of Agriculture has highlighted this position in its report. It was shown that demand for firewood in 1980 was 184 MCM that increased to 225 MCM in 1985 and the increasing trend is continuing.

Forests not only provide shelter to the tribes but these are sources of various consumption items such as roots, creepers, herbs, honey, birds and animals, fodder for cattle, house building materials, etc. Certain trees are considered as totemic objects, which are treated with utmost regard and taboo to the tribal groups. A good number of clan names are associated with trees. Again some portion of the forest is earmarked as burial/cremation ground which is considered as sacred. The magico religious beliefs, folktales, myths and legends of the ethnic communities are closely related to the forests. The involvement of the tribal people with forest is so deep and intimate that detachment of the people from the forest habitat may cause serious adjustment situation leading to social unrest.

Shifting cultivation is the way of life of the tribal people living in the two hill districts of Assam. Due to large scale felling of trees the jhum cycle has been reduced to 2-3 years from 7/8 years of former years.

Most of the tribal people, particularly riverine tribes are pile dwellers and they have age old sentimental attachment to the forests. The Forest Policy of 1894 went against the forest tribal relationship. Even the post Independence Forest Policy of 1952 could not meet the aspirations of the tribal people. But the Forest Policy of 1988 could be called a landmark for the tribal forest dwellers. The policy provides for granting of certificates to the lawful settlers in

forests which could be used for getting loans and other benefits. These are like 'akin' to revenue Pattas except the right of transfer and sale.

FOREST VILLAGES OF ASSAM INHABITED BY TRIBALS

Assam is traditionally famous for its forests, particularly ever green forests. Out of a total of 75155 hectares of forest land in the entire country, Assam possesses 2855 hectares of forest land. As mentioned in aforesaid paragraphs the forest cover has been reduced from 33550 sq.km. in 1951-52 to 17317 sq. km. in 1981-82. Reservation of vast areas of forest land in Assam was undertaken during British rule. Due to reservation of forests, a scientific and systematic management became essential and considerable manpower was necessary. Initially the authority had to face certain problems in respect of manpower as in those days density of population in or near the forests was very low. In fact most of the forest areas were devoid of population except for a few dispersed pockets of indigenous population. Habitation in forest was difficult as most of the areas besides being inaccessible were known to be highly Malaria and Kalazar infested zones. Communication facility was conspicuous by its absence as the areas were located in far flung areas at a considerable distance from the main commercial and administrative centers. It was arduous task to mobilize labour force for harvesting and sylvi-cultural operations.

Another constraint was the absence of regular flow of labour force in the forest areas. The people near the forests had generally resorted to shift their villages often times due to inhospitable ecology coupled with absence of basic infrastructural facilities. Even in the fringe areas were not covered by transport facilities. This single factor contributed largely for non availability of labour for forestry work. The forest authorities had a trying time to procure labour for forest work.

CONCEPT OF FOREST VILLAGE:

In order to have a full time labour force, the Forest Department set up forest village within the limits of reserved forests in the early decades of the twentieth century (1901-05). Originally 35 forest villages were established covering the then Kamrup, Goalpara and Cachar Districts forest areas. There were 8 Nos of forest villages in Cachar , 15 Nos. in Goalpara and 12 Nos. forest villages in Kamrup Districts. The popularity of forest villages grew over the decades and till the end of the last century there were 450 forest villages with a total population of 160179 comprising 19222 families. The total area covered in forest villages was 50602.52 hectors.

TANGIA VILLAGES:

It is relevant to mention about the Tangia villages which constituted additional source of labour. These Tangia villages did not come strictly under the purview of forest villages as they were not treated as regular forest village in respect of allotment of land also in respect of terms and conditions laid down by the Forest Department applicable for forest villages. They were allotted 2 Bighas of homestead land and for cultivation they were allowed intermediate lands within plantation areas. There were 49 Tangia villages covering both residential and nonresidential categories.

FACILITIES TO THE REGULAR FOREST VILLAGES

Each forest village was allotted 5 Bighas of land including homestead land. Besides each working member living in that household was entitled to receive 10 Bighas of land. The ceiling, however, was fixed at 35 Bighas per family on payment of nominal land revenue. On the death of the allottee, the name of his male heir will be recognized as forest villager, if he is considered suitable by the Divisional Forest Officer. In case where a daughter is heiress, the name of her husband would be recorded as house holder if he is found suitable for forest villager. The names of heirs who are minors will be recorded as forest villager when they become fit for work in forests. It may be mentioned that the forest villagers do not possess the right of transfer of land as they are given only the right of use and occupancy over the land. In lieu of the facilities, the forest villagers are required to render 5 days free labour enabling them to avail themselves of facilities like free grazing, 10 Nos. of cart loads of firewood annually, house building materials free of royalty.

FOREST VILLAGERS AND NON FOREST VILLAGERS:

Due to closeness of the forest villagers within the restricted areas of reserve forests, the forest villagers are facing certain discomforts like absence of barbers, traders, shopkeepers, teachers, etc. within the villages. Due to difficult communication system the villagers are not in a position to visit the nearest weekly hats lying outside the forest villages, particularly during summer season. Considering the difficulties the Forest Department of late has allowed entry of non forest people and restriction of occupying land is also removed. The Forest Department considered this benevolent measure on condition that at least fifty per cent of the forest villagers have to place a demand to that effect.

FOREST AND TRIBALS :

Out of a total of 450 forest villages, 234 Nos. belong to tribals i.e. more than 50% of the population in these villages are tribals. Details of forest villages and tribal forest villages are shown below in Table-I, II.

TABLE - I

Showing names of forest circle, names of forest division, No. of villages and No. of families of the forest villages.

Sl.No.	Name of Forest Circle	Name of Forest Division	No. of forest villages	No. of families
1.	Western Assam Circle	Kachugaon	104	4706
2.	-do-	Haltugaon	27	1644
3.	-do-	Dhubri	14	304
4.	-do-	Aye Valley	12	698
5.	Eastern Assam Circle	Digboi	16	1545
6.	-do-	Doomdooma	3	26
7.	-do-	Dibrugarh	23	787
8.	-do-	Sibsagar	22	946
9.	-do-	Golaghat	15	1028
10.	Northern Assam Circle	Lakhimpur	9	421
11.	-do-	Darrang East	9	247
12.	-do-	Darrang West	18	736
13.	-do-	Nagaon	15	824
14.	Central Assam Circle	North Kamrup	2	42
15.	-do-	Kamrup East	1	41
16.	-do-	Kamrup West	61	1291
17.	Hills Circle	Silchar	62	2476
18.		Karimganj	43	1437
19.		N.C. Hills	1	20
20.		Karbi Anglong	7	365
21.	Tangia Villages		60	20694
Total :			524	20694

TABLE – II

Showing name of Forest Division, Nos. of tribal forest villages, area of forest villages, total population, and tribal population.

Sl.No.	Name of Forest Division	No. of tribal forest villages	Area of Forest villages in hectares	Total population	Tribal population
1.	Kamrup West	58	1593.29	2342	6337
2.	Kachugaon	51	8366.10	22638	18369
3.	Silchar	20	1713.76	4011	3179
4.	Haltugaon	19	2606.16	10040	9772
5.	Dibrugarh	12	1462.20	4836	4834
6.	Darrang West	11	1034.47	2544	2460
7.	Lakhimpur	9	738.93	2060	2054
8.	Digboi	8	923.09	3677	2270
9.	Karimganj	9	544.95	2255	1689
10.	Sibsagar	7	911.00	4762	4111
11.	Aye Valley	7	1943.92	3075	2524
12.	Dhubri	6	297.00	1544	1544
13.	Nagaon	6	348.90	2170	1964
14.	Karbi Anglong East	3	236.40	840	840
15.	Golaghat	2	44.64	389	288
16.	Northern Kamrup	1	NA	425	300
17.	Kamrup East	1	61.52	273	273
18.	Darrang East	3	-	-	

Of late the forest villages are experiencing new problems as population is increasing. Families of original allottees increased manifold over the decades. Thus the figures of original households do not tally with the existing members of families at present. Besides the limit of utilization of forest land for non forestry purposes in such settlements has exceeded leaving no scope for further expansion. The actual areas of cultivable land per family is greatly reduced.

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREST VILLAGES:

For each forest village a headman or Gaonbura is appointed by Divisional Forest Officers with approval of the Conservator of Forests. The Gaonburas are exempted from

payment of land revenue and rendering compulsory free labour to the Forest Department. There is also provision for payment of reasonable advances to any householder of a forest village as may be necessary to prepare or sow his land or purchase of plough bullock and all such advances are repayable with interest. Further, the D.F.O. can exempt forest villagers who have become old or infirm poor, widows, minors from rendering fee labour in exchange of forest produce.

The forest villages are governed under the rules for establishment of forest villages and overall provision of the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 (Vol.I) and approved by the Conservator of Forests in writing as per Chapter-VIII under Section-72 (b),74,75. The responsibility for enforcing development activities among the tribal forest villagers remained with the Forest Department.

The forest villages are not having the requisite infrastructural facilities. The minimum facilities like 223 ring wells, 35 tube wells, 10 tanks, (ponds), 378 L.P. schools, 18 Medical Sub Centres, 47 M.E. schools, 27 sub post offices for 524 villages were extended and most of these facilities were provided in the pre Independence days. The villagers are extremely backward economically and educationally. Revenue village status is still a dream for them.

In order to improve the socio-economic condition of the forest villages, Government of Assam launched a Centrally sponsored scheme entitled 'Improvement of Forest Villages' during 1984-85 within the purview of the Forest Conservation Act of 1983. It was an ambitious scheme designed to upgrade the overall backwardness of the forest villagers. The well meaning scheme, however, met its untimely death. The tribal forest villagers are suffering from an inferiority complex when they see the development of their kith and kin outside the forest villages as these villages got the benefit of general areas plan schemes.

JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT AND TRIBAL FOREST VILLAGES:

The interface of forest villages and forests should be recognized as development of forests and forest villages will be possible when the forest villagers feel that forests are their saviors and Forest Department should also function at tandem with the forest villagers' cooperation. Of late many unsocial elements are causing much damage to the forests by illegally cutting trees and to contain this menace, co-operation of forest villages is imperative. Government of Assam in the Forest Department implemented certain concessional programmes to the forest villages of Kokrajhar district as per the Forest Policy of 1988. Similar concessions should be provided to the forest villages of other districts also.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT OF 2008 :

The Scheduled Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2007 of Government of India came into effect from 1.1.08 which provided much needed relief to the tribal forest villages. The legal rights under this Act include rights to cultivate forest land to the extent under occupation subject to a ceiling of four hectares, rights to collect, use, dispose of minor forest produce and rights inside forests which are traditional and customary thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the forests.

The Act will benefit the scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers living in and dependent on forests for their livelihood for three generations (75 years) prior to December 13, 2005. The rights holders will have to ensure sustainable use, conservation of bio-diversity and maintenance of ecological balance.

CHAPTER – I(A)

Objective of the Study –

The forest villages were established under the Forest Regulation Act 1891(Vol-I) . , Sylhet . The forest villagers have been allowed to use the allotted land for agricultural purpose but not the ownership in true sense . They don't come under Panchyatraj Act. As a result both the tribals and non tribals living in these villages have to adopt some new socio –economic habit for survival .This particular study aims to highlight the socio- economic condition and problems faced by tribals living in such villages . The main objectives of this particular study are-

1. To asses the problems faced by the tribals living in the Forest Villages of Assam and to study prevailing socio economic condition of the villages.
2. To find out the affect of deforestation and changing ecological environment in the forest villages of Assam .
3. To know about the cultural changes adopted by the forest villagers to adjust in the changing environment.
4. T o investigate the infrastructure facility provided by the Govt. and the infrastructure requirement.
5. To have an idea about the role played by the forest villages regarding protection of the forest
6. To have an idea about prospect and future of this particular Govt. scheme.

Jurisdiction –

For this present study forest villages of two districts of Assam- Golaghat and Nagaon have been selected. These two districts have 15 and 37 forest villages respectively . The percentage of tribal population in these villages varies from 100% to nil. In Golaghat district out of 15 villages 3 villages have more than 50% tribal population while in Nagaon district 8 villages have more than 50% tribal population .

Sampling –

Two sets of structured questionnaires (schedules) were prepared for collection of individual and village information. In order to get a true picture all the existing forest villages of these two districts are covered by the study . To get a comparative Knowledge about the

socio-economic condition of the forest villages and the problems faced by the both tribals and non tribals living in these villages five numbers of villagers selected from each villages by random sampling method.

Methodology-

Six numbers of Investigators were engaged to collect the data by personally contacting villagers. For collection of field data, participant observation and personal interview method was applied . Before field visit the Investigators were duly briefed about their field duties . The Investigators spent three months in forest villages situated in the far – flung areas of Nagaon and Golaghat districts of Assam. During field work the officers from AIRTSC visited the Forest villages where survey was done to provide necessary inputs. After returning from the field they were engaged for two months for tabulation work. On the basis of the tabulated data collected by the Investigators the officers from AIRTSC prepared the final report under the guidance of appointed research consultant.

CHAPTER – II

(A) DATA ANALYSIS OF VILLAGE SCHEDULE

(a) FOREST VILLAGES OF GOLAGHAT DISTRICT:

The study covered 15 forest villages drawn from 4 Development Blocks viz. Sarupathar Development Block (4 Nos), Dhansiri Development Block (1 No.), Jammuguri Development Block (2 Nos) and Gamariguri Development Block (8 Nos.) of the district. Eleven villages were selected from Golaghat Civil Sub-Division, 3 villages from Dhansiri Civil Sub Division and one village was selected from Sarupathar Sub Division. Table No. 1 shows the details of the selected villages under Golaghat district.

TABLE -1

Showing basic information of the forest villages of Golaghat district

Name of District	Name of Subdivision	Sl. No	Name of Villages	Name of Block	Name of police station	Under TSP/ITDP	Remarks
Golaghat	Dhansiri	1	Naojan	Sarupathar	Sarupathar	No	
	Dhansiri	2	Chungajan Forest Village	Sarupathar	Sarupathar	No	
	Dhansiri	3	Tengani Forest Village	Sarupathar	Barpathar	No	
	Golaghat	4	Kather	Dhansiri	Golaghat	No	The Karbis who lived in Kather have left the village in search of their own community people in the late 80's
	Golaghat	5	Amguri	Jamaguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	6	Choudang Pather	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	7	Merapani Forest Village	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	8	1 No Tarani	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	9	Kachamari Forest Village	Jamuguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	10	1 No Gamariguri	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	11	2 No Gamariguri	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	12	3 No Gamariguri	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	13	4 No Gamariguri	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Golaghat	14	Santipur(5No Gamariguri)	Gamariguri	Merapani	No	
	Sarupathar	15	Uriamghat	Sarupathar	Uriamghat	No	The Original inhabitant of the village (Karbi tribe) abandoned the village and settled down in Karbi Anglong in between 1970 to 1980 with their own community people.

It may be mentioned that two Karbi Forest Villages namely Kather of Golaghat Sub Division and Uriamghat of Sarupathar Sub Division were non existent at present as the Karbis of these villages left the villages to live among the kin members living at Karbi Anglong district.

The villages lie under CF, EAC. Jorhat Forest Circle under the jurisdiction of Golaghat Forest Division. There are 3 forest villages namely Naojin Forest Village, Chungajan Forest Village and Tengani Forest Village under Dhansiri Forest Sub Division and 12 forest villages under Golaghat Forest Sub Division. The villages of Dhansiri Forest Sub Division fall under Nambar Reserve Forest while one village of Golaghat Forest Sub Division and 11 Forest villages of the same Forest Sub Division fall under Upper Doyang Reserve Forest and Dayang Reserve Forest respectively. These two villages each under Naojan Forest Range and 10 Forest Villages are included in Jamuguri Forest Range and one Forest Village comes under Uriamghat Forest Range. Details are shown in Table-2.

TABLE - 2

Showing the location of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Forest circle	Name of forest Division	Name of forest Sub-Division	Name of the Reserve forest	Name of forest Range	Sl no	Name of the forest villages under study
Golaghat	CF, EAC Jorhat	Golaghat	Dhansiri Sub-Division	Nambar Reserve Forest	Naojan Range	1	Naojan FV
						2	Chungajan FV
					Golaghat Range	3	Tengani FV
					Golaghat Range	4	Kather FV
						Doyang Reserve Forest	Jamuguri Range
			6	Choudangpathar FV			
			7	Merapani FV			
			8	1 No Tarani FV			
			9	Kachamari FV			
			10	1 No Gamariguri FV			
			11	2 No Gamariguri FV			
			12	3 No Gamariguri FV			
			13	4 No Gamariguri FV			
			14	Santipur(5No Gamariguri) FV			
			Uriamghat Range	15	Uriamghat FV		

The tribals constitute 27.74% in 15 Forest villages of Golaghat. The total population of the surveyed villages (2 villages have no population) is 9307, male 5005, female 4302 out of which 2582 male 1394, female 1188, are tribals belonging to Bodo Kachari, Karbi, Sonowal Kachari, Mishing, Tiwa and Mech. Altogether 1409 households are recorded in the surveyed villages. 4 No Gamariguri village has the highest number of households numbering 260 while No. 3 Gamariguri has the lowest with 17 households.

Population wise 2 villages, namely Chungajan Forest Village and Shantipur No. 5 Gamariguri Forest Village have hundred per cent tribal population. The Naojan Forest Village has 74.41% of tribal population, followed by Amguri Forest Village with 24.62%, No. 4 Gamariguri with 16.92% and No. 3 Gamariguri with 12.5% tribal population. As many as 7 Forest Villages have no tribal population. Table N0. 3 shows number of households, total population, tribal population with percentages along with names of different tribal groups inhabiting the villages and Table-3 (A) shows the tribal inhabited villages under Golaghat Forest Sub Division.

TABLE - 3

Showing numbers of households, total population, tribal population and percentage of the forest villages of Golaghat district

Name of District	Numbers of Villages	Number s of househ olds	Total population			Tribal population			PC of tribal populati on	Name of tribe
			Tot al	M	F	Tot al	M	F		
Golaghat	Naojan	110	860	440	420	640	330	310	74.41%	Bodo Kachari, Mech
	Chungajan Forest Village	65	455	235	220	455	235	220	100%	Karbi
	Tengani Forest Village	121 (21 original)	490	250	240	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Amguri	85	650	340	310	160	85	75	24.62%	Sonowal Kachari
	Choudang Pather	110	620	320	300	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Merapani Forest Village	85	640	330	310	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1 No Tarani	80	560	300	260	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Kachamari Forest Village	105	550	330	220	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1 No Gamariguri	95	870	450	420	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	2 No Gamariguri	120	1100	650	450	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	3 No Gamariguri	17	120	65	55	15	7	8	12.5%	Mishing
	4 No Gamariguri	260 (65 original)	1300	680	620	220	122	98	16.92%	Sonowal, BodoKachari, Tiwa
Santipur(5No Gamariguri)	156	1092	615	477	1092	615	477	100%	Mishing	

	Kather	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Uriamghat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15 Villages	1409	930 7	500 5	4302	258 2	139 4	118 8	27.74%	Karbi, Tiwa, Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, BodoKachari,, Mech.

(N.B. – Data of the 2 non residential Villages are not available)

TABLE – 3 (A)

Showing total no and percentage of tribal inhabited of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	No of forest villages having 100% tribal population	No of forest villages having more than 50% tribal population	No of forest villages having 25% to 50% tribal population	No of forest villages having less than 25% tribal population	No of Total forest villages having no tribal population
1	2	3	4	5	6
Golaghat	2(15.38%)	1(7.69%)	0(0%)	3(23.07%)	7(53.85%)

It has been noticed that only 6 (46.15%) surveyed villages have tribal population and out of these 2 Forest Villages have 100% tribal population, one village has more than 50% tribal population. 3 (23%) Forest Villages have less than 25% tribal population while 7 (53.8%) Forest Villages have no tribal population at all.

Of late the Forest Department is realizing the need of involving forest villages in the management of forest matters as they are part and parcel of the forest wealth of the country in various ways. Joint Forest Management Committees have been formed with Forest officials and forest villagers. In the 13 surveyed villages out of 570 members of Joint Forest Management Committees, there are 95 tribal members, the percentage being 16.6.

As a result of constituting Joint Forest Management Committee, the forest villagers are enjoying certain infrastructural facilities such as community hall, roads, drinking water, etc. Table No. 4 shows the position of Joint Forest Management Committees in the forest villages of Golaghat Sub Division.

TABLE - 4

Showing joint Forest Management Committees of the forest villages of Golaghat District

District	Numbers of villages	Total members in JFMC	Tribal members in JFMC	Percentage of tribal member in JFMC	Percentage of tribal population to total population	Welfare schemes adopted by JFMC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Golaghat	13	570	95	16.6%	27.7%	Community hall and making of road., tube well, well, culvert,

Out of 15 Forest Villages, 13 (87%) villages are located in the plains areas while only 2 (13%) villages are found in undwelling plains areas.

TABLE - 5

Showing topography of the of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No Of village	No of villages in hilly areas	No of villages in plains areas	No of villages in undwelling plains areas	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6
Golaghat	15	Nil	13 (87%)	2 (13%)	Nil

There are 2 (13.25%) dispersed non residential villages, one (6.5%) isolated forest villages and only 3 (20%) Forest Villages within forest reserve areas. Majority (60%) of the Forest Villages which are agglomerated are located outside forest reserves.

TABLE - 6

Showing settlement pattern of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	No of Dispersed (non residential) villages	No of isolated villages	Within the forest reserve	Outside forest reserve (Agglomerate)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Golaghat	15	2(13.25%) (Kather and Uriamghat)	1(6.5%)	3 (20%)	9(60%)

Even on the outset of the 21st Century and more than sixty years of Independence, the living pattern of the poor forest villagers is remaining more or less same as 71% of the households have thatched houses, 20.20% of the households possess katcha Assam Type houses, 8.67% households own pucca Assam Type houses and 2 (0.14%) households have R.C.C. houses. Details are shown in Table 7 below.

TABLE - 7

Showing type of house of the forest villagers of Golaghat district

District	Name of villages	No of RCC houses	No of Pucca AT house	No Katcha AT houses	No of thatched houses	Chang or platform type house	Total
Golaghat	Naojan	Nil	8 (7.2%)	32(29%)	70(63.7%)	Nil	110
	Chungajan Forest Village	Nil	0	14 (26%)	40(74%)	Nil	54
	Tengani Forest Village	Nil	0	30(27%)	82(73%)	Nil	112
	Amguri	Nil	8 (9.5%)	14(16.5%)	64(74%)	Nil	86
	Choudang Pather	Nil	12 (11.5%)	21(19.5%)	74(69%)	Nil	107
	Merapani Forest Village	2 (10.5%)	10(55%)	7(34.5%)	0	Nil	19
	1 No Tarani	Nil	20 (25%)	28(35%)	32 (40%)	Nil	80
	Kachamari Forest Village	Nil	Nil	18(16.8%)	89 (83.2%)	Nil	107
	1 No Gamariguri	Nil	12 (13%)	28(29%)	55 (58%)	Nil	95
	2 No Gamariguri	Nil	10 (9.8%)	11(10.8%)	80(79.4%)	Nil	101
	3 No Gamariguri	Nil	5 (6%)	18(21.5%)	61 (72.5%)	Nil	84
	4 No Gamariguri	Nil	20 (7.5%)	35(13.5%)	205 (79%)	Nil	260
	Santipur(5No Gamariguri)	Nil	14 (9%)	21(13.5%)	121 (77.5%)	Nil	156
	Total	2(.14)	119 (8.67%)	277 (20.20%)	973 (70.97%)	Nil	1371

As regards land holding pattern, cultivable lands occupy the major share of the total land. The percentage being 87.07. Homestead lands come next with 7.86% followed by land under plantation 2.57%, grazing land 1.77% and fishery 0.72%. Details are shown in Table 8 below.

TABLE - 8

Land Holding Pattern of the surveyed of the forest villages of Golaghat district (In Bighas)

District	Name of villages	Homestead land (in Bighas)	Total cultivable (in Bighas)	Fishery (in Bighas)	Gazing (in Bighas)	Land under plantation (in Bighas)	Total (in Bighas)	Land outside villages (if any)
Golaghat	Naojan	70	650	Nil	15	Nil	735	Yes
	Chungajan Forest Village	48	472	5	10	Nil	535	Yes (15 bighas)
	Tengani Forest Village	18	172	Nil	20	Nil	210	No
	Amguri	29	240	5	Nil	Nil	274	No
	Choudang Pather	95	1530	6	Nil	85	1716	No
	Merapani Forest Village	50	420	5	Nil	80	555	No
	1 No Tarani	45	400	Nil	25	60	530	Yes (10 bighas)
	Kachamari Forest Village	90	809	Nil	32	Nil	931	No
	1 No Gamariguri	105	1226	5	30	Nil	1366	No
	2 No Gamariguri	115	1390	35	Nil	32	1572	No
	3 No Gamariguri	95	1280	5	40	50	1470	No
	4 No Gamariguri	85	975	5	Nil	Nil	1065	No
	Santipur(5No Gamariguri)	140	1350	20	50	15"	1575	No
	Total	985 (7.86%)	10914 (87.07%)	91 (.7%)	222 (1.77%)	322 (2.57%)	12534	25 Bighas

In the introduction part of this report it has been mentioned that development activities in forest villages are far from satisfactory. Some piecemeal measures were provided by the foreign rulers and after Independence an effort was made in 1984 under the scheme 'Improvement of Forest Villages' only to be abandoned after one year of implementation. Thus the forest villagers are experiencing lack of basic infrastructural facilities like lack of drinking water, lack of transport and communication, lack of adequate health care facilities, etc. The present study shows that 7.7% of the villages have shown drinking water facility as the first problem, 38.4% of villages have shown drinking water as second major problem and 23% villages have indicated lack of drinking water as the third major problem. Like wise 7.7% of the villages have shown transport and communication as the first major problem 7.7% of the villages have shown it as second major problem and 15.4% of the villages shown transport

and communication as the third major problem. In respect of health care facilities 15.4% villages indicated as the first, second and third major problems. Unemployment is a serious problem as the educated sections, rather half educated sections, does not like to stick to their parental occupation which is quite unsuitable in the present day life context. Thus 53.8% villages indicated unemployment as the first major problem 23% have shown it as second major problem and 15.4% villages have shown it as third major problem. Only 7.7% each of the village indicated lack of civic facilities, natural calamities, deforestation as third major problems while 7.7% villages each have shown encroachment as first and third major problem. Only 15.4% of the surveyed villages have indicated lack of educational facilities as the second major problem and 7.7% villages of Merapani have shown interstate problem (boundary problem) as first major problem. Details are shown in Table 9.

TABLE-9

Showing major Problems of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	SI No	Different problems	No of Villages that has shown it as 1 st major problem	P/C of (villages) 1 st major problem	No of Villages that has shown it as 2nd major problem	P/C of (villages) 2nd major problem	No of Villages has shown it as 3 rd major problem	P/C of (villages) 3 rd major problem
Golaghat	1	Lack of transport and commune caution	1	7.7%	1	7.7%	2	15.4%
	2	Un employment	7	53.8%	3	23%	2	15.4%
	3	Lack of health care facility	2	15.4%	2	15.4%	2	15.4%
	4	Lack of drinking water	1	7.7%	5	38.4%	3	23%
	5	Lack of civic facilities					1	7.7%
	6	Natural calamities					1	7.7%
	7	Encroachment	1	7.7%			1	7.7%
	8	Deforestation					1	7.7%
	9	Insurgency						
	10	Lack of Mass commune caution						
	11	Lack of Educational facilities			2	15.4%		
	12	Any others	1 (Merapani village has mentioned about some problems created by Nagaland)	7.7%				
Total -							13	

In respect of transport and communication, only 15.4% of the villages have motorable road within the villages. 69.2% of the villages have motorable road at a distance of 1-2 kms.

From the villages while one (7.7%) each village has such facility within 2-5 kms., and above 10 kms respectively.

46.1 per cent of the villages have nearest transport station at a distance of above 10 kms while 38.5% villages have such facility at a distance of 2-5 kms. One each village enjoys the transport facilities at a distance of 1-2 kms and 5-10 kms.

Railway stations are not easily available for the villagers. 84.6% villages have railway station at a distance of above 10 kms.

The Block Development Office is located at a far distance from the forest villages and 92.3% villages have the Block H.Q. at a distance of above 10 kms.

The Civil S.D.O. office is also lying at a distance of above 10 kms from all the villages. Table 10 shows the transport and communication facilities of the Forest Villages in detail.

TABLE -10

Showing Transport and Communication Facilities of the surveyed of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Facilities	Distance in Kms					Total no of villages
		Within village	1-2 Kms	2-5 Kms	5-10 Kms	Above 10 Kms	
Golaghat	Nearest motorable road	2 (15.4%)	9 (69.2%)	1 (7.7%)	0	1 (7.7%)	13
	Nearest transport station	0	1 (7.7%)	5 (38.5%)	1 (7.7%)	6(46.1%)	
	Nearest Rly station	0	0	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	11(84.6%)	
	Block office	0	0	0	1 (7.6%)	12(92.3%)	
	SDO office	0	0	0	0	13(100%)	

61.6% Forest Villages use katcha roads while only 30.8% Forest Villages use katcha fair weather roads. Graveled road facilities are available for only one (7.7%) villages. Table-11

TABLE -11

Showing Condition of roads in the surveyed of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Category (main approachable road)	Numbers	P/C
Golaghat	13	Foot track	Nil	0%
		Katcha Fair weather	4	30.8%
		Katcha all weather	8	61.5%
		Graveled	1	7.7%
		Others	Nil	

Majority (92.3%) of the Forest Villages use motor bus as primary mode of conveyance while 7.7% village use bicycle as primary mode of conveyance. Table-12

TABLE – 12

Showing mode of conveyance of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Category (primary mode of conveyance)	No of villages using the following facilities as primary mode of conveyance	P/C
Golaghat	13	Motor bus	12	92.3%
		Railway	Nil	
		Car	"	
		Bike	"	
		Scooter	"	
		Bicycle	1	7.7%
		Boat	"	
		Other	"	

It is interesting to note that mass communication facilities like T.V., radio are available for 92.4% of the villages. Three (22.8%) villages have mobile phones. News papers are found in 7 (53.6%) villages and 7 (53.6%) villages are having community centres. But library is found in one village only. 4 (30.8%) villages are provided with telephone facilities. Table 13 shows the availability of mass communication facilities in the surveyed villages.

TABLE – 13

Mass Communication facility available in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Available means of mass communication	No of villages having the mass communication facilities	P/C villages having mass communication facilities	Total numbers available
Golaghat	13	TV	12	92.4%	195no
		Radio	12	92.4%	461 no
		Newspaper	7	53.6%	50 no
		Library	1	7.7%	1 no
		Community Center	7	53.6%	7 no
		Telephone	4	30.8%	40 no
		Mobile phone	3	22.8%	6 no

As regards civic facilities, 2 villages have post office facilities within the villages while 5 villages each have post offices within 1-2 km and 2-5 kms respectively. The distance of only one village to the nearest post office is 10-15 kms.

There is only one village, which has police station within the village. For another one village the distance to the police station is 1-2 km. 5 Nos. of Forest Villages have to travel 2-5

kms to reach the police station. 4 Nos. of Forest Villages have the police station at a distance of 10-15 kms and 2 villages have the police station at a distance of above 15 kms.

As regards medical Sub Centre, one village has the same within the village while 7 villages have medical Sub Centre at a distance of 1-2 km, 4 villages have such facility at a distance of 2-5 kms and a lone village gets medical facility at a distance of 10-15 kms.

State Dispensaries are located at a distance of 2-5 kms. From 2 villages, 5-10 kms from 1 village, 10-15 kms from 2 villages and above 15 kms from 8 forest villages.

The hospitals are also located at a distance of 2-5 kms from 1 village, 5-10 kms from 1 village, 10-15 kms from 2 villages and above 15 kms from 9 villages.

Private medical practitioners are available at a distance of 2-5 kms from 5 villages, 5-10 kms from 2 villages, 10-15 kms from 4 villages and above 15 kms from 2 villages.

Medical shops are located at a distance of 1-2 km from 3 villages, 2-5 kms from 7 villages, 10-15 kms from 2 villages and above 15 kms from one village.

Veterinary Sub Centres are located at a distance of 1-2 kms from 2 villages, 2-5 kms from 3 villages, 5-10 kms from 1 village, 10-15 kms from 4 villages and above 15 kms from 3 villages. Details are shown in Table 14.

TABLE - 14

Civic Facilities facility available in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Category	Within villages	Distance in Km				
				1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15
Golaghat	13	Post office	2(15.4%)	5(38.4%)	5(38.4%)	Nil	1(7.7%)	Nil
		Police station	1(7.7%)	1(7.7%)	5(38.4%)	Nil	4(30.7%)	2(15.4%)
		Medical sub center	1(7.7%)	7(53%)	4(30.7%)	Nil	1(7.7%)	Nil
		State dispensary	Nil	Nil	2(15%)	1(7.7%)	2(15.4%)	8(%)
		Hospital	Nil	Nil	1(7.7%)	1(7.7%)	2(15.4%)	9(%)
		Pvt. Medical practitioner	Nil	Nil	5(38.4%)	2(15.4%)	4(30.7%)	2(15.4%)
		Medical shop	Nil	3(23%)	7(53%)	Nil	2(15.4%)	1(7.7%)
		Veterinary sub center	Nil	2(15.4%)	3(23%)	1(7.6%)	4(30.7%)	3(23%)

The forest villagers prefer to go to Government hospitals in serious diseases. There are 6 Nos. of villages who give first preference to Government hospitals. The first choice of 4 villages is P.H.C. while the first choice of one village is village quack and for 2 villages the first

choice is any other i.e. Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic. Following table shows the preferences of the villagers in case of serious diseases.

TABLE – 15

Showing emergency medical preference of the forest villagers of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	In case of medical emergency the villagers prefer to go		P/C
		Category	No of villages	
Golaghat	13	Govt. hospital	6	46%
		P.H.C	4	32%
		Private hospital		
		Private doctor		
		Village quack	1	7.5%
		Any other (Homeopathic and Ayurvedic)	2	15%

The distance to the Government hospitals from 2 villages is 5-10 km, from 3 villages is 10-15 km and from 8 villages the distance is above 15 kms.

The distance to PHC from 2 villages is 1-2 km, from 4 villages 2-5 km, from 4 villages 5-10 kms and from 3 villages 10-15 kms.

Private hospitals are located at a considerable distance from the villages. For 7 villages the distance to private hospital is above 15 kms, for 4 villages the distance is 10-15 kms and for 2 villages the distance is 5-10 kms.

Similarly private doctors are available at a distance of 2-5 kms for 2 villages, 5-10 kms for 3 villages, 10-15 kms for 3 villages and above 15 kms for 5 villages.

Village quacks are available within the villages for 3 villages, 1-2 kms for 3 villages and above 15 kms for 7 villages. Homeopathic/Ayurvedic doctors are available within the villages for 3 villages, 1-2 kms for 3 villages, 2-5 kms for 7 villages. Details are shown in Table – 16.

TABLE – 16

Showing distance from the forest villages to the nearest medical center

District	Total No of villages	Category	Within	Located at a distance of (in Kms.)				
				1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15
Golaghat	13	Govt. hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil	2(15%)	3(23%)	8(61%)
		P.H.C	Nil	2(15%)	4(30%)	4(30%)	3(23%)	
		Private hospital	Nil	Nil	Nil	2(15%)	4(30%)	7(53%)
		Private doctor	Nil	Nil	2(15%)	3(23%)	3(23%)	5(38%)
		Village quack	3(23%)	3(23%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	7(53%)
		Any other (Homeopathic or Ayurvedic)	3(23%)	3(23%)	7(53%)	Nil	Nil	Nil

As regards educational facilities in the forest villages, there are private primary schools besides L.P. schools in all the surveyed villages. Only 4 villages have private L.P. schools within the village, 2 villages have private primary schools at a distance of 1-2 kms and another 2 villages have private primary schools at a distance of 2-5 km. 5 villages have such schools at a distance of above 15 kms. Seven such primary schools are Angnwadi, 1 Government, and 6 Government aided. There are 11 Government L.P. schools and 9 of them are located within the villages. 2 venture L.P. schools are located at a distance of 1-2 km. The distance of L.P. schools is 2-5 kms from 2 villages.

There are 12 Government and 1 venture M.E. schools in or near the forest villages. 1 M.E. schools is located within a village. The distance of M.E. schools from 6 villages is 1-2 kms from 4 villages 2-5 kms and from 2 villages 5-10 kms.

There are 7 Government and 6 venture H.E. Schools is or near the villages. One village has H.E. School within the village. The distance of H.E. School for 5 villages each is 1-2 kms and 2-5 kms respectively. H.E. school for 2 villages is located at a distance of 5-10 kms.

College education facilities for one village is located at a distance of 1-2 km, for 5 villages the colleges are located at a distance of 2-5 kms, for 2 villages each college is located at a distance of 5-10 kms and above 10-15 kms respectively. These colleges are Government aided. Details are shown in the following table.

TABLE - 17

Showing Educational Facilities available in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Categories	Within villages	Distance in Kms					Type			
				1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15	Anganwadi	Govt.	venture	Govt. aided
Golaghat	13	Private primary	4	2	2	0	0	5	7	1	0	5
		L.P.	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	11	2	0
		M.E.	1	6	4	2	0	0	0	12	1	0
		H.E.	1	5	5	2	0	0	0	7	6	0
		College	0	1	5	2	2	3	0	0	0	13
		other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There are only 2 boys undergoing ITI training courses and one boy studying Junior Engineering from these villages. Table 17(A)

TABLE – 17(A)

No of student undergoing technical courses in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Category	Numbers	Boy	Girls
Golaghat	13	Medical	Nil	Nil	Nil
		Technical	2 (ITI)	2	Nil
		Degree Tech. Diploma	1(Junior engineering)	1	Nil
		Agriculture	Nil	Nil	Nil
		Veterinary	Nil	Nil	Nil
		Others	Nil	Nil	Nil

Numbering of tribal students from the forest villages is much less in all the categories beginning from pre primary to collage. In the pre primary out of 315 students, there are only 53 (16.82%) tribal students. Similarly out of 2080 students in L P School standard the percentage of tribal students is 15.6. The percentage of tribal students in the M.E standard is 15.58 while for H E the percentage is only 14.51. The percentage of tribal student in college standard is only 10.18. Details are shown in Table – 17(B).

TABLE – 17(B)

Showing numbers of students in general category educational Institutions of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Villages	Category	Numbers of total student			Numbers of tribal student			PC of Tribal students
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Golaghat	13	Pre Primary/ Anganwadi	213	102	315	27	26	53	16.82 %
		L.P.	1095	985	2080	183	142	325	15.6%
		M.E.	812	800	1612	140	111	251	15.58%
		H.E.	670	460	1130	90	74	164	14.51%
		College	222	151	373	23	15	38	10.18%
		Total			5510			831	

The villagers use tube wells and ring wells only for drinking water purposes. There are 989 tube wells (56 Government) and 142 ring wells in the surveyed villages. The water contains iron and smells not good.

TABLE – 18

Showing sources of drinking water including quality & distance in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Source	Private	Govt.	Distance				Quality
					Within own campus	1-2 Km	2-3 Km	Common water source	
Golaghat	13	Pond	0	0					Iron rich and scented
		Well	142						
		River	0	0					
		Tube well	989	56					
		Reservoir	0	0					
		Pipe water	0	0					

Electric connections have been provided to 10 (76%) villages. 422 (30%) households are provided with electricity and out of these 70 households belong to tribals. Percent wise 19% tribal families are having electric connection as shown in the Table – 19.

TABLE – 19

No of villages and households having electric connection in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	No of villages having electricity	No of Total houses	Total houses having electricity	Total no of tribal family	Total no of tribal family having electricity
Golaghat	13	10(76%)	1409	422(30%)	368	70(19%)

Veterinary facilities are available in the forest villages but only one village each has such facility within a distance of 0 – 1 km and 1 – 2 km respectively. 5 villages have veterinary facilities at a distance of 2 – 5 km and 3 villages each get such facilities at a distance of 5 – 10 km and 10 + km respectively.

The villagers seemed to be unhappy as the veterinary officials do not visit the villages regularly. 12 villages replied to the question negatively when the Investigators asked whether veterinary officials visit the villages regularly. Only one village replied positively as shown in the Table –20.

TABLE – 20

Showing veterinary Facilities available in the surveyed forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Veterinary Facility available within the Villages	Distance in Kms					Do the Veterinary Officers Visit regularly	
			0-1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10+	Yes	No
Golaghat	13	0 (0%)	1 (7.7%)	1 (7.7%)	5 (38.4%)	3 (23%)	3 (23%)	1 village	12 villages

Income status of the tribal families of the forest villages was studied and out of 368 families 220 (58.5%) families each earn above Rs.24,000.00 P.A while 140 (38%) families each earn annually within the range of Rs.10,000.00 to Rs.24,000.00. Only 8 (2.5%) families each earn below Rs.10,000.00 annually. Which is shown in the Table – 21.

TABLE – 21

Showing annual Income of the Villagers of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Total no of family	Total no of tribal family	Annual Income Range		
				Below Rs-10,000	Rs - 10,000 to 24,000	Above Rs 24,000
Golaghat	13	1409	368	8(2.5%)	140(38%)	220(58.5%)

Deforestation becomes a chronic problem not only for the forest authorities but for the people in general as deforestation leads to imbalance in the eco system causing various allied problems. In the present study the forest villagers agreed that deforestation takes place and the agencies mainly are villagers themselves (23.07%), neighbouring villagers (38.46%), outsiders (encroachers) (15.38%), timber dealers (23.07%). It is shown in the Table – 22.

TABLE -22

Showing causes of deforestation in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	Deforestation taking place		Deforestation mainly caused by	
		Yes	No	Factors	No of villages
Golaghat	13	13 (100%)	Nil	Villagers themselves	3(23.07%)
				Neighboring villagers	5(38.46%)
				Outsiders(encroacher)	2(15.38%)
				Timber dealers	3(23.07%)
				Others(specify)	Nil

For there are 10 Fair Price shops and 22 other miscellaneous shops in the villages under study but the villagers depend mainly upon non Fair Price shops cannot cater to the needs of the villagers. Table – 23

TABLE – 23

Showing marketing facility available in the of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Total No of villages	No of Fair Price Shops in the villages	No of other shop in the village	No of Total Shops
Golaghat	13	10 (31.2%)	22(68.8%)	32

For their business transactions the villagers come to the daily/weekly/bi-weekly hats situated near the villages. The distance to the marketing centers for 5 villages is 1 km, for one village the distance is 1.5 km, for 3 villages the distance is 2 km, for 3 villages the distance to the hats is 4 km and for one village the market/hat is located at a distance of 10 km.

There are 5 daily hats and 8 weekly or bi-weekly hats near the villages. Most of the villagers visit the daily/weekly hats on foot, bicycle. Bus facilities are available for 2 villages only namely Merapani F.V. and No. 4 Gamariguri.

Rice is the most common item brought to the hat by the villagers and as many as 9 villages bring this item to the hats. Mustard seeds are brought for sale by the people of 3 villages. Jute is brought by 2 villages. Locally grown vegetables are brought by the people of 4 villages. Mati Dal is brought by one village and 3 villages sell sugarcane in the market.

Forest products like wooden furniture are brought to the market by the people of 4 villages. Thatch is sold in the market by the people of one village. Bamboo mats are brought for sale by the people of 4 villages. Firewood is also sold by the people of one F.V. Details are shown in Table-23 (A).

TABLE – 23 (A)

Other marketing facility available in the of the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Name of villages	Name of market daily /weekly/ bi weekly hat (nearest)	Distance from villages & type (in Km)	Transport facilities to the market	Locally produced items and others commodities	
					Agricultural	Forest products
Golaghat	Naojan	Naojan Bazaar	2 (daily)	Bullock cart, by foot and cycle	Rice, vegetables	Nil
	Chungajan Forest Village	Chungajan Bazaar	1 (daily)	by foot and cycle	Rice, mastered seed , jute	Wooden furniture , bamboo mat
	Tengani Forest Village	Ahatguri Bazaar	2 (weekly)	by foot and cycle	Rice, vegetables	Nil
	Amguri	Jamuguri Bazaar	4 (daily)	Bullock cart, by foot and cycle	Rice, , mastered seed	Wooden furniture , bamboo mat
	Choudang Pather	Hapekhaity Bazaar	4 (weekly)	by foot and cycle	Rice, vegetables	Thatch, Wooden furniture
	Merapani Forest Village	Saturday Bazaar	1(weekly)	Bus and cycle	Jute, beetle nut & beetle leaf	Nil
	1 No Tarani	Saturday Bazaar	10 (weekly)	By cycle	Rice, vegetables	Wooden furniture
	Kachamari Forest Village	Kachamari Bazaar	1(daily)	By foot	Rice	Bamboo artifacts
	1 No Gamariguri	Saturday Bazaar	1(weekly)	by foot and cycle	Rice, Sugarcane , mastered seed	firewood
	2 No Gamariguri	Gamariguri Bazaar	1.5 (weekly)	Bullock cart, by foot and cycle	beetle nut & beetle leaf Sugarcane	bamboo mat & basket
	3 No Gamariguri	Saturday Bazaar	2(daily)	by foot and cycle	Rice	Nil
	4 No Gamariguri	Nagabat Bazaar	4(Weekly)	Bus and cycle	Sugarcane , mastered seed	Wooden furniture
Santipur (5 No Gamariguri	Saturday Bazaar	1 (weekly/) bi weekly	by foot and cycle	Mati Dal, Sugarcane	bamboo mat & basket	

Co-operative societies are found in all the villages. 2 villages have co-operative societies within the villages. One village has co-operative society at a distance to 0-5 km while the co-op. societies of Tengani F.V. and Choudang Pathar are located at a distance of 2 kms

from the villages. Jamuguri Samabai Samiti of Amguri F.V. is situated at a distance of 4 kms. Three villages have the co-op societies at a distance of 5-10 kms while co-operatives of 4 villages are located at a distance of above 10 kms. Table-24 shows in detail.

TABLE – 24

Showing Co-operative Societies present in the forest villages of Golaghat district

District	Name the of villages	Name of Co operative Societies	Year of establishment	Within the village	Distance to the Co operative Societies lying outside in Kms			
					1-2	2-5	5-10	10+
Golaghat	Naojan	Sorupother Somobai Somitte	1980				7km	
	Chungajan Forest Village	Sorupother Somobai Somitte	1980				10km	
	Tengani Forest Village	Aghatguri Somobai Somitte	1985		2km			
	Amguri	Jamaguri Somobai Somitte	1981			4km		
	Choudang Pather	Choudang Somobai Somitte	2005		2km			
	Merapani Forest Village	Merapani co-operative society	1983	Yes				
	1 No Tarani	Tarani Somobai Somitte	1978		0.5km			
	Kachamari Forest Village	Kachamar Somobai Somitte	1981	Yes				
	1 No Gamariguri	Arunachal Somobai Somitte	2005					11km
	2 No Gamariguri	Polibagan Somobai Somitte	1975				10km	
	3 No Gamariguri	Arunachal Somobai Somitte	2005					13km
	4 No Gamariguri	Arunachal Somobai Somitte	2005					15km
	Santipar(5No Gamariguri)	Arunachal Somobai Somitte	2005					15
	13 Co operative Societies			2 (15%)	3 (23%)	1 (7.6%)	33 (23%)	4 (31%)

Two N.G.Os are operating in the forest villages, one is organization for Tribal Women Welfare at Chungajan F.V. and the other is Gamariguri Sanskritic Mancha at No. 3 Gamariguri. In the former N G O all the 21 members belong to tribal communities while in the latter N G O out of 12 members 4 are tribal. The organization at Chungajan is getting Govt. aid while the Gamariguri N G O is not receiving Govt. aid. The Chungajan NGO's main function is production and marketing of handloom product while the NGO of Gamariguri organizes cultural functions. Details are shown in Table – 25.

TABLE - 25**N.G.Os working in the forest villages of Golaghat district**

District	Total No of villages having NGOS	Name of the N.G.Os /village	Year of establish	Total members	Tribal members	Govt. Aid		Function of the N.G.Os		
						Yes	No	Economic	Social	Cultural activity
Golaghat	2 (15%)	Organization for tribal Woman Welfare / Chungajan FV	2001	21	21	-	Yes	Production and marketing of handloom product	-	-
		Gomariguri Sanskrit Mancha/ 3 no Gomariguri FV	2003	12	4	No		-	-	Organizing Bihu and other cultural function

Gaon Panchayat institution has been extended to the forest villages and out of 13 villages under survey, 10 villages have Gaon Panchayats. No separate scheme for tribals has been introduced by the Gaon Panchayats in the villages.

As regards cottage and small industries in the villages not much progress has been made. There are 2 Handlooms, one pig farm, one carpentry and one cycle repairing shop in the surveyed villages. One Handloom industry is run by an individual and the other by a group of individuals. Other industries are run by individuals. In the Handloom industry 5 Nos. of families are engaged and out of these there is only one tribal family. In the pig farm one tribal family is engaged. The carpentry industry engages 3 non tribal families while the cycle repairing is done by a non tribal individual. Details are shown in Table - 26.

TABLE - 26**Showing functioning of cottage and small scale industries in the forest villages of Golaghat district under survey**

District	Name of industries	Total No of industries	Run by			Total no of families engaged	Total no of tribal families engaged
			Individual	Groups	Corporation		
Golaghat	Hand loom	2(40%)	1	1	Nil	5	1
	Sericulture	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Bamboo & Cane	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Poultry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Tea garden	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Pig farm	1(20%)	1	Nil	Nil	1	1
	Fishery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Beekeeping	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Carpentry	1 (20%)	1	Nil	Nil	3	
	Palter making	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Others	1(20%) (Cycle Repairing)	1	Nil	Nil	1	
Total	5	4(80%)	1(20%)	Nil	10	2	

As regards raw material sources, members of 5 (38%) villages collected the same from villages, 4 (30.5%) villages collect the materials from outside and another 4 (30.5%) villages collect materials from villages as well as from outside. Details are shown in Table – 26 (A).

TABLE – 26 (A)

Showing sources of raw materials for industrial use

District	Total No of villages	From only the nearby forest	From the villages itself	From outside	From all the three sources
Golaghat	13	0	5(38%)	4(30.5%)	4(30.5%)

The products of the industries are sold by self (47%), through middlemen (30.5%) and through both the sources (22.5%). Details are shown in Table – 26 (B).

TABLE – 26 (B)

Showing the means of selling of finished products in the forest villages of Golaghat district under survey

District	Total No of villages	By self	Through middle man	Through Co-operative Societies	Through all the three sources
Golaghat	13	6(47%)	4(30.5%)	0	3(22.5%)

15.5% of the villagers sell the products in the villages, 38% villagers sell the same in the nearby hats, 15.5% villagers sell the products to outside dealers and 30.5% producers sell their products in combination of all the three. Details are shown in Table – 26 (C).

TABLE – 26 (C)

Where such products are sold

District	Total No of villages	In the villages	Near by local hat	To outside dealers	To the all three sources
Golaghat	13	2(15.5%)	5(38%)	2(15.5%)	4(30.5%)

The impact of small industries in the socio-economic status of the owners is not very appreciable as only 4.6% owners reported that economic status was substantially improved, 76.7% owners remarked that improvement of economic condition was average while 18.6% owners had no impact at all. Details are shown in Table – 26 (D).

TABLE – 26 (D)

Impact of cottage & small industries in the living standard / socio economic status

District	No of industries owners	Socio economic status-impact there of		
		Improved substantially	Average	Not improved
Golaghat	43	2(4.6%)	33(76.7%)	8(18.6%)

(b) FOREST VILLAGES OF NAGAON DISTRICT.

The study covered 37 forest villages drawn from 14 Development Blocks viz Barhampur, Hatbar, Jakhalabandha, Kathiatoli, Mayang, Dighaliati, Birnakand, Jamunamukh, Morajhar, Udali, Lumding, Udali Bamungaon, Hojai and Dhaipukhuri Development Blocks of the District. The forest villages were selected from Kaliabar Civil Sub-Division, 13 villages from Nagaon Civil Sub-Division and 14 villages from Hojai Civil Sub-Division. Table No-1 shows the details of the selected villages under Nagaon District.

TABLE - 1

Showing basic information of the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

Name of District	Name of Subdivision	Sl No	Name of Villages	Name of Block	Name of Police station	Under TSP/ ITDP	Remark	
Nagaon	Kaliabor	1	Barhula F.V	Barhampur	Samaguri	No		
	-do-	2	Bapudoloni	Hatbor	Shilghat	No		
	-do-	3	Ghorakhati	Jakhalaban dha	Jakhalaban dha	No	Non residential (The village area is included in the Kaziranga National Park area)	
	-do-	4	Pilkhana (P-1)	Kathiatoli	Kampur	No		
	-do-	5	Pilkhana (P-2)	Kathiatoli	Kampur	No		
	-do-	6	Baghekhati	Barhampur	Samoguri	No		
	-do-	7	Lutumari	Kathiatoli	Kachua	No		
	-do-	8	Bagser F.V	Jakhalaban dha	Jakhalaban dha	No	Non residential(The village does not exit any more due to erosion by the river Brahmaputra)	
	-do-	9	Hatikhuli F.V.	Barhampur	Samoguri	No.		
	-do-	10	Kumurakat a F.V.	Jakhalaban dha	Jakhalaban dha	No	Non residential (The original inhabitant of the village left the village and settled in Karbi Anglong)	
	Nagaon		11	Sidhisur	Mayong	Amsoi	No	Non residential (now covered by the forest)
	-do-		12	Silsang	Mayong	Nellie	No	
	-do-		13	Gegera F.V.	Mayong	Nellie	No	
	-do-		14	Amjari	Mayong	Nellie	No	
	-do-		15	Amsoi	Mayong	Amsoi	No	
	-do-		16	Shivakunda	Mayong	Nellie	No	Non residential

		Tangia village				village (The people of the Amsoigaon village use the available land for cultivation)
-do-	17	Bargaon	Mayong	Amsoi	No	Non residential (Presently belongs to Karbi Anglong district)
-do-	18	Hatigarh(Te telitol)	Dighaliati	Raha	No	
-do-	19	Burigaon	Birnakandi	Daboka	No	
-do-	20	Ambari F.V.	Birnakandi	Morajhar	No	
-do-	21	Gajanipar				Non residential village (The people of the surrounding villages use the available land for plantation)
-do-	22	Gangadisa	Jamunamukh	Daboka	No	
-do-	23	Hatikhuli	Morajhar	Morajhar	No	Non residential (Now the village is occupied by the encroacher from outside).
Hojai	24	Rampur	Udali	Lanka	No	
-do-	25	Tapanpur	Udali	Kaki	No	
-do-	26	Ramnagar	Udali	Kaki	No	
-do-	27	Ramnagar N/R				Non residential
-do-	28	1No Tangia (Kaki)	Lumding	Kaki	No	
-do-	29	2No Tangia (Kaki)	Udali	Lanka	No	
-do-	30	3No Tangia (Kaki)	Udali	Lanka	No	
-do-	31	Gossigaon F.V.	Udali	Lumding	No	
-do-	32	Lankajan old	Udali Bamungaon	Lumding	No	
-do-	33	Lankajan new	Udali Bamungaon	Lumding	No	
-do-	34	Kurkat basti F.V.	Hojai	Hojai	No	
-do-	35	Kumurakata N/R	Dhalpukhuri	Hojai	No	Non residential village (The people of the surrounding village use the available land for cultivation)
-do-	36	Kumurakata	Dhalpukhuri	Hojai	No	
-do-	37	Nandapur	Dhalpukhuri	Hojai	No	

It may be mentioned that there are as many as 10 non-residential villages in the selected list and reasons for such status are shown in the remark Column of Table -1.

Names of the non-residential villages are:

1. Ghorakhati (under Jakhalabandha Development Block)
2. Bagser (under Jakhalabandha Development Block)
3. Kamorakata (under Jakhalabandha Development Block of Kaliabar Sub Division),
4. Sidhisur (Under Mayong Development Block)
5. Sivakunda Tangia village (Under Mayong Development Block)
6. Bargaon (Under Mayong Development Block)
7. Gajanipar
8. Hatikhuli (under Morajhar Development Block of Nagaon Civil Sub-Division)
9. Ramnagar
10. Komorakata N.R. (under Dhalpukhuri Development Block of Hojai Civil Sub Division.

The villages are not included either in TSP or ITDP.

The forest villages are lie under C.F. NAC, Tezpur Civil under the jurisdiction of Nagaon Forest Division. There are 9 Forest Villages under Kaliabar Forest Sub Division, 8 FVs under Nagaon Forest Sub Division and 20 FVs under Hojai Forest Sub Division. The 9 FVs of Kaliabar Forest Sub Division fall under Suang Reserve Forest (RF), Kamakhya Hill RF, Kukurkata RF, Pilkhana RF, Lutumari RF, Bagser RF and Bamuni RF. The 8 FVs of Nagaon Forest Sub Division fall under Killing RF and Kholaghat RF. The 20 FVs of Hojai Forest Sub Division fall under Kaki RF, Lumding RF, Komorakata RF, Habipur RF, Daboka RF and Jamunamukh RF. Details with names of forest villages have been shown in Table – 2.

TABLE – 2

Showing the location of the Forest Villages of Nagaon district

District	Forest circle	Name of forest Division	Name of forest Sub-Division	Name of the Reserve forest	Sl No	Name of tribal forest villages under study.
Nagaon	CF, NAC, Tezpur	Nagaon	Kaliabor Sub Division	Suang R. F.	1	Barhula F.V
				Kamakhya Hill R. F.	2	Bapudoloni
				Kukurkata R. F.	3	Ghorakhati
				Pilkhana R. F.	4	Pilkhana (P-1)
				-do-	5	Pilkhana (P-2)
				Suang R. F.	6	Baghekhati

			Lutumari R. F.	7	Lutumari
			Bagser R. F.	8	Bagser F.V
			Bamuni R. F.	9	Hatikhuli F.V.
		Nagaon Sub Division	Kiling R. F.	10	Sidhisur
			Kholaghat R. F.	11	Silsang
			-do-	12	Gegera F.V.
			-do-	13	Amjari
			-do-	14	Amsoi
			-do-	15	Shivakunda tangia village
			-do-	16	Bargaon
			-do-	17	Hatigarh(Tetelitol)
	Nagaon South		Hojai Sub Division	Kaki R. F.	18
		-do-		19	Tapanpur
		-do-		20-	Ramnagar
		-do-		21	Ramnagar N/R
		-do-		22	1No Tangia (Kaki)
		-do-		23	2No Tangia (Kaki)
		-do-		24	3No Tangia (Kaki)
		Lumding R. F.		25	Gosaigaon F.V.
		-do-		26	Lankajan old
		-do-	27	Lankajan new	
		Kaliabor Sub Division	Kumurakata R. F.	28	Kumurakata F.V.
		Hojai Sub Division	Habipur R. F.	29	Kurkat basti F.V.
			-do-	30	Kumurakata N/R
			-do-	31	Kumurakata
			-do-	32	Nandapur
		Nagaon Sub Division	Dobaka R. F.	33	Burigaon
			Jamunamukh R. F.	34	Ambari F.V.
			-do-	35	Gajanipar
	Dobaka R. F.		36	Gangadisa	
	-do-		37	Hatikhuli	

The tribals constitute only 13.90 PC populaton in 37 Forest Villages of Nagaon. The total population of the surveyed villages (excluding 10 non residential villages) is 24,180 (13316 male and 10864 female) out of which 3363 are tribal (male1868 and 1495 female) belonging to Karbi, Tiwa, Mishing and Bodo Kachari tribes. Altogether 2614 households are recorded in the surveyed villages. There are 6 F.Vs with 100 pc tribal population namely Barhola F V, Gezera FV, Amjari FV, Amsoi FV, Hatigarh FV and Ramnagar FV. Only 2 villages viz. Silsang FV (62.37%) and Hathikhuli FV (53.25%) have more than 50% tribal population. Other FVs with tribal population are 1. Lutumari FV (36%), 2 Baghekhati FV (21.42%), 3. Tapanpur (5.7%), 4. Pilkhana (P-1) (3.57%), 5. No. 1 Tangia (Kaki) (2.63%), 6. No. 2 Tangia

(Kaki) (2.03%) and 7. Burigaon (2.91%). Table No. 3 and 3 (A) show number of households, total population, and tribal population with percentage along with names of tribals living in F.Vs.

TABLE - 3

Showing numbers of households, total population, tribal population and percentage of the Forest Villages of Nagaon district

Name of District	Name of villages	Numbers of households	Total population			Tribal population			PC of tribal to total population	Name of tribe
			Total	M	F	Total	M	F		
Nagaon	Barhula F.V	40	300	180	120	300	180	120	100%	Karbi
	Bapudoloni	10	65	35	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Pilkhana(P-1)	110	700	287	413	25	16	9	3.57%	Tiwa
	Pilkhana(P-2)	33	470	240	230	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Baghekhati	14	70	40	30	15	8	7	21.42%	Tiwa, Mishin g
	Lutumari	336	2500	1500	1000	900	500	400	36%	Tiwa Bodo Kachari
	Silsang	33	93	54	39	58	32	26	62.37%	Tiwa
	Gegera F.V.	95	350	150	200	350	150	200	100%	Tiwa
	Amjari	45	360	190	170	360	190	170	100%	Tiwa
	Amsoi	22	150	80	70	150	80	70	100%	Tiwa
	Hatigarh(Tete litol)	29	210	120	90	210	120	90	100%	Karbi
	Rampur Goimari F.V	85	680	350	330	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Tapanpur	260	1560	800	760	90	50	40	5.7%	Karbi
	Ramnagar	79	430	260	170	430	260	170	100%	Tiwa
	1No Tangia (Kaki)	265	4000	2500	1500	105	67	38	2.63%	Tiwa
	2No Tangia (Kaki)	280	3200	1700	1500	65	35	30	2.03%	Tiwa
	3No Tangia (Kaki)	155	1840	930	910	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Gossigaon F.V.	119	800	458	342	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Lankajan old	50	460	240	220	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Lankajan new	42	375	210	165	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
Kumurakata F.V.	116	2100	1100	1000	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil	
Kurkat basti F.V.	26	180	95	85	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil	

	Nandapur	60	430	230	200	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Burigaon	125	1200	700	500	35	20	15	2.91%	Tiwa
	Ambari F.V.	50	630	320	310	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Gangadisa	65	520	270	250	Nil	Nil	Nil	0	Nil
	Hatikhuli F.V.	70	507	277	230	270	160	110	53.25%	Karbi
TOTAL	27 Villages	2614	24180	13316	10864	3363	1868	1495	14%	Karbi, Tiwa, Bodo Kachari, Mishing

(N.B. – Data of the 10 non residential villages are not available)

TABLE – 3 (A)

Showing total no and percentage of tribal inhabited villages of Nagaon district

District	No of forest villages having 100% tribal population	No of villages forest having more than 50% tribal population	No of forest villages having 50% to 25% tribal population	No of forest villages having below 25% tribal population	No of Total forest villages having no tribal population
Nagaon	6(22.2%)	2(7.4%)	1(3.7%)	6(22.2%)	12(44.4%)

Of late the Forest Department is realizing the need of involving forest villages in the management of forest matters as they are part and parcel of the forest wealth of the country. The Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) has been constituted with forest officials and forest dwellers. In the surveyed villages out of total 684 members of J.F.M.C., there are 114 tribal members constituting 16.6%.

The J.F.M.C. provides additional benefits in the form of establishing community hall, constructing tube wells, ring wells, improving roads and encouraging cottage and small industries in the forest villages. Table-4 shows the position of J.F.M.C. in the forest villages of Nagaon District.

TABLE – 4

Showing Joint Forest Management Committees of the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Number of villages	Total members in JFMC	Tribal members in JFMC	Percentage of tribal member in JFMC	Percentage of tribal population to total population	Tribal welfare schemes adopted by JFMC
Nagaon	27	684	114	16.6%	14%	Construction of community hall, tube well, well, culvert, stage –hall, first aid training, driving training, bullock cart making, preparation of horticulture farm etc.

Out of 37 forest villages 28 (76%) villages are located in plains areas while 9 (24%) villages are found in the undwelling plains areas. Table-5 shows in details.

TABLE – 5

Showing topography of the village of Nagaon district under study

District	Total No Of village	No of villages in hilly areas	No of villages in plains areas	No of villages in undwelling plains areas	Others
Nagaon	37	Nil	28 (76%)	9(24%)	Nil

There are 10 (27.02%) dispersed non residential forest villages 2 (5.40%) isolated forest villages, 6 (16.21%) forest villages within reserve forests and 19 (51.36%) villages outside forest reserve. Detail shows in Table – 6.

TABLE – 6

Showing settlement pattern of the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Total No of villages	No of Dispersed (non residential) villages	No of isolated villages	Within the forest reserve	Outside forest reserve (Agglomerate)
Nagaon	37	10(27.02%)	2(5.40%)	6(16.21%)	19(51.36%)

Even after more than 60 years of Independence and Eleventh Five Year Plan the overall living pattern of the forest villagers remains more or less same as 77.76% houses of the forest villagers are thatched, 15.95% houses are Katcha Assam Type, 6.16% houses are Pucca Assam Types and a meager 0.03% RCC house in the forest villages. The Mishings are traditionally platform house dwellers and in the surveyed villages 2 (0.08%) such houses are located. Details are shown in Table-7.

TABLE - 7

Showing type of house of the forest villagers of Nagaon district

District	Name of villages	No of RCC houses	No of Pucca AT house	No Katcha AT houses	No of thatched houses	Chang or platform type house	Total
Nagaon	Barhula F.V	0	5(12.5%)	8(20%)	27(67.5%)	Nil	40
	Bapudoloni	0	0	0	10(100%)	Nil	10
	Pilkhana(P-1)	0	23(21%)	0	87(79%)	Nil	110
	Pilkhana(P-2)	0	6(18%)	9(27%)	18(55%)	Nil	33
	Baghekhati	0	0	0	12(85.7%)	2 (14.3)	14
	Lutumari	0	0	10(3%)	326(97%)	Nil	336
	Silsang	0	0	0	3(100%)	Nil	3
	Gegera F.V.	0	0	10(11%)	85(89%)	Nil	95
	Amjari	0	0	12(26.6%)	33(73.4%)	Nil	45
	Amsoi	1(4.3%)	0	5(21.7%)	17(74%)	Nil	23
	Hatigarh(Tetelitol)	0	0	10(55%)	9(45%)	Nil	19
	Rampur goimari F.V	0	7(8%)	16(18.8%)	62(73%)	Nil	85
	Tapanpur	0	6(2.3%)	12(4.6%)	242(93%)	Nil	260
	Ramnagar	0	3(3.7%)	34(43%)	42(53%)	Nil	79
	1No Tangia (Kaki)	0	32(12%)	84(31.6%)	149(56%)	Nil	265
	2No Tangia (Kaki)	0	30(10.7%)	45(16%)	205(74%)	Nil	280
	3No Tangia (Kaki)	0	0	45(29%)	110(71%)	Nil	155
	Gossigaon F.V.	0	25(21%)	40(33.6%)	54(45%)	Nil	119
	Lankajan old	0	0	0	50(100%)	Nil	50
	Lankajan new	0	0	2(4.7%)	40(95.3%)	Nil	42
	Kumurakata F.V.	0	0	14(12%)	102(88%)	Nil	116
	Kurkat basti F.V.	0	0	0	26(100%)	Nil	26
	Nandapur	0	20(33%)	15(25%)	25(42%)	Nil	60
	Burigaon	0	0	15(12%)	110 (88%)	Nil	125
	Ambari F.V.	0	0	0	50(100%)	Nil	50
	Gangadisa	0	0	20(69.3%)	45(30.7%)	Nil	65
	Hatikhuli F.V.	0	0	0	40(100%)	Nil	40
	Total		1 (.03%)	157 (6.16%)	406 (15.95%)	1979 (77.76%)	2 (.08%)

As regards land holding pattern, cultivable lands occupy the major share of the total land, the percentage being 72.00. Lands under plantation come next with 13% followed by grazing land with 8.3%, homestead land with 5.7% and fishery 1%. Details with various kinds of lands of the forest villagers are shown in Table-8.

TABLE - 8

Land Holding Pattern of the forest villages of Nagaon district (In Bighas)

District	Name of villages	Homeste ad land (in Bighas)	...Total cultivable (in Bighas)	Fishery (in Bighas)	Land under plantation (in Bighas)	Grazing (in Bighas)	Total (in Bighas)	Land out side villages (if any)	
Nagaon	Barhula F.V	50	390	0	30	48	518		
	Bapudoloni	0	127	0	0	140	267	5 (Bighas)	
	Pilkhana (P-1)	144	280	8	0	0	432	Nil	
	Pilkhana (P-2)	30	165	0	15	0	210	Nil	
	Baghekhathi	42	198	14	0	0	254	Nil	
	Lutumari	86	111	0	7	0	204	Nil	
	Silsang	40	389	0	0	0	429	Nil	
	Gegera F.V.	90	1043	7	187	0	1327	8 (Bighas)	
	Amjari	40	275	0	150	0	465	Nil	
	Amsoi	20	244	1	0	0	265	Nil	
	Hatigarh(Tetelitol)	20	50	1	0	0	71	Nil	
	Rampur	115	1349	100	405	300	2269	Nil	
	Tapampur	70	983	0	0	30	1083	Nil	
	Ramnagar	48	326	5	0	0	379	Nil	
	1No Tangia (Kaki)	465	8413	134	2013	1222	12247	Nil	
	2No Tangia (Kaki)	300	6090	85	1789	1111	9375	Nil	
	3No Tangia (Kaki)	270	5852	76	1354	998	8550	Nil	
	Gossigaon F.V.	60	995	5	0	18	1078	Nil	
	Lankajan old	45	225	0	0	0	270	Nil	
	Lankajan new	34	246	7	0	0	287	Nil	
	Kumurakata	120	605	0	25	0	750	Nil	
	Kurkat basti F.V.	66	313	0	0	0	379	Nil	
	Nandapur	60	300	0	0	0	360	Nil	
	Burigaon	130	1365	0	5	15	1515	Nil	
	Ambari F.V.	90	1023	5	70	0	1188	Nil	
	Gangadisa	170	1676	0	20	0	1866	Nil	
	Hatikhuli F.V.	40	251	0	0	20	311	Nil	
	Total		2645 (5.7%)	33284 (72%)	448 (1%)	6070 (13%)	3902 (8.3%)	46349	

The forest villagers were questioned about the major problems faced by them and it was found that lack of employment (25.9%) lack of transport and communication (14.8%), lack of health care facilities (18.5%), problems created by illegal migrants (11%), lack of drinking water (7.4%), natural calamities (7.4%), encroachment of land (7.4%), deforestation (3.7%), lack of educational facilities (3.7%) were the first major problems of the villagers.

18.5% of the sample villagers recorded lack of health care as second major problem followed by 14.8%, villagers with lack of drinking water, 11% unemployment 11.1% lack of civic

facilities, 11.1% land encroachment 7.4% natural calamities, 11% lack of transport and communication, 7.4% lack of educational facilities 3.7% deforestation, 3.7% insurgency as second major problems.

The third major problems of the villagers were unemployment (18.5%), lack of drinking water (18.5%), lack of health care (11.1%), lack of transport and communication (14.8%), lack of educational facilities (11.1%), encroachment (7.4%), lack of civic facilities (3.7%), natural calamities (3.7%), deforestation (3.7%), insurgency (3.7%) and lack of mass communication (3.7%). Details are shown in Table – 9.

TABLE – 9

Showing major Problems of forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Sl No	Name of the problems	No of Villages that has shown it as 1 st major problem	P/C (Out of total 15 no of villages)	No of Villages that has shown it as 2 nd major problem	P/C (Out of total 15 no of villages)	No of Villages has shown it as 3 rd major problem	P/C (Out of total 15 no of villages)
Nagaon	1	Lack of transport and communication	4	14.8%	3	11%	4	14.8%
	2	Un employment	7	25.9%	3	11%	5	18.5%
	3	Lack of health care facility	5	18.5%	5	18.5%	3	11.1%
	4	Lack of drinking water	2	7.4%	4	14.8%	5	18.5%
	5	Lack of civic facilities			3	11.1%	1	3.7%
	6	Natural calamities	2(Flood)	7.4%	2	7.4%	1	3.7%
	7	Encroachment	2	7.4%	3	11.1%	2	(7.4%)
	8	Deforestation	1	3.7%	1	3.7%	1	3.7%
	9	Insurgency			1	3.7%	1	3.7%
	10	Lack of Mass communication					1	3.7%
	11	Lack of Educational facilities	1	3.7%	2	(7.4%)	3	(11.1%)
	12	Any others	3 (According to the villagers lots of problems have been created by the illegal immigrants)		11%			

In respect of transport and communication facilities, it was found that for 17 (62.5%) villages nearest motorable road lies at a distance of 1-2 km, for one (3.7%) village the nearest

motorable road lies within the village. For 7 (26%) villages, the nearest motorable road is at a distance of 2-5 kms and for 2 villages the said facility is at a distance of 5-10 km.

The transport stations are located at a considerable distance from the villages. Majority villages (10 Nos. (37%) have the transport station at a distance of above 10 kms, 9 (33%) villages have the transport station at a distance of 5-10 kms and 8 (29.5%) villages have such facility at a distance of 2-5 km.

Likewise the nearest railway station for 16 (59%) villages is located at a distance of 10 kms, 8 (29.5%) villages have the railway station at a distance of 5-10 kms, 2 (7.4%) villages have railway station at a distance of 1-3 km and one (3.7%) village has this facility at a distance of 2-5 kms.

As regards Block Office 13 (48.14%) villages have the same at a distance of 5-10 km, 9 (33.33%) villages have the Block Office at a distance of 2-5 km, 4 (14.8%) villages have the facility at a distance of 10 km and 1 (3.70%) village has Block Office nearer to the village i.e. 1-2 kms from the village.

The Civil S.D.O. office is located at a distance of above 10 kms for 21 (78%) villages. 3 (11%) villages have the same at a distance of 5-10 kms, 2 (7.4%) villages have the Block Office at a distance of 1-2 kms and one (3.7%) village has the same at a distance of 2-5 kms. Details in Table - 10.

TABLE - 10

Showing Transport and communication facility available in the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Facilities	Distance in Kms					Total no of villages
		Within village	1-2	2-5	5-10	Above 10	
Nogaon	Nearest motorable road	1 (3.7%)	17 (62.5%)	7 (26%)	2 (7.4%)	Nil	27
	Nearest transport station	Nil	Nil	8 (29.5%)	9 (33%)	10 (37%)	
	Nearest Rly station	Nil	2 (7.4%)	1 (3.7%)	8 (29.5%)	16 (59%)	
	Block office	Nil	1 (3.7%)	9 (33.33%)	13 (48.14%)	4 (14.8%)	
	SDO office	Nil	2 (7.4%)	1 (3.7%)	3 (11%)	21 (78%)	

The survey indicates that even at the beginning of 21st Century the forest villagers are required to use foot track for contact with outside world as 40.74% forest villagers do the

same. 37.03% forest villages have katcha fair weather roads, 11.11% villagers use katcha all weather and equal percent villagers use graveled road. Details in Table – 11.

TABLE – 11

Showing Condition of roads in the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

District	No of villages	Category	Numbers	P/C
Nagaon	27	Foot track	11	40.74%
		Katcha Fair weather	10	37.03%
		Katcha all weather	3	11.11%
		Graveled	3	11.11%
		Others	0	0%

Majority (37%) of the villagers use motor bus as primary mode of conveyance while 33.3% forest villagers use bicycle followed by others (i.e foot, tempo (three wheeler, rickshaw) 26%. Only 3.7% villagers use railway as primary mode of conveyance. Table-12 shows in detail.

TABLE – 12

Showing mode of conveyance of forest villages of Nagaon district

District	No of villages	Category(primary mode of conveyance)	No of villages using the following facilities as primary mode of conveyance	P/C
Nagaon	27	Motor bus	10	37%
		Railway	1	3.7%
		Car		
		Bike		
		Scooter		
		Bicycle	9	33.3%
		Boat		
		Other (i)On foot - 2 (ii)Tempo-4 (iii)Rickshaw-1	7	26%

It is interesting to note that 66.6% of the villagers possess T.V. sets and all the villages under survey have radio sets. Community centers are found in 40.7% villages. Newspapers are also kept by 11.1% of the villages. Recent introduction of mobile phone also catches the imagination of the villagers and 11.1% villages have mobile phones. But library is found in only 3.7% of the villages. Details are shown in Table-13.

TABLE - 13

Mass Communication facility available in the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Total No of villages	Available means of mass communication	No of villages having the mass communication facilities	P/C villages having mass communication facilities	Total numbers available
Nagaon	27	TV	18	66.6%	190no
		Radio	27	100%	1200no
		Newspaper	3	11.1%	18no
		Library	1	3.7%	1no
		Community Center	11	40.7%	11no
		Telephone	3	11.1%	60no
		Mobile phone	2	7.4%	7no

As regards civic facilities 15 (55.5%) villages have post offices at a distance of 2-5 kms, 10 (37%) villages have the post office facilities at a distance of 1-2 km and one (3.7%) village each has post office at a distance of 5-10 kms and above 15 kms respectively.

The police station is located at a distance of 2-5 kms for 14 (52%) villages, 9 (33.3%) villages have police station at a distance of 5-10 kms, 3 (11%) villages have the police station at a distance of 1-2 kms and one (3.7%) village has the same at a distance of 15 kms and above.

Medical Sub Centres are located at a distance of 2-5 kms for 15 (55.5%) villages. 5 (18.5%) villages have the Medical Sub Centre at a distance of 5-10 kms, 4 (14.8%) villages have the Medical Sub Centre at a distance of 1-2 km and 1 (3.7%) village has the same at a distance of 15 kms and above. 2 (7.4%) villages, however, have the Medical Sub Centre within the villages.

State dispensaries for 8 (29.6%) villages are located at a distance of 5-10 km, for 7 (24%) villages the dispensary is located at a distance of 10-15 kms and for another 7 (24%) village the dispensary is located at a distance of above 15 kms. Only 5 (18.5%) villages have the state dispensaries located at a distance of 2-5 kms.

For majority i.e. 16 (59%) villages the hospital is located at a distance of above 15 kms. 6 (22.2%) villages have the same facility at a distance of 5-10 kms, 4 (14.8%) villages have the hospital facility at a distance of 10-15 kms and 1 (3.7%) village has the same facility at a distance of 2-5 kms.

Private medical practitioners are also available at a considerable distance from the villages as 10 (37%) villages get the assistance from private doctors at a distance of 5-10 kms. 7 (24%) villages get such facility at a distance of 2-5 kms and another 7 villages get such doctor's help at a distance of 10-15 kms. 2 (7.4%) villages have the private doctor at a distance of above 15 kms. Only one (3.7%) village gets assistance from private doctor at a reasonable distance of 1-2 km.

For 12 (44.4%) villages medical shops are located at a distance of 2-5 kms. 6 (22.2%) villages have such shops at a distance of 1-2 km, 5 (16.5%) villages have medical shops at a distance of 5-10 kms, 2 (7.4%) villages have shops at 10-15 kms. One village has the same at a distance of above 15 kms. Only 1 (3.7%) village has such shop within the village.

Veterinary Sub Centres for 11 (40.5%) villages are located at a distance of 5-10 kms. 6 (22%) villages have such centres at a distance of 2-5 kms. 4 (14.8%) villages have veterinary sub centres at a distance of 1-2 kms, 3 (11%) villages have the same at a distance of 10-15 kms, 2 (7.4%) villages have veterinary sub centre at a distance of above 15 kms and only 1 (3.7%) village gets such sub centre within the village. Table – 14 shows in details.

TABLE – 14

Civic facility available in the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

District	No of villages	Category	Within villages	Distance in Kms				
				1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15
Nagaon	27	Post office	Nil	10(37%)	15(55.5%)	1(3.7%)	Nil	1(3.7%)
		Police station	Nil	3(11%)	14(52%)	9(33.3%)	Nil	1(3.7%)
		Medical sub center	2(7.4%)	4(14.8%)	15(55.5%)	5(18.5%)	Nil	1(3.7%)
		State dispensary	Nil	Nil	5(18.5%)	8(29.6%)	7(24%)	7(24%)
		Hospital	Nil	Nil	1(3.7%)	6(22.2%)	4(14.8%)	16(59%)
		Pvt. Medical practitioner	Nil	1(3.7%)	7(24%)	10(37%)	7(24%)	2(7.4%)
		Medical shop	1(3.7%)	6(22.2%)	12(44.4%)	5(18.5%)	2(7.4%)	1(3.7%)
		Veterinary sub center	1(3.7%)	4(14.8%)	6(22%)	11(40.5%)	3(11%)	2(7.4%)

The forest villagers prefer to go Government hospitals in case of serious diseases. There are 14 (52%) villages whose first choice is Government hospital. The first choice of 10 (37%) villages is P.H.Cs. 1 (3.7%) village each has first choice to private hospital, village quack, homoeopathy, Ayurvedic treatment respectively. Details are shown in Table – 15.

TABLE – 15

Showing emergency medical preference of the forest villagers of Nagaon district

District	No of villages	* In case of medical emergency the villagers prefer to go		P/C
		Category	No of villages	
Nagaon	27	Govt. hospital	14	52%
		P.H.C	10	37%
		Private hospital	1	3.7%
		Private doctor	0	
		Village quack	1	3.7%
		Any other(Homeopathic and Ayurbedic)	1	3.7%

The distance to the Government hospital for 10 (37%) villages is above 15 kms, for 8 (29.6%) villages 10-15 kms, for 6 (22.2%) villages 5-10 kms and for 3 (11%) villages the distance to Government hospital is 2-5 kms.

The distance to the PHCs for 7 (26%) villages is 5-10 kms, for 6 (22.2%) villages 10-15 kms and for another 6 (22.2%) villages the distance is 2-5 kms, for 4 villages each the distance to PHCs is above 15 kms and 1-2 km respectively.

The distance to the private hospital for the largest number of villages i.e. (61.5%) is above 15 kms, for 2 villages each the distance is 5-10 kms and 10-15 kms respectively and for one (3.7%) village the distance is 1-2 kms.

Similarly private doctors for 12 (44.4%) villages are available at a distance of above 15 kms, for 6 (22.2%) villages the distance is 10-15 kms, for 5 (18.5%) villages the distance is 5-10 kms, for 2 (7.4%) villages each the distance is 1-2 km and 2-5 kms respectively.

Village quacks for 13 (48%) villages are available at a distance of above 15 kms, for 5 (18.5%) villages the same is available at a distance of 2-5 kms, and for 4 (14.8%) villages each the quack is available within the village and within 1-2 kms respectively.

Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic doctors are available for 9 (33%) villages at a distance of above 15 kms, for 6 (22.2%) villages same is available at a distance of 5-10 kms, for 4 (14.8%) villages these facilities are available within the villages, for 3 (11%) villages each they

are available at a distance of 1-2 kms and 2-5 kms respectively and for 2 (7.4%) villages the traditional healers are available at a distance of 10-15 kms. Table – 16 shows in details.

TABLE – 16

Showing distance from the forest villages to the nearest medical centers

District	No of villages	Category	Within	Located at a distance of. (in Kms)				
				1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15
Nagaon	27	Govt. hospital	Nil	Nil	3 (11%)	6 (22.2%)	8 (29.6%)	10(37%
		P.H.C	Nil	4 (14.8%)	6 (22.2%)	7 (26%)	6 (22.2%)	4 (14.8%)
		Private hospital	Nil	1 (3.7%)	Nil	2 (7.4%)	2 (7.4%)	22 (61.5)
		Private doctor	Nil	2 (7.4%)	2 (7.4%)	5 (18.5%)	6 (22.2%)	12 (44.4%)
		Village quack	4 (14.8%)	4 (14.8%)	5 (18.5%)	Nil	Nil	13 (48%)
		Any other	4 (14.8%)	3(11%)	3 (11%)	6 (22.2%)	2(7.4%)	9 (33%)

There are 4 private primary schools in the villages. Out of these 2 private and 2 Anganwadi. Three schools are within the villages and distance of one school is 5-10 kms from the villages.

L.P. school facilities are provided in all the surveyed villages. 11 of which are located within the villages. The distance of 7 L.P. schools from

The villages are 1-2 kms, for 4 villages each the distance are 2-5 kms and 5-10 kms respectively. One L.P. school is located at a distance of 10-15 kms. The break up is 20 Government, 5 ventures and 2 private.

M.E. schools are also found in or near the villages. 4 M.E. schools are located within the villages. Eleven M.E. schools each are located at a distance of 1-2 kms, and 2-5 kms respectively. One M.E. school is located at a distance of 5-10 kms from the villages.

There is no H.E. school within the villages. 15 H.E. Schools are located at a distance of 2-5 kms from the villages, 9 H.E. Schools are located at a distance of 1-2 kms and 3 H.E. Schools are located at a distance of 5-10 kms.

Colleges are located at far away places. 11 colleges are located at a distance of 5-10 kms, 6 colleges at a distance of 2-5 kms, 7 colleges at a distance of 10-15 kms and 3 colleges are located at a distance of 15 kms and above.

Twenty L.P. schools and M.E. schools are Government institutions and 5 in both categories are venture while 2 in both the categories are privately managed. Same is the case for H.E. Schools. 21 colleges are Government aided and 6 are venture. Details are shown in Table – 17.

TABLE – 17

Showing Educational Facilities available in the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

District	No of villages	Category	Within village	Distance in Kms					Type			
				1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	Above 15	2 (Voluntary), 2 (Anganwadi)	Govt.	venture	Govt aided
Nagaon	27	Private primary	3	0	0	1	0	0	2pvt.	0	0	0
			L.P.	11	7	4	4	1	0	2pvt	20	5
		M.E.	4	11	11	1	0	0	2pvt	20	5	0
		H.E.	0	9	15	3	0	0	2pvt.	20	5	0
		College	0	0	6	11	7	3	0	0	6	21
		other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There are 2 boys undergoing ITI courses and 2 boys are studying Junior Engineering courses. Table – 17 (A) shows in details.

TABLE – 17 (A)

No of student undergoing technical courses of the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Villages	Category	Numbers	Boy	Girls
Nagaon	27	Medical	0	0	0
		Technical	2 (ITI)	2	0
		Degree Tech. Diploma	2 (Junior engineering)	2	0
		Agriculture	0	0	0
		Veterinary	0	0	0
		Others	0	1(double M.A.)	

Number of tribal students from the forest villages is much less in all the categories beginning from primary to college standard. In the pre primary the p.c. of tribal students is 14.46. In L.P. the p.c. of tribal students is 16%. The p.c. of tribal students in M.E., H.E., and college are 14.47, 13.98 and 9.96 respectively. Table – 17 (B) shows in details.

TABLE – 17 (B)

Showing numbers of students in General Category Educational Institutions of the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Villages	Category	Numbers of total student			Numbers of tribal student			P/C of tribal students
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Nagaon	27	Pre Primary/ Anganwadi	423	400	823	59	60	119	14.46%
		L.P.	1260	1100	2360	215	163	378	16.01%
		M.E.	1137	950	2087	162	140	302	14.47%
		H.E.	901	601	1502	116	94	210	13.98%
		College	173	98	271	14	13	27	9.96%
		Total	3894	3149	7043	536	440	976	

The villagers use tube wells and ring wells only for drinking water purposes. Out of 1011 tube wells Government have provided 296 tube wells and out of 380 ring wells Government ring wells number 186. The water contains iron and smells not good. Details are shown in Table – 18.

TABLE – 18

Showing sources of drinking water including quality & distance in the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Villages	Source	Private	Govt.	Distance				Quality
					1-2 Km	2-3 Km	3-5 Km	Common water source	
Nagaon	27	Pond	0	0					Iron rich and scented
		Well	380	186					
		River	0	0					
		Tube well	1011	296					
		Reservoir	0	0					
		Pipe water	0	0					

Electricity is provided to 40.7% villages covering 53 households. Only 17% of the tribal families are having electricity. Table-19 shows in details.

TABLE - 19

No of villages and households having electric connection

District	Total No of villages	No of villages having electricity	No of Total houses	Total houses having electricity	Total no of tribal family	Total no of tribal family having electricity
Nagaon	27	11(40.7%)	2614	523(20%)	501	85(17%)

Veterinary facilities are available in the forest villages but only 1 (3.7%) village has such facility at a distance of 1-2 kms. The distance of 10 villages to the dispensary from the villages is 2-5 kms and distance of 11 villages to the dispensary from the villages is 5-10 kms. The distance of 5 villages to the dispensary is above 10 kms.

The people of 5 villages affirmed that veterinary officers visit regularly while people of 22 villages reported that veterinary officers do not visit regularly. Table - 20 shows in details.

TABLE - 20

Showing veterinary available in the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Total No of villages	Veterinary Facility	Within the Village	Distance in Kms					Do the Veterinary Officers Visit regularly	
				0-1	1-2	2-5	5-10	10+	Yes	No
Nagaon	27	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.7%)	10 (37%)	11 (40.7%)	5 (18.5%)	Yes (5 villages)	No (22 villages)

Income status of the tribal families of the forest villages was studied and out of 501 tribal families 342 (68%) families each earn above Rs. 24000.00 annually while 123 (24%) families each earn annually in the income range of Rs. 10000.00 to Rs. 24000.00. Only 36 (7%) families each earns below Rs. 10000.00 P.A. Details are shown in Table - 21.

TABLE - 21

Showing annual Income of the forest villagers of Nagaon district

District	Total No of villages	Total no of family	Total no of tribal family	Annual Income Range		
				Below Rs-10,000	Rs -10,000 to 24,000	Above Rs 24,000
Nagaon	27	2416	501	36(7%)	123(24%)	342(68%)

Deforestation becomes a chronic problem not only for the forest authorities but for the people in general as deforestation leads to imbalance in the ecosystem causing various environmental problems. In the present study the forest villagers in total agreed that deforestation takes place and the agencies are mainly in villagers themselves (37%), neighbouring villagers (23%), outsiders (19%), timber dealers (14%) and others like flood etc. (7%). Table-22 shows in details.

TABLE – 22

Showing causes of deforestation in the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Total No of villages	Deforestation taking place		Deforestation mainly caused by	
		Yes	No	Factors	No of villages
Nagaon	27	27 (100%)	Nil	Villagers themselves	10(37%)
				Neighboring villagers	6(23%)
				Outsiders(encroacher)	5(19%)
				Timber dealers	4(14%)
				Others(Natural calamities like flood)	2 (7%)

There are 14 fair price shops and 38 other miscellaneous shops in the villages under survey but reportedly the villagers mainly depend upon non fair price shops as fair price shops can not cater to the needs in time. Table-23 shows in details.

TABLE – 23

Showing marketing facility available in the forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Total No of villages	No of Fair Price Shops in the villages	No of other shop in the village	No of Total Shops
Nagaon	27	14(27%)	38 (73%)	52

For their business transactions, the villagers visit the daily, weekly/biweekly hats situated near the villages. There are 12 daily and 15 biweekly hats (including a biweekly) near the villages. One daily and 1 weekly hat are within the villages and distance for other hats varies from 1 km to 9 km. Most of the villagers visit the hats on foot and bicycle. The people of Pilkhana village use boat while Kurkatbast F.V. use train and Ambari FV use Bus, Tempo and Gangadisa villagers use tempo, bicycle for visiting the hats.

Locally produced items like rice, vegetables, betel leaves and nuts, sugarcane, mustard seeds are brought to the markets for sale. Forest products like wooden furniture, bamboo mats, firewood, baskets, and thatch are brought for sale. Table – 23 (A) shows in details.

TABLE – 23 (A)

Other marketing facility available in the studied forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Name of villages	Name of market daily /weekly/ bi weekly hat (nearest)	Distance from villages & type (in Km)	Transport facilities to the market	Locally produced items and others commodities	
					Agricultural	Forest products
Nagaon	Barhula F.V	Sapanala bazaar	2 (weekly)	by foot	Rice, vegetables	Bamboo mat & basket
	Bapudoloni	Silghat market	1.5 (daily)	By bicycle, foot	Rice, beetle nut & beetle leaf, mastered seed , jute	Nil
	Pilkhana (P-1)	Jakhalaband ha bazaar	2 (weekly)	By foot	Nil	Bamboo mat & basket
	Pilkhana (P-2)	Jakhalaband ha bazaar	2 (daily)	By boat	Rice, beetle nut & beetle leaf, potato, mastered seed	Wooden furniture , bamboo mat
	Baghekhati	Sapanala bazaar	3 (weekly)	By foot, cycle	Rice, vegetables	Thatch
	Lutumari	Lutumari bazaar	2.5(weekly)	By foot	Rice, jute	firewood
	Silsang	Bamuni bazaar	1 (daily)	Tempo, cycle	Nil	Nil
	Gegera F.V.	Nellie bazaar	3 (daily)	Bus, cycle	Vegetables, potato	Bamboo artifacts
	Amjari	Silsang bazaar	7 (weekly)	By foot, cycle	Rice, vegetables	firewood
	Amsoi	Amsoi bazaar	1 (weekly)	By foot	beetle nut & beetle leaf	Wooden furniture
	Hatigarh (Tetelitol)	Amsoi bazaar	7 (daily)	By cycle	Rice	Nil
	Rampur	Amsoi bazaar	(Weekly) within the village	By cycle, tempo	Sugarcane , mastered seed	Nil
	Tapanpur	Doboka bazaar	2 (weekly/ bi weekly)	By foot, cycle	Mati Dal, Sugarcane	Nil
	Ramnagar	Ambari bazaar	2 (weekly)	By cycle, tempo	Nil	Nil
	1No Tangia (Kaki)	Doboka bazaar	(Daily) within the village	Tempo, cycle	Rice, beetle nut & beetle leaf	Bamboo basket
	2No Tangia (Kaki)	Rampur bazaar	1.5 (weekly)	By foot, cycle	Rice, Fruits , Sugarcane ,	Nil
	3No Tangia (Kaki)	Shanibari bazaar	1 (weekly)	By foot, cycle	Rice , Sugarcane, mastered seed	Nil
Gossigaon F.V.	Shanibari bazaar	5 (daily)	By foot,cycle	Rice, vegetables	Wild herbs for medicinal purpose	

Lankajan old	1No Tangia bazaar	2 (weekly)	By foot, cycle	Vegetables	Nil
Lankajan new	Tangia bazaar	2.5 (weekly)	By foot, cycle	Vegetables	Nil
Kumurakata	Tangia bazaar	2 (daily)	By foot, cycle	Vegetables	Bamboo artifacts
Kurkat basti F.V.	Lanka bazaar	4 (daily)	By train, cycle	Milk product, Vegetables	Thatch
Nandapur	Tini bazaar	2 (daily)	By foot, cycle	Vegetables	Nil
Burigaon	Udali tiniali	3 (daily)	Tempo, cycle	Fruits	Nil
Ambari F.V.	Hojai bazaar	3 (daily)	By bus, tempo,	Rice, beetle nut & beetle leaf	Bamboo artifacts
Gangadisa	Kumurakata bazaar	9 (weekly)	Tempo, cycle	Rice, vegetables	Nil
Hatikhuli F.V.	Nandapur bazaar	2 (weekly)	Cycle, tempo	Rice, vegetables	Wooden furniture

Co-operative societies are found in 16 villages and only 1 village has co-operative society within the villages. One village has co-operative society at a distance of 1-2 km in Ramnagar, No.2 Tangia, Ambari and Gangadisa villages the co-operative society lies at a distance of 2-5 kms, while Tappanpur village has co-operative society at a distance of 3 kms. New Lankajan and Kamorakata villages have co-operative societies at a distance of 5 kms while Baghekhati and Rampur forest villages have co-operative societies at a distance of 6 kms and 7 kms respectively. Table – 24 shows in details.

TABLE – 24

Showing Co-operative Societies present in the surveyed forest villages of Nagaon district

District	Name of villages	Name of Co operative Societies	Year of establishment	Within the village	Distance to the Co operative Societies lying outside (in Kms)			
					1-2	2-5	5-10	10+
Nagaon	Barhula F.V	Sapanala Samabai Samiti	1982			3		
	Bapudoloni	Nil	-		-	-	-	-
	Pilkhana (P-1)	Nil	-		-	-	-	-
	Pilkhana (P-2)	Nil	-		-	-	-	-
	Baghekhati	Sapanala Samabai Samiti	1982				6	
	Lutumari	Nil	-		-	-	-	-
	Silsang	Nil	-		-	-	-	-
	Gegera F.V.	Gegera Pather Parichalana Samiti	1980	1	-	-	-	-

TABLE - 25**N.G.Os working in the forest villages of Nagaon district**

District	Total No of villages having NGOS	Name of the N.G.Os /village	Year of establish	Total mem bers	Tribal mem bers	Govt. Aid		Function of the N.G.Os		
						Yes	No	Economic	Social	Cultural activity
Nagaon	3 (11%)	Borhula Mahila Samiti/ Borhula FV	2002	15	15	-	Yes	Marketing of different household product like pickle	-	-
		Moidham Assam Sanckritik Bikash Samiti/ Silsang FV	2003	16	14		Yes	-	-	Preserv ation of Tiwa Culture
		Assam Kishi Bikash Samiti/ 1No Tangia FV	1998	36	3	Yes	-	Marketing of agricultural product.	-	-

As regards cottage and small industries in the F.Vs. not much progress has been made. There are 2 Handloom, 1 sericulture, 1 Bamboo & cane, 1 pig farm, 1 fishery, 1 carpentry and one cycle repairing industries which are run by individuals. One group fishery is functioning in the villages.

In the Handloom industries 4 Nos. of families are engaged and there is no tribal beneficiary. In the sericulture 2 families are engaged and there too there is no tribal beneficiary. The pig farm engages one non tribal and one tribal family. The Bamboo and Cane industry also engages one non tribal and one tribal family. The fishery industry engages only 3 non tribal families. The carpentry industry engages 2 non tribal families. The cycle repairing shops are run by two non tribal families. Table-26 shows in details.

TABLE – 26

Functioning of Cottage and Small Scale Industries in the villages under survey .

District	Name of industries	Total No of industries	Run by			Total no of families Engaged	Total no of tribal families engaged
			Individual	Groups	Co-operation		
Nagaon	Hand loom	2(22.2%)	2	Nil	Nil	4	
	Sericulture	1(11%)	1	Nil	Nil	2	
	Bamboo & Cane	1(11%)	1	Nil	Nil	1	1
	Poultry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Tea garden	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Pig farm	1(11%)	1	Nil	Nil	1	1
	Fishery	2(22.2%)	1	1	Nil	3	
	Beekeeping	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Carpentry	1(11%)	1	Nil	Nil	2	
	Palter making	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
	Others	1(11%) (Cycle Repairing)	1	Nil	Nil	2	
	Total	9	8 (88%)	1(11%)	Nil	15	2

As regards sources of raw materials members of 10 villages collect the same from villages, members of 8 villages collect the same from villages, and members of 8 villages collect raw materials from outside and members of 2 villages collect raw materials from nearby forests. Villagers of 7 villages collect materials from all the three sources. Table-26 (A) shows in details.

TABLE – 26 (A)

Showing sources of raw materials for industrial use .

District	Total No of villages	From only the nearby forest	From the villages itself	From outside	From all the three sources
Nagaon	27	2(7.4%)	10(37%)	8(29.6%)	7(26%)

The products of the industries are sold by self (44.4%) through middleman (29.6%), through co-operatives (3.7%) and through all the three sources (22%). Table-26 (B) shows in details.

TABLE – 26 (B)

Showing the means of selling of finished products in the forest villages of Golaghat district under survey

District	Total No of villages	By self	Through middle man	Through Co-operative Societies	Through all the three sources
Nagaon	27	12(44.4%)	8(29.6%)	1(3.7%)	6(22%)

15% of the villagers sell the products in the villages. 26% owners of industries sell their products in the nearby hats, 18.5% villagers sell the finished products to outside dealers and 40.7% villagers sell the products to all the three sources. Table-26 (C) shows in details.

TABLE – 26 (C)

Where such products are sold

District	Total No of villages	In the villages	Near by local hat	To outside dealers	To the all three sources
Nagaon	27	4(15%)	7(26%)	5(18.5%)	11(40.7%)

The impact of small industries in the improvement of the socio-economic status of the owners of the industries is not very discouraging as 68.5% of the owners of industries reported average impact and 17% reported positively. But 27.5% of the owners, however, felt that the industries could not improve the economic standard of the owners. Table-26 (D) shows in details.

TABLE – 26 (D)

Impact of cottage & small industries in the living standard / socio economic status

District	No of industries owners	Socio economic status-impact there of		
		Improved substantially	Average	Not improved
Nagaon	76	13(17%)	52(68.5%)	21(27.5%)

(B) DATA ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE

a) Forest Villages of Golaghat District:

Data from 65 households of 13 villages were collected and out of 65 households 21 (32.3%) households belonged to Karbi, Tiwa, Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, Bodo Kachari and Mech tribes. Table-1 shows in details.

TABLE – 1

Showing Numbers of forest villages, numbers of surveyed household, numbers of tribal household etc of Golaghat district

Name of District	No of total villages	No of house hold	No of Tribal house hold	Name of the tribes
Golaghat	13	65	21(32.3 %)	Karbi, Tiwa, Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, BodoKachari, Mech.

45 (69%) head of households above the age of 50 years and 20 (31%) heads of households below the age of 50 years were interviewed. Sex-wise 97% males and 3% females were selected with various educational standards like illiterate (10.5%), read up to class I-X (65%), and above class X standard (25%). As regards occupation 80% of the people were cultivators, 12% businessman, 6% service holders and 1.5% non Govt. service holders. Table-1(A) shows in details.

TABLE – 1(A)

Showing age group of head of the household, sex of head of household, education, occupation etc of the surveyed household (Golaghat)

Age of head of the household		Sex of head of the household		Educational qualification			Occupation			
Below 50 Years	Above 50 Years	Male	Female	Illiterate	Class I to X	above Class X	Cultivation	Business	Service Govt	Service –non Govt
20 (31%)	45 (69%)	63 (97%)	2 (3%)	7 (10.5%)	42 (65%)	16 (25%)	52 (80%)	8 (12%)	4 (6%)	1 (1.5%)
Total- 65										

Altogether 920 Bighas of land are owned by the surveyed households and out of this 290 Bighas are owned by the tribal households. Originally the Forest Department allotted 975 Bighas to the households and 315 Bighas to tribal households. The forest villagers do not

enjoy the right of transfer of land nor they are allowed to lease or mortgage the allotted lands. The lands per household decreased due to increase of family members over the decades. Table-2 shows in details.

TABLE - 2

Showing position of land in the surveyed house holds (in Bighas)

District	No of surveyed household	No of surveyed tribal household	Category of land	Total land of the surveyed household (in Bighas)	Total tribal land held by the surveyed household (in Bighas)
Golaghat	65	21(31%)	1. Total land possessed by the households	920 (94%)	290 (92%)
			2. Total land originally allotted to each family	975	315
			3. Enjoy right of transfer of land	No	
			4. Leased or mortgaged any land	No	
			5. If yes, state the area	Does not arise	
			6. Type of land leased or mortgaged	Does not arise	
			7. To whom leased or mortgaged	Does not arise	
			8. Remarks if any	The total land held by per family reduced due to increase of no of families.	

Regarding utilization of the land it was found that 77% of land owned by non tribals and 75% of the land owned by tribals are utilized for wet paddy cultivation. 2.7% of land of non tribals and 5% lands of tribals are used for plantation purpose. 6% land on non tribals and 6% lands of tribals are used as household lands. Under fishery 3% land is used by non tribals and 1.3% lands are used by tribals in fishery. There are 4.4% garden land for non tribals and 3.4% such lands are used as garden land by tribals. Fallow lands are found in 6.6% households of non tribals and 9.3% households of tribals. Table - 2 (A) shows in details.

TABLE – 2 (A)

Showing particulars of household land in the villages. (In Bighas)

No of villages	No of surveyed household	Total land possessed by the surveyed household	Category of land	Area (In Bighas)	Total land possessed by the Tribal household	Area (In Bighas)
Golaghat	65	920	1. Area under wet paddy cultivation	708 (77%)	290	217(75%)
			2. Area under Jhum land	Nil		Nil
			3. Area under plantation	25 (2.7%)		15 (5%)
			4. House hold land	56 (6%)		17 (6%)
			5. Land under fishery	29 (3 %)		4 (1.3 %)
			6. Garden land	41 (4.4%)		10 (3.4%)
			7. Fallow land (gazing)	61 (6.6%)		27 (9.3%)
Total -				920		290 (31.5%)

The earning members are microscopic minority in as low as 11.3% earners are recorded out of 492 members in 65 households. Similarly earning dependents are very few (18.5%). Majority of the members (70%) are non earning dependents. Average family members per family are 7.5%. Table -3 shows in details.

TABLE – 3

Showing no earners of surveyed households

No of villages	No of households	Category	%
Golaghat	65	1. No of Earners(Family head)	56 (11.3%)
		2. No of earning dependents	91 (18.5%)
		3. No of non earning dependents	345 (70%)
Total -			492
(N.B. – Average family member per family 492:- 65 = 7.5)			

The annual income of the households varies from below Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. Majority (65%) households have annual income in the range of Rs. 24000.00 – Rs. 48000.00. There are 18 (27.5%) households earning above Rs. 48000.00 while 5 (7.5%) households have annual income below Rs. 24000.00

60 (92.5%) households have annual expenditure above Rs. 24000.00 while only 5 (7.5%) households spend below Rs. 24000.00 annually.

52 (80%) households could not save while 8 (12%) households saved below Rs. 10000.00 and only 5 (7.5%) households could save above Rs. 10000.00. Table – 3(A) shows in details.

TABLE-3(A)

Showing Annual Income, expenditure, and Savings of the surveyed households (Golaghat)

Total no of household	Annual income of household			Annual expenditure of household		Annual Savings of household		
	Below Rs 24,000/	From Rs 24,000/ to Rs 48,000	Above Rs 48,000/	Below Rs 24,000/	Above Rs 24,000/	Above Rs 10,000/	Below Rs 10,000/	No savings at all
65	5 (7.5%)	42 (65%)	18 (27.5%)	5 (7.5%)	60 (92.5%)	5 (7.5%)	8 (12%)	52 (80%)

The forest villages have 152 (12%) unemployed person, male 103 (68%) and female 49 (32%). There are 18 (male 16 and female 2) educated unemployed. The standard of education is considered as Class X +. The semi educated (Class I to Class X) figures of this category are quite high i.e. 101 (66.4%) male 70 (69.3%) and female 31 (30.7). The figure of uneducated unemployed in the villages is also not insignificant as 33 (21.7%) male 17 (51.5%) female 16 (48.5%) persons are remaining idle depending on other members. Details are shown in Table-4.

TABLE-4

Showing employment and unemployment position in the household under survey (Golaghat)

No of surveyed household	Total population of the surveyed household	Category	Total Numbers in different Category	No of Male & percentage	No of Female & percentage
65	492	No of educated unemployed (class 10+)	18 (12%)	16 (89%)	2 (11%)
		No of semi educated unemployed (class I to 10)	101(66.4%)	70 (69.3%)	31 (30.7%)
		No of uneducated unemployed person	33 (21.7%)	17 (51.5%)	16 (48.5%)
No of total unemployed persons –			152	103 (68%)	49 (32%)
(Out of total population i.e. 492 the percentage of total unemployed i.e. 152 is 31%)					

It is rather strange that being forest villagers the villagers are not getting employment opportunities under Forest Department. The survey indicates that there are 4 (permanent) persons all male who are getting employment under forest Department and only one male tribal person is employed (permanent) by the Forest Department.

The Forest Department however provides casual employment for 60 to 180 days on daily wages of Rs. 60.00 to Rs. 90.00. Besides the villagers are protected from wild animals and help during natural calamities. Table-4(A) shows in details.

TABLE-4(A)

Showing employment position of the tribals in the Forest Department of the households under survey (Golaghat)

No of villages	No of surveyed household	Category	Numbers	Male	Female
13	65	Total Employment under Forest Department	4 (permanent)	4	0
		Tribal Employment under Forest Department	1-permanent (25%)	1	0
		No of days in a year employed in Forest Department	60 to 180 days (only for those who work as a casual worker for Forest Department)		
		Average daily wages received	Rs 60/ to Rs 90 /		
		Other facilities provided by Forest Department	Plantation, provides security from wild animals, supports during natural calamities		

Irrigation facilities are far from adequate as only 12(18%) families are getting such facilities using electricity (25%), diesel (58%), primal (8.3%) and manpower (8.3%). Details are shown in Table – 5.

TABLE – 5

Irrigation Facilities in the surveyed villages

District	No of villages	No of household surveyed	No and percentage of families using irrigation facilities	Energy used for irrigation	No of families
Golaghat	13	65	12 (18.5%)	(a) Electricity	3 (25%)
				(b) Diesel	7 (58%)
				(c) Primal	1 (8.3%)
				(d) Man power	1 (8.3%)
				(e)Others	Nil

44 (68%) families of the forest villages are dependent on agriculture and other related activities. 30 (68%) families grow rice, mustard, jute and sugarcane, 5 (11.3%) families produce betel nut, betel leaf, 2 (4.5%) families produce Eri & Muga, 7 (16%) families engage themselves in garden crops.

In all 880 Bighas of land are utilized under various crops such as Agriculture 600 Bighas, Horticulture 120 Bighas, Sericulture 40 Bighas, Garden crops 120 Bighas. Details are shown in Table – 6.

TABLE – 6

Showing Principal crops of the villagers (Golaghat)

No of villages	No of households	No of Families dependent on Agriculture	Type of Principal crops	Name of Principal crops	No of families
13	65	44(68%)	Agricultural corps	Rice, mastered seed , jute , Sugarcane	30(68%)
			Horticulture corps	Beetle nut & beetle leaf	5(11.3%)
			Sericulture corps	Eri, Muga	2 (4.5%)
			Garden corps	vegetables	7 (16%)
			Land utilized for	Total land area utilized by all the 65 household (In Bighas)	
			Agriculture	600 (68%)	
			Horticulture	120 (13.5%)	
			Sericulture	40 (4.5%)	
			Garden corps	120 (13.5%)	
			Total	880	

The elephant menace and other wild animals cause much damage to the crops of the inhabitants. During 2003-04, the estimated loss of crop due to damage caused by wild animals is 12%. The loss in 2004-05 is 11% while in 2005-06 the loss is 14%. Details are shown in Table – 7.

TABLE – 7

Damage caused by wild animals

District	No of villages	No of households	Average Annual loss due to Damage caused by wild animals	Percentage of damage
Golaghat	13	65	Annual loss 2003-04	12%
			Annual loss 2004-05	11%
			Annual loss 2005-06	14%

The villagers collect different kinds of wild herbs, leaf, flowers and roots for medicinal purpose. For construction purposes they collect bamboo, thatch, lkora, timber, cane, etc. for use of domestic animals grass is collected from forests. Besides edible items such as elephant apple, wild arum, mushroom, wild leaves, flowers, roots, etc. are also collected from the forests. Fire-wood is collected both for domestic and commercial purposes. Details are shown in Table – 8.

TABLE – 8

Collection of usable items from forest

District	No of villages	No of households	Category	Items
Golaghat	13	65	Name of items for medicinal purposes	Different wild herbs , leaf , flowers and roots etc.
			For construction purposes	Bamboo, thatch, timber. cane, reel etc.
			For domestic animal	Grass.
			Name of edible items	Elephant apple, wild arum, mushroom, different wild leaf, flowers and roots.
			For other commercial purposes	Fire wood

79% of the households showed preference for revenue status of the forest villages as this will provide them facilities like:-

- 1, Miadi patta or permanent ownership over lands;
2. Right of transfer of land;
3. Government benefits of loans, etc.
4. Political importance;
5. Construction of houses without permission from Forest Department.

21% of the households preferred the status quo as -

1. Outsiders cannot settle in forest villages;
2. The villagers will get more benefits for Forest Department;
3. Protection of life and property is guaranteed while running as forest villagers.

Details are shown in Table – 9.

TABLE – 9

Revenue status for forest villages

District	No of village	Total no of household	Wants revenue status		Wants Forest village status to continue	
			No of house holds	Reasons for preference of revenue status	No of house holds	Reasons for preference of Forest village status
Golaghat	13	65	51 (79%)	1. They will get Miadi patta or permanent ownership of the land owned by them. 2. They will get the right of transfer of land. 3. It will be easier for them to get the benefits of the different Govt schemes. 4. They believe that as revenue village they will get more political importance. 5. No more they need to take any kind of permission from Forest Department for any kind of construction.	14 (21%)	1. Outsiders can not settle in Forest Village area as the right of transfer of land is not there in F V. 2. They are getting some benefits from the forest. 3. They are Protected by the Forest Department

As regards agricultural inputs received by the forest villages, the villagers informed that they got information regarding selection of variety of seeds, weather updates, high quality seeds, etc. from concerned agricultural authorities, NGOs, Samabai Samitis, etc. The purpose of providing inputs was to increase production and get better price. However, the villagers did not receive cash aid.

The forest villagers sell their products like rice, vegetables in the villages. Betel nut, betel leaf, rice, mustard seeds are sold in hats. Endi & Muga items are sold through middlemen. Besides mustard seeds, sugarcane, jute is sold to the marketing societies and co-operative societies.

Most of the villagers 40 (61.53%) use water from hand pipes. 29.13% of the households have ring wells, 5 (7.69%) households use water from ponds and one (1.53%) household use river/stream for their water sources. Details are shown in Table – 10.

TABLE -10

District	No of villages	No of households	Category	Numbers
Golaghat	13	65	well	19(29.23%)
			pond	5(7.69%)
			Hand pump (tubel)	40(61.53%)
			pipe	nil
			River/ Stream	1(1.53%)
Total -				65(100%)

Most of the villages have their own water sources (86.15%). But during flood they depend upon water source located at public places (10.76%) and at neighbour's place (3.07%). Details are shown in Table – 10 (A).

TABLE – 10 (A)

Showing source of drinking water in the surveyed household

No of households	Category	Numbers	Remarks
65	Sources of water at own residence	56(86.15%)	Most of the villagers have their own source of water but during flood time they have to go a long distance to get drinking water.
	At public place	7(10.76%)	
	At Neighbor's place	2(3.07%)	
Total -		65	

The forest villages have very limited livestock. Six families have buffaloes. 15 families possess cows, 14 families possess goats, 10 families possess fowls, 14 families possess pigeons, 31 families possess ducks and 7 families possess pigs. Table 11 shows in details.

TABLE – 11

Showing livestock position in the villages under survey

District	No of livestock	No of families having Buffalos	Families having Cow	Families having Goat	Families having Fowl	Families having Pigeon	Families having Duck	Families having Pig	Families having Others
Golaghat	Less than 2	1 (16.6%)	4 (26.6%)	4 (28.5%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	3 (43%)	Nil
	2-4	3 (50%)	9 (60%)	7 (50%)	2 (20%)	Nil	17 (55%)	2 (28.5%)	Nil
	4-6	1 (16.6%)	1 (6.6%)	2 (14.28)	5 (50%)	4 (28.5%)	2 (6.5%)	2 (28%)	Nil
	Above 6-	1 (16.6%)	1 (6.6%)	1 (7%)	3 (30%)	10 (71.5%)	12 (38.7%)	Nil	Nil
	Total	6	15	14	10	14	31	7	Nil

There are only 3 (4.6%) weaving families who weave Gamochas, Eri shawls, chaddars, mekhela, etc. which are also produced for sale. Each family earns Rs. 3500.00 p.m. on an average. Surplus weaving products are sold at nearby market through co-operative societies and middlemen. Raw material sources are from the villages, nearby market and co-operative societies. Table – 12 shows in details.

TABLE – 12

Showing weaving in the studied village

District	No of village	Total no of households	Category	Information
Golaghat	13	65	No of weaving families	3 (4.6%)
			Product of weaving	Gamocha, Eri chawl, Woman wear like Chaddar-Mekhala etc.
			Surplus weaving product for sale	Gamocha, Eri chawl, Woman wear like Chaddar-Mekhala etc.
			Income from weaving	Rs-3500/ per month (average)
			Surplus products sold at	Near by market, through co-operative, Through middle man
			Raw materials purchased from	From the village itself, Near by market, co-operative
			Grants/loans received from Govt.	No

The forest villagers produce bamboo and cane basket, mat, cane furniture, bamboo implements, etc. and the surplus products are sold at market (60%), in the market (20%), the middlemen (20%). Government aid is receiving for these cottage industries. Table -13 shows in details.

TABLE - 13

Cane and bamboo products of the villages

District	No of villages	No of households	Category	Information
Golaghat	13	65	Source of raw materials	Own village, neighboring village , near by market , near by forest
			Items produced from cane and bamboo	Bamboo & Cane basket, Bamboo & Cane mate, Cane furniture, Bamboo fishing equipment, Bamboo fencing
			Surplus item for sale last year	Bamboo & Cane basket, Bamboo & Cane mate, Cane furniture
			Surplus products sold at	
			a) Market	60%
			b) In the village	20%
			c) To middle man	20%
			d) To marketing Co-operation Societies	Nil
Grants/loans received from Govt.	Nil			

As regards health care, the villagers largely depend upon Allopathic treatment as 90.7% of the villagers have shown Allopathic treatment as first preference and 4.6% as second preference. The first and second preferences in respect of Ayurvedic 3% and 3%, Homoeopathic 4.6% and 54.83%, occult medicine nit and 7.5%. Indigenous herbs 1.5% respectively. Table -14 shows in details.

TABLE - 14

Showing preference for health care facilities in the household of surveyed villages

No of villages	No of households	System	Golaghat	
			1 st preference	2 nd preference
13	65	Allopathic	59(90.7%)	3(4.6%)
		Ayurvedic	2(3%)	2(3%)
		Homeopathic	3(4.6%)	54(83%)
		Occult medicine	Nil	5(7.5%)
		Indigenous herbs	1(1.5%)	1(1.5%)

In respect of vaccine to children 69.23% households administered polio, 61.53% households administered BCG, 4.61% households administered Diphtheria to the children, 15.38% household's immunized children with chick pox vaccine, 15.38% households administered Measles vaccine and 15.38% households administered Hepatitis vaccine. Centres of Vaccine were Government hospital 2 Nos and PHC – 11 Nos. Table – 14(A) and 14 (B) show in details.

TABLE – 14 (A)

Administration of vaccine to children

District	Polio	BCG	Diphtheria	Chicken pox	Measles	Other
Golaghat	45	40	3	10	10	10(hepatitis)

TABLE-14(B)

Centers of administration of vaccine

District	Govt. hospital	Primary Health Center	State Dispensary	Private hospital	Private doctor	Village quack	Any other
Golaghat	2	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Sanitation in the forest villages is far from satisfactory as 60% of the households use katcha latrine, 3% use the open field and 37% have sanitary latrines. Table-15 shows in details.

TABLE – 15

Toilets used by the households

District	No of total household surveyed	Category	No of households
Golaghat	65	Open field	2 (3%)
		Katcha latrine	39(60%)
		Sanitary	24(37%)
		Other(specify)	0

Katcha Assam Type houses are the predominant feature of the pattern of households in the forest villages. 56.92% households have such type of houses, followed by pucca Assam

Type house with 26.15%, thatched house with 15.38% and RCC with 1.53%. Table – 16 shows in details.

TABLE – 16

Pattern of house in the households under study

District	No of total household surveyed	RCC	Pucca A.T.	Katcha A.T.	Thatched roofed
Golaghat	65	1 (1.53%)	17(26.15%)	37(56.92%)	10(15.38%)

It is interesting to note that 58.5% households have electric connection and the villagers are becoming modern with various electronic and telecommunication items. Thus 27% households have TV sets, 80% households have transistor radio sets, 67.5% have watches, 4.5% households possess telephones, 3% use water pump, 6% households have motor cycle and 63% households possess bicycles. But traditional bullock cart is not totally extinct as 18.5% households have bullock carts. Details are shown in Table-17.

TABLE – 17

Showing households properties and other properties

District	No of total household surveyed	Items	Numbers of families
Golaghat	65	Electric connection	38 (58.5%)
		Motor cycle	4 (6%)
		By cycle	41(63%)
		T.V.	18(27.5%)
		Radio	52(80%)
		Watch	44(67.5%)
		Bullock cart	12(18.5%)
		Other vehicles	Nil
		Plough	34(52%)
		Telephone	3(4.5%)
		Water pump	2 (3%)

The total household annual income from cultivation is Rs. 1,66,075.00, from service Rs. 25,025.00, from day labour wages Rs. 6825.00, from Business Rs. 22,750.00, from other

sources like rickshaw pulling, thela pulling, part time labour the income is Rs. 6825.00. Details are shown in Table-18.

TABLE – 18
Showing household income

District	Total Annual income from all sources	From service	From cultivation	From day labors/wages	Business	Others (specify)
Golaghat	Rs 2,27,500/	Rs25,025/ (11%)	Rs1,66,075/ (73%)	Rs 6825/ (3%)	Rs 22,750 / (10%)	Rs 6825/ (3%) - Rickshaw pulling, thela pulling, part time laborer etc.

Although the forest villagers earn quite a good amount from various sources, yet expenditure on various items consume sizable amount of the income. On food item each household spends Rs. 1,11,300.00, on dress and ornaments Rs. 18,550.00, on education the expenditure is Rs. 14840.00, on social obligation each household spends Rs. 14,840.00 on health an amount of Rs. 12,985.00 and on special occasions the expenditure is Rs. 12,985.00. The total annual expenditure comes to Rs. 1,85,500.00 per household. . Details are shown in Table-18 (A).

TABLE – 18 (A)
Annual expenditure of the house holds in Rs.

District	Food items	Dress & ornaments	Education	Social obligation	Health	Others (specify)	Total expenditure
Golaghat	Rs 1,11,300/ (60%)	Rs18550 (10%)	Rs 14,840/ (8%)	Rs 14,840/ (8%)	Rs 12,985/ (7%)	Rs 12,985/ (7%) Festivals, Marriage etc.	Rs1,85,500

9 families of the surveyed households have post office/bank A/C. It is found that 55.5% households save regularly while 44.5% do not do so. The villagers resort to other means like buying land and golden jewellery, saving in NGOs and co-operatives. On an average each household is in a position to save Rs. 42,000.00 annually.

98.5% of the households felt the necessity of saving for future emergency while only 1.5% does not feel the necessity of saving. In fact this latter category of villagers lives only hand to mouth and they cannot think of saving money. Details are shown in Table-18 (B).

TABLE - 18 (B)

Particulars of savings

District	No of families having A/C in post offices/banks	Save regularly		Others means to save money	Any others (specify)	Total Amount saved last year (Rs)	Feel need to save for future	
		Yes	No				Yes	No
Golaghat	9	5 (55.5%)	4 (44.5%)	By buying land and golden jewellery	Deposit in NGO, co-operative s	42,000/	64 (98.5%)	1 (1.5%)

It appears that the people in these villages are by and large, self sufficient so far economic life is concerned. Only 3 households received loan of Rs. 15,000.00 each from Co-operative societies at 15 to 20% p.a. interest for purchase of bullocks, marriage expenses, treatment of diseases, etc. On the date of survey Rs. 3000.00 per household was repaid. Details are shown in Table-18 (C).

TABLE - 18 (C)

Showing house holds indebtedness

District	Received loan, case/kind from any source		Principal amount (Total in Rs)		Source of lone		Rate of interest		Amount repaid		Purpos e of loan
	Yes	No	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	
Golaghat	3	62	15,000		Co-operatives			15% to 20% per anum		Rs 3,000/	To buy bulls, marriages, treatments, to repay the existing loan etc.

The forest villagers are not enjoying much of the benefits which their kinsmen near the forest villages enjoy. Yet 77% forest villagers are not willing to leave the villages while 23% wanted to shift. The reasons showed by the former are they get protection of life a property from Forest Department and they have strong emotional attachment to the forest. The latter category preferred to leave because they want Miadi patta land to avoid flood and prefer more fertile agricultural lands. Table – 19 shows in details.

TABLE – 19

Miscellaneous Information of the house holds

District	Willing to leave the villages		Reasons Willing to leave	Reasons for not Willing to leave
	Yes	No		
Golaghat	15 (23%)	50 (77%)	(i)Want to settle in an area where they can get Miadi patta land. (ii)To avoid the flood related problems. (iii)They want to settle in a more fertile area.	(i)They are legally protected from the outsiders. (ii)They have a strong emotional bonding with the village and villagers.

Regarding inter caste marriage 89.2% did not prefer while 10.7% preferred inter caste marriage. The former group showed reason like social prohibition, maintenance of tribal/indigenous identities followed through generations. While the latter category reasoned that such inter caste marriages help in adopting a broader outlook towards fellow men. Table – 19 (A) shows in details.

TABLE – 19 (A)

Showing preference towards inter cast marriages

District	Prefer Inter caste marriage			Reason for Yes	Reason for No
	Yes	Yes	No		
Golaghat	15 (23%)	7 (10.7%)	58 (89.2%)	(i)It will develop an understanding between two communities.	(i)It is a social taboo. (ii)They are (especially tribals) scared of loosing their indigenous identity by inter cast marriages.

The forest villagers are yet to be informed about various welfare measures of Govt. as out of 65 households only 11 (17%) households were aware of such welfare schemes. Out of 21 tribal households, only 6 (28.5%) households are aware of Government schemes.

Only 8 households of non tribals and 4 households of tribal communities were benefited by Govt. welfare schemes. 88% of the non tribal forest villagers opined that the schemes for welfare were not sufficient to remove the backwardness and 81% tribals also had such notion. Table-20 shows in details.

TABLE - 20

Awareness to various welfare measures

District	Category	Total household	Awareness of the Total household	Total tribal household	Awareness of the Tribal household
Golaghat	Awareness to various welfare measures	65	11(17%)	21	6(28.5%)
	Benefits received under welfare measures		8 (12%)		4(19%)
	Sufficiency of the welfare measures (a) Yes (b) No		(a) 8 (12%) (b) 57(88%)		(a) 4(19%) (b) 17(81%)

All the 65 households were of the opinion that untouchability does not prevail in the forest villages.

95.5% of the villagers were suffering from inferiority complex because of non recognition of the forest villagers as Miadi patta holders and consequent disabilities. Table-21 shows in details.

TABLE - 21

Showing information about untouchability

District	Untouchables prevails		Feeling inferiority complex		If yes mention causes
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Golaghat	0	65 (100%)	3 (4.5%)	62 (95.5%)	Because of not having Miadi patta of land

There are only 44 (40%) L.P. school going children, 24 boys and 20 girls while the number of tribal L.P. school going students is 14 (32%), 7 boys and 7 girls 33 (30%) M.E. school going students are found among the non tribal forest dwellers and the number of M.E. tribal school going students is 10 (30%). There are 26 (23.6%) H.E. school going students among non tribals and 8 (32%) H.E. school going students among the tribals.

College going students are only 7 (6.3%) among general castes while for the tribals the number is only 2 (28.5%). It is noticed that girl students in all the above categories are less in numbers. There are no girl students among the tribal communities in college level while among general castes only 1 girl student is found in college standard. Table – 22 shows in details.

TABLE – 22

Showing educational status of the household children

District	Educational status	No of total school going student			No of total tribal school going student		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Golaghat	No of L.P. school going	24	20	44 (40%)	7	7	14(32%)
	No of M.E. school going	20	13	33(30%)	6	4	10(30%)
	No of H.E. school going	16	10	26(23.6%)	5	3	8(32%)
	College going	6	1	7(6.3%)	2	0	2(28.5%)
	Total	66 (60%)	44 (40%)	110	20 (59%)	14(41%)	34

Drop out from L.P. school standard to colleges is more among girls than boys. Out of 43 dropout students of general castes, 25 are girl students and out of 25 drop out students among tribals 16 are girl students. Dropout in H.E. Standard is more in both tribal and non tribal categories. In fact in all the categories from L.P. to college, dropout of girl student is more than boy students.

The reason for such dropout is economic hardship and non availability of future scope of employment. Table – 22(A) shows in details.

TABLE - 22 (A)

Showing drop out position in the surveyed house holds

District	Drop out	No of total Drop out students			No of total tribal Drop out students			Reasons for drop out
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Golag hat	No of L.P. school going	7	8	15(34.8%)	4	5	9(36%)	1. Economic hardship 2. No future prospect
	No of M.E. school going	5	7	12(28%)	3	5	8(32%)	
	No of H.E. school going	5	8	13(30%)	2	6	8(24%)	
	College going	1	2	3(7%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
	Total	18	25	43	9	16	25	

As regards scholarship/free studentship none of the boys or girls up to H.E. Standard is receiving any. In the college level 3 students (2 boys and one girl) for general castes and 5 students (3 boys and 2 girls) from tribal communities are enjoying scholarship. In the above college standard one boy from general caste and one boy from tribal are enjoying free studentship. Table - 22(B) shows in details.

TABLE - 22 (B)

Showing position of Scholarship holders in the house holds

District	Standard	No of total tribal students			No of total students		
		Boys	Girls	total	Boys	Girls	total
Golaghat	L.P	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	M.E	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	H.E	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	College	2	1	3	3	2	5
	Above College	1	Nil	1	1	Nil	1
	Technical institute	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) Forest Villages of Nagaon District.

Data from 135 households of 27 villages were collected and out of 135 households 45 (30%) households belonged to tribals belonging to Karbi, Tiwa and Bodo Kachari. Table-1 shows in details.

TABLE-1

Showing Numbers of surveyed villages, numbers of surveyed household, numbers of tribal household etc

Name of District	No of total villages	No of household surveyed	No of surveyed Tribal household	Name of tribes present in the surveyed area
Nagaon	27	135	45(30%)	Karbi, Tiwa, BodoKachari,

101 (75%) heads of households above 50 years of age and 34 (25%) heads of households below 50 years of age were interviewed. Sex wise 131 (97%) male and 4 (3%) were selected with various educational qualifications like illiterate (15%), read up to Class X (66%) and above Class-X standard (19%). As regards occupation 75% of the villagers were cultivators, 13% businessmen, 9.5% Government service holders and 2% non Government service holders. Table-1(A) shows in details.

TABLE-1(A).

Showing age group of head of the household, sex of head of the household, education, occupation etc of the surveyed household (Nagaon)

Age of head of the household		Sex of head of the household		Educational qualification			Occupation			
Below 50 Years	Above 50 Years	Male	Female	Illiterate	Class I to X	above Class X	Cultivation	Business	Service - Govt	Service - non Govt
34 (25%)	101 (75%)	131 (97%)	4 (3%)	20 (15%)	89 (66%)	26 (19%)	101 (75%)	18 (13%)	13 (9.5%)	3 (2%)
Total- 135										

Altogether 1910 Bighas of land are owned by the surveyed households and out of which 601 Bighas are owned by the tribal households. Originally the Forest Department

allotted 2025 Bighas to the villagers including 675 Bighas to tribals. The forest villagers do not enjoy the right of transfer of land and they are not allowed to lease or mortgage the allotted lands. The lands per household decreased due to increase of population over the decades. Details are shown in Table- 2.

TABLE-2

District	No of surveyed household	No of tribal house hold	Category of land	Total land hold (in Bighas)	Name of tribes present in the surveyed area (in Bighas)
Nagaon	135	45(30%)	1. Total land possessed by the households	1910 (94%)	601 (89%)
			2. Total land originally allotted to each family	2025	675
			3. Enjoy right of transfer of land	No	
			4. Leased or mortgaged any land	No	
			5. If yes, state the area	Does not arise	
			6. Type of land leased or mortgaged	Does not arise	
			7. To whom leased or mortgaged	Does not arise	
			8. Remarks if any	The total land held by per family reduced due to increase of no of families	

Regarding utilization of the household land it was found that 78% of the land owned by non tribal forest households and 73% of the owned by tribal households are utilized for wet paddy cultivation. 3% of the land owned by non tribals and 4.5% of the land owned by tribals are used for plantation. 3% land of non tribals and 7% lands of tribals are utilized for households, 4% of the lands of non tribals and 2% of the tribals are used as fisheries. 4.5% non tribal lands and 5% tribal lands are under gardening and 7.5% o non tribal land and 8.5% of tribal land are used as grazing. Table 2(A) shows in details.

TABLE-2 (A).

Showing particulars of household land in the villages. (In Bighas)

No of villages	No of surveyed household	Total land possessed by the surveyed household (In Bighas)	Category of land	Area (In Bighas)	Total land possessed by the Tribal household (In Bighas)	Area (In Bighas)
Nagaon	135	1910	1. Area under wet paddy cultivation	1490 (78%)	601	439(73%)
			2. Area under Jhum land	Nil		Nil
			3. Area under plantation	57(3%)		27 (4.5%)
			4. House hold land	57(3%)		42 (7%)
			5. Land under fishery	77(4 %)		12 (2 %)
			6. Garden land	86 (4.5%)		30 (5%)
			7. Fallow land (gazing)	143 (7.5%)		51 (8.5%)
Total -				1910		601 (31.4%)

Earning members are very few in the villages. Out of 972 members, 123 (12.6%) members earn income regularly. The part time workers constitute 149 members (15.3%) who are earning dependents. The number of non-earning dependents is too high figuring 700 (72%). Average family size is 7.2. Table- 3 shows in details.

TABLE-3.

Showing no earners of surveyed households

No of villages	No of households	Category	
27	135	1. No of Earners(Family head)	123(12.6%)
		2. No of earning dependents	149(15.3%)
		3. No of non earning dependents	700 (72%)
Total -			972
(N.B. – Average family member per family 972:- 135 = 7.2)			

The annual income of the household varies from below Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. Majority 95 (70%) households have annual income in the range of Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. There are 31 (23%) households earning above Rs. 48000.00 and 9 (6.6%) households have annual income below Rs. 24000.00

126 (93.4%) households have annual expenditure above Rs. 24000.00 while only 9 (6.6%) households spend below Rs. 24000.00 annually.

113 (84%) households are not in a position to save anything while 8 (6%) households saved above Rs. 10000.00 and 14 (10%) households saved below Rs. 10000.00. Table – 3(A) shows in details.

TABLE – 3 (A)

Showing Annual Income, expenditure, and Savings of the surveyed households (Nagaon)

Total no of household	Annual income of household			Annual expenditure of household		Annual Savings of household		
	Below Rs 24,000/	From Rs 24,000/ to Rs 48,000	Above Rs 48,000/	Below Rs 24,000/	Above Rs 24,000/	Above Rs 10,000/	Below Rs 10,000/	No savings at all
135	9 (6.6%)	95 (70 %)	31 (23 %)	9 (6.6%)	126 (93.4%)	8 (6%)	14 (10%)	113 (84%)

The forest villages of Nagaon district have 300 unemployed persons 199 (66.3%) male and 101 (33.7%) female. There are 33 (11%) educated (class – X+) unemployed male 29 (78%), female 4 (22%). The figures of semi educated unemployed (read up to Class X) are quite high 186 (62%), male 130 (70%), female 56 (30%). The figures of uneducated unemployed persons are also not insignificant which are 81 (27%) male 40 (49.4%), female 41 (50.6%).

The figure of female educated unemployed is very low because female educated persons beyond class X+ are very few. Details are shown in Table-4.

No of villages surveyed	No of surveyed household	Category	Numbers	Male	Female	
27	135	Total Employment under Forest Department	6 permanent	6	0	
		Tribal Employment under Forest Department	2-permanent (33.3%)	2	0	
		No of days in a year employed in Forest Department	60 to 180 days (only for those who work as a casual worker for Forest Department)			
		Average daily wages received	Rs 60/ to Rs 90 /			
		Other facilities provided by Forest Department	Plantation, provides security from wild animals, supports during natural calamities			

Showing employment position in the Forest Department of the households under survey (Nagaon)

TABLE - 4 (A)

animals and relief during natural calamities. Table - 4 (A) shows in details.

The additional benefits provided by the Forest Department are security from wild and the average daily wage is Rs. 60.00 to Rs. 90.00.

The Forest Department however provides employment on casual basis (60-180 days) Department is only 2 and all are male persons.

in permanent cadre and all are male. Number of tribal permanent member under Forest opportunities under the Forest Department. The survey indicates that there are only 6 persons It is rather strange that being forest villagers the people are not getting employment

No of surveyed household	No of population of the surveyed household	Category	Total Numbers	No of Male & percentage	No of Female & percentage
135	972	No of educated unemployed (class 10+)	33 (11%)	29 (78%)	4 (22%)
		No of semi educated unemployed (class I to 10)	186(62%)	130 (70%)	56 (30%)
		No of uneducated unemployed	81(27%)	40 (49.4%)	41 (50.6%)
		No of total unemployed persons - 300 (Out of total population of. 972 the percentage of total unemployed person i.e. 300 is 31%)		199(66.3%)	101(33.7%)

Showing employment and unemployment position in the households under survey (Nagaon)

TABLE - 4

Irrigation facilities are far from adequate as only 33 (24.5%) families are getting such facilities using electricity (30%), diesel (30%), primal (6%) and manpower (33.3%). Details are shown in Table – 5.

TABLE – 5

Irrigation Facilities in the surveyed villages

District	No of villages	No of household surveyed	No and percentage of families using irrigation facilities	Energy used for irrigation	No of families
Nagaon	27	135	33 (24.5%)	(a) Electricity	10(30 %)
				(b) Diesel	10(30 %)
				(c) Primal	2(6%)
				(d) Man power	11(33.3%)
				(e)Others	Nil

94 (70%) families of the forest villages are dependent on agriculture and other allied activities. The principal crops grown are rice, mustard, jute, sugarcane – 69%, horticulture 19%, Eri Muga 3%, garden crops 10%.

In all 1890 Bighas of land are utilized under various crops such as Agriculture – 1300 Bighas, Horticulture 370 Bighas, Sericulture 60 Bighas, Garden crops 160 Bighas. Table – 6 shown in details.

TABLE – 6

Showing Principal crops of the villagers (Nagaon)

No of villages	No of households	No of Families dependent on Agriculture	Type of Principal crops	Name of Principal crops	No of families	
27	135	94(70%)	Agricultural corps	Rice, mastered seed , jute , Sugarcane	64(69%)	
			Horticulture corps	Beetle nut & beetle leaf	18(19%)	
			Sericulture corps	Eri, Muga	3(3%)	
			Garden corps	vegetables	9(10%)	
			Land utilized for	Total land area utilized by all the 135 household(In Bighas)		
			Agriculture	1300	(68.78%)	
			Horticulture	370	(19.57 %)	
			Sericulture	60	(3.17%)	
			Garden corps	160	(8.46 %)	
			Total land	1890		

Elephants and other wild animals cause much damage to the crops of the forest villagers. During 2003-04, the estimated loss of crop caused by wild animals is 10%. The loss during 2004-05 is 9% while the loss for 2005-06 is 10%. Table-7 shows in details.

TABLE – 7

Damage caused by wild animals

District	No of villages	No of households	Average Annual loss due to Damage caused by wild animals	Percentage of damage
Nagaon	27	135	Annual loss 2003-04	10%
			Annual loss 2004-05	9%
			Annual loss 2005-06	10%

The villagers collect different kinds of wild herbs, leaf, flowers and roots for medicinal purposes. For construction purposes they collect bamboo, thatch, Ikora, timber, cane, etc. from forests. For consumption of domestic animals, grass is collected from forests. Besides, edible items such as elephant apple, wild arum, mushroom, wild leaves, flowers, roots, etc. are also collected from the forests. Firewood is collected both for domestic and commercial purposes. Details are shown in Table – 8.

TABLE – 8

Collection of usable items from forest

District	No of villages	No of households	Category	Golaghat
Nagaon	27	135	Name of items for medicinal purposes	Different wild herbs , leaf , flowers and roots etc.
			For construction purposes	Bamboo, thatch, timber. cane, reel etc.
			For domestic animal	Grass.
			Name of edible items	Elephant apple, wild arum, mushroom, different wild leaf, flowers and roots.
			For other commercial purposes	Fire wood

108 (80%) households showed preference for revenue status of forest villages as this will provide benefits like –

1. Miadi patta;
2. Right of transfer of land;

3. Government benefits in the shape of loans, etc.
4. Political importance;
5. Construction of houses without permission from Forest Department.

While 27 (20%) households preferred the status quo as

1. Outsiders can not own lands in forests,
2. The villagers will get benefits from Forest Department,
3. Protection of life and property is guaranteed.

Table - 9 shows in details.

TABLE - 9

Revenue status for forest villages

District	No of villages	Total no of household	Wants revenue status		Wants Forest village status to continue	
			No of house holds	Reasons for preference of revenue status	No of house holds	Reasons for preference of Forest village status
Nagaon	27	135	108 (80%)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They will get Miadi patta or permanent ownership of the land owned by them. 2. They will get the right of transfer of land. 3. It will be easier for them to get the benefits of the different Govt schemes. 4. They believe that as revenue village they will get more political importance. 5. No more they need to take any kind of permission from Forest Department for any kind of construction. 	27 (20.%)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outsiders can not settle in Forest Village area as the right of transfer of land is not there in F V. 2. They are getting some benefits from the forest. 3. They are Protected by the Forest Department

The forest villagers sell their products like rice, vegetables, etc. in the villages. Betel nuts and betel leaves, mustard seeds, rice, etc. are sold in the weekly/daily hats. Endi and Muga items are sold through middlemen. Besides mustard seeds, sugarcane, jute, etc. are sold to the marketing societies and co-operative societies.

As regards agricultural inputs, the villagers informed that they got information regarding selection of variety of seeds, weather updates, high quality seeds, etc. from the agricultural authorities, NGOs, Samabai Samitis, etc. The purpose of providing inputs was to increase production and get better price. The villagers, however, did not receive cash aid.

Most of the villagers 87 (64.44%) use water from hand pipes. 31 (22.96%) households use water from ring wells, 13 (9.63%) households have ponds and 4 (2.96%) households use river/stream water for day to day use. Table 10 shows in details.

TABLE - 10

Showing position of drinking water in the surveyed household

District	No of villages	No of households	Category	Numbers
Nagaon	27	135	Wells	31(22.96%)
			Ponds	13(9.63%)
			Hand pipe (tubel)	87(64.66%)
			Pipe water	Nil
			River/stream	4(2.96%)
Total -				135 (100%)

Most of the villagers, 114 households 84.44%, have their own source of water. During rainy season 16 (11.85%) households depend upon water at public places. Only 5 (3.70%) households depend upon neighbour's water sources. Table 10 (A) shows in details.

TABLE - 10 (A)

Showing source of drinking water in the surveyed household

No of households	Category	Numbers	Remarks
135	Sources of water at own residence	114 (84.44 %)	Most of the villagers have their own source of water but during flood time they have to go a long distance to get drinking water.
	At public place	16 (11.85%)	
	At Neighbor's place	5 (3.70%)	
Total -		135	

The forest villagers do not possess much livestock. 14 families possess buffaloes, 31 families possess cows, 15 families possess goat, 21 families possess fowls, 26 families

possess pigeons, 31 families possess ducks and 14 families possess pigs. Table – 11 shows in details.

TABLE -11

Showing livestock position in the villages under survey

District	No of livestock	No of families having Buffalos	No of families having Cow	No of families having Goat	No of families having Fowl	No of families having Pigeon	No of families having Duck	No of families having Pig	No of families having Others
Nagaon	Less than 2	2 (14.2%)	17 (55%)	4 (26.6%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	8 (57%)	Nil
	2-4	10 (71.5%)	12 (38.7%)	9 (60%)	9 (43%)	4 (15%)	17 (55%)	4 (28.5%)	Nil
	4-6	Nil	2 (6.5%)	1 (6.6%)	6 (28.5%)	12 (46%)	12 (38.7%)	2 (14.2%)	Nil
	Above 6-	2 (14.2%)	Nil	1 (6.6%)	6 (28.5%)	10 (%)	2 (6.5%)	Nil	Nil
	No of families	14	31	15	21	26	31	14	Nil

There are only 8 (6%) weaving families who weave Gamosas, Eri Chadars and shawls, Mekhelas, etc. which are also produced for sale. Each family earns Rs. 3300.00 p.m. on an average. Surplus weaving products are sold at nearby market through co-operative societies and middlemen. Raw materials are collected from villages, nearby markets and from co-operative societies. Table-12 shows in details.

TABLE - 12

Showing weaving in the studied village

District	No of village	Total no of households	Category	Information
Nagaon	27	135	No of weaving families	8 (6%)
			Product of weaving	Gamochoa, Eri chawl, Woman wear like Chaddar-Mekhala etc.
			Surplus weaving product for sale	Gamochoa, Eri chawl, Woman wear
			Income from weaving	Rs-3300/ per month (average)
			Surplus products sold at	Near by market, through co-operative, Through middle man
			Raw materials purchased from	From the vendor, From the village itself, Near by market, co-operative
			Grants/loans received from Govt.	No

The forest villagers produce bamboo and cane products like basket, mat, cane furniture, bamboo fishing implements, etc. The surplus products like bamboo and cane basket,

mats, furniture, etc. are sold at market (60%) in the village (20%), so middlemen (20%). Raw materials are collected from the village, nearby market and co-operative societies.

The villagers are getting loans/grants from Government. Details are shown in Table – 13

TABLE – 13

Cane and bamboo products of the villages

District	No of villages	No of households	Category	Information
Nagaon	27	135	Source of raw materials	Own village, neighboring village , near by market , near by forest
			Items produced from cane and bamboo	Bamboo & Cane basket, Bamboo & Cane mate, Cane furniture, Bamboo fishing equipment, Bamboo fencing
			Surplus item for sale last year	Bamboo & Cane basket, Bamboo & Cane mate, Cane furniture
			Surplus products sold at	
			a) Market	60%
			b) In the village	20%
			c) To middle man	20%
			d) To marketing Co-operation Societies	Nil
			Grants/loans received from Govt.	Own village, neighboring village , near by market , near by forest

As regards health care the villagers largely depend upon Allopathic treatment as 86.6% of the villagers have shown Allopathic as first preference and 8% as second preference. The first and second preferences in respect of Ayurvedic 3% and 21.5%, Homoeopathic 8.8% and 64.5%, Occult medicine 7% and 7%, indigenous herbs 1.5% and 5% respectively. Table – 14 shows in details.

TABLE - 14

Showing preference for health care facilities in the household of surveyed villages

No of villages	No of households	System	Nagaon	
			1 st preference	2 nd preference
27	135	Allopathic	117(86.6%)	11(8%)
		Ayurvedic	3(2.2%)	29(21.5%)
		Homeopathic	12(8.8%)	87(64.5%)
		Occult medicine	1(.7%)	1(.7%)
		Indigenous herbs	2 (1.5%)	7(5%)

As regards vaccine to children, 65 households administered Polio, 55 households administered BCG, 16 households administered Diphtheria, 15 households chicken pox, 13 households administered Measles and 41 households administered Hepatitis vaccine. Vaccines were administered in 4 Government hospitals and 23 P.H.Cs. Details are shown in Table-14(A) and 14(B).

TABLE - 14(A)

Administration of vaccine to children

District	Polio	BCG	Diphtheria	Chicken pox	Measles	Other
Nagaon	65	55	16	15	13	41(hepatitis)

TABLE-14(B)

Centers of administration of vaccine

District	Govt. hospital	Primary health center	State Dispensary	Private hospital	Private doctor	Village quack	Any other
Nagaon	4	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

75.5% of the households have katcha latrine, 14.8% households have sanitary latrines and 9.6% of the households do not have latrine facilities and open field is used for latrine purposes. Table – 15 shows in details.

TABLE – 15

Toilets used by the households

District	No of total household surveyed	Category	No of households
Nagaon	135	Open field	13(9.6%)
		Katcha latrine	102(75.5%)
		Sanitary	20(14.8%)
		Other(specify)	0

Majority of the households numbering 65 (48.14%) have thatched houses followed by 52 (38.52%) households with katcha Assam Type and 18 (13.33%) households with pucca Assam Type houses. There is no RCC house in the surveyed villages. Table 16 shows in details.

TABLE- 16.

Pattern of house in the households under study

District	No of total household surveyed	RCC	Pucca A.T.	Katcha A.T.	Thatched
Nagaon	135	0	18(13.33%)	52(38.52%)	65(48.14%)

35.5% households have electric connections. 83% of the households have Radios, 32% households possess T.V. sets. 92.5% households possess bicycles and 4.5% Motor Cycles. 72% households have watches, 15.5% households possess bullock-carts, 49% households have ploughs and 3% households possess water pumps. Telephone connection is provided 3.7% of the households. Details are shown in table-17.

TABLE-17

Showing households properties and other properties

District	No of total household surveyed	Items	Numbers of families
Nagaon	135	Electric connection	48 (35.5%)
		Motor cycle	6 (4.5%)
		By cycle	125 (92.5%)
		T.V.	43 (32%)
		Radio	112 (83%)
		Watch	95 (70%)
		Bullock cart	21 (15.5%)
		Other vehicles	0
		Plough	66 (49%)
		Telephone	5 (3.7%)
		Water pump	4 (3%)

The total income of the households is not insignificant as the same is found at a reasonable annual amount of Rs. 472500.00. Major income is derived from cultivation and the annual income under this head is Rs. 340200.00. From service Rs. 47250.00 is earned annually while an amount of Rs. 47250.00 is earned through wage earning. Business activities, however, are limited as the amount earning from this source is Rs. 18900.00 only. Similarly, income from other sources like rickshaw pulling, part time labour is only Rs. 18900.00. Details are shown in Table-18.

TABLE-18

Showing house holds income

District	Total income from all sources	From service	From cultivation	From day labors/ wages	Business	Others (specify)
Nagaon	Rs 4,72,500/	Rs 47,250/ (10%)	Rs 3,40,200/ (72%)	Rs 47,250/ (10%)	Rs 18,900/ (4%)	Rs 18,900/ (4%) Rickshaw pulling, thela pulling, part time laborer etc

Although the villagers earn quite a reasonable amount of money annually, yet expenditure on various items consume the major portion of the income. Major expenditure is incurred on food items (Rs. 2,60,400.00) . Expenditure on dress items comes to Rs.

42,000.00 while on education the expenditure is Rs. 33,600.00 p.a.. On health care also similar amount is spent. The people of rural areas are required to spend sizable amount on social obligation because of the corporate nature of life pattern. Thus the forest villagers of Nagaon spend Rs. 29,400.00 as on social obligation throughout the year. Similarly, Rs. 21000.00 is spent on festivals, marriage, death ceremonies etc. In this the total expenditure comes to Rs. 4,20,000.00 leaving minimal amount for saving for future. Table-18(A) shows in details.

TABLE-18(A)

Annual expenditure of the house holds in Rs.

District	On Food items	On Dress & ornaments	On Education	For Social obligation	On Health	Others (specify)	Total expenditure
Nagaon	Rs 2,60,400/ (62%)	Rs 42,000/ (10%)	Rs 33,600/ (8%)	Rs 29,400 (7%)	Rs 33,600/ (8%)	Rs 21,000/ (5%) Festivals, Marriage etc.	Rs 4,20,000/

15 families of the surveyed households have post office/bank account, 60% households save regularly while 40% households do not save. The villagers resort to other means of saving such as buying land and golden jewellery, deposit in N G O, co-operative etc. On an average each household saves Rs. 52,500.00 annually. 98.5% of the households feel that saving should be done for future while 1.5% households do not subscribe to this mainly due to poverty. Table – 18 (B) shows in details.

TABLE – 18 (B)

Particulars of savings

District	No of families having A/C in post offices/banks	Save regularly		Others means to save money	Any others (specify)	Total Amount saved last year	Feel need to save for future	
		Yes	No				Yes	No
Nagaon	15	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	By buying land and golden jewellery	Deposited in NGO, co-operatives	Rs 52,500/	133 (98.5%)	2 (1.5%)

It appears that the people in the surveyed villages, by and large, are self sufficient so far economic life is concerned. Only 6 households received loan of Rs. 20,000.00 each from N G O, Co-operative societies at 18 to 24% interest P.A. for purchase of household essential items, repairing old houses for marriage of daughters and to repay the loan. Details are shown in Table- 18 (C).

TABLE – 18 (C)

Showing house holds indebtedness

District	Received loan, case/kind from any source		Principal amount		Source of lone		Rate of interest		Amount repaid		Purpose of lone
	Yes	No	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	Cash	Kind	
Nagaon	6	129	20,000/		NGO, Co-operatives			18% to 24% per anum		Rs 5000/	Repairing of houses, to repay the existing loan, buying of household essential items, marriages etc.

The forest villagers are not enjoying much of the benefits, which their kinsmen near the forest villages enjoy. Yet 77.7% forest villagers are not willing to leave the villages while 22.2% villagers want to shift. The reasons shown by the former are that are getting benefits from forests, they have long emotional bond with the forests and the forest is the only source of livelihood for them. The latter category preferred to leave because they want to settle with their kith and kin, want Miadi patta holder status and to avoid the flood related problem as forest villagers. Details are shown in Table- 19.

TABLE - 19

Miscellaneous Information of the house holds

District	Willing to leave the villages		Reasons Willing to leave	Reasons for not Willing to leave
	Yes	No		
Nagaon	30(22.2 %)	105 (77.7%)	(i) They want to settle near their own community people. (ii) Want to settle in an area where they can get Miadi patta land. (iii) To avoid the flood related problems	(i) They are getting benefits from the surrounding forest. (ii) They have a strong emotional bonding with the village and villagers. (iii) The village is the only source of livelihood for the villagers.

Regarding inter caste marriage 71.5% did not prefer while 18.5% preferred inter caste marriage. The former group showed reasons like the girl getting less scope to adjust in social environment of other castes, losing the indigenous identity followed through generations while the latter category of people reasoned that inter caste marriages widen the outlook. Details are shown in Table- 19 (A).

TABLE - 19 (A)

Showing preference towards inter cast marriages

District	Prefer Inter caste marriage		Reason for Yes	Reason for No
	Yes	No		
Nagaon	25 (18.5%)	110 (71.5%)	(i) It will help the society to adopt a new broader outlook.	(i) It will be difficult for the girl to adopt a new culture. (ii) They are (specially tribals) scared of losing their indigenous identity by inter cast marriages

The forest villagers are yet to be informed about various welfare measures of Government as out of 135 households 24.5% households are aware of such welfare measures. Out of a total 45 households only 46.6% are aware of welfare measures of Government for tribals

Only 17 (12.5%) households belonging to general caste and 13 (28.8%) tribal households are getting benefits out of the welfare measures. 92% of the non tribal villagers

are of the opinion that the schemes for welfare are not sufficient similarly 80% tribal households are of similar opinion. Details are shown in Table- 20.

TABLE - 20

Awareness to various welfare measures

District	Category	Total house hold	Awareness of the Total household	Total tribal household	Awareness of the Tribal household
Nagaon	Awareness to various welfare measures	135	33 (24.5%)	45	21(46.6%)
	Benefits received under welfare measures		17 (12.5%)		13(28.8%)
	Sufficiency of the welfare measures (a) Yes (b) No		(a) 11(8%) (b) 124 (92%)		(a) 9(20%) (b) 126 (80%)

All the 135 surveyed households are of the opinion that untouchability does not prevail among them.

95.5% of the villagers do not feel inferiority complex while only 4.5% villagers feel such complex because of not having Miadi patta holders of land. Details are shown in Table- 21.

TABLE - 21

Showing information about untouchability

District	Untouchability prevails		Feeling inferiority complex		If yes mention causes
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Nagaon	0	135(100%)	6 (4.5%)	129 (95.5%)	Because of not having Miadi patta of land

There are 75 (31%) L.P. school going students out of which 23 (30.6%) are tribal students. In M.E. standard 98 (40.5%) students are studying out of which 29 (29.5%) are tribal students. In H.E> standard there are 61 (25.2%) students and the figure for tribal students is 18 (29.5%) while in college standard only 8 (3.3%) students are found and out of these only 2 (25%) belong to tribals. Against 86 (35.5%) girl students in all the categories, there are only 14 (41%) girl students belonging to tribal communities. No tribal girl student is found in college

standard. But one redeeming feature is that girl students in all other categories from L.P. to H.E. School are more than boy students. Details are shown in Table- 22.

TABLE – 22

Showing educational status of the household children

District	Educational status	No of total school going student			No of total tribal school going student		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Nagaon	No of L.P. school going student	49	26	75(31%)	12	13	23(30.6%)
	No of M.E. school going	52	46	98(40.5%)	15	14	29(29.5%)
	No of H.E. school going	48	13	61(25.2%)	11	7	18(29.5%)
	College going	7	1	8(3.3%)	3	0	2(25%)
	Total	156(64.5%)	86(35.5%)	242	20 (59%)	14(41%)	72

Drop out of girl students is more in all the standards from L.P. to college. Out of 78 total drops out students 49 are girl students. Similarly out of 39 tribal drop outs 23 belong to tribal girls. Number of drop out in M.E. standard is more. Thus out of 32 total drop out in M.E., there are 12 boys and 20 girls. Again out of 14 tribal dropouts in H.E. Standard there are 5 boys and 9 girls. Table 22 (A) shows in details.

TABLE – 22 (A)

Showing drop out position in the surveyed house holds

District	Drop out	No of total Drop out students			No of total tribal Drop out students			Reasons for drop out
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Nagaon	No of L.P. school going	9	12	21(27%)	5	7	12(31%)	1. Economic hardship 2. Communication problem
	No of M.E. school going	12	20	32(41%)	5	9	14(36%)	
	No of H.E. school going	7	14	21(27%)	4	7	11(28%)	
	College going	1	3	4(5%)	2	0	2(5%)	
	Total	29	49	78	16	23	39	

As regards scholarship/free studentship except 2 boy students of M.E. standard, none of the boys and girls from L.P. to H.E. Standard in receiving scholarship. In the college level 5 boys and 7 girls belonging to tribal and 7 boys and 3 girls belonging to non tribal communities are enjoying scholarship. In the above college standard 3 tribal boys and 4 non tribal boys and 2 non tribal girls have received scholarships. Details are shown at Table – 22 (B).

TABLE – 22 (B)

Showing position of Scholarship holders in the house holds

District	Standard	No of total tribal students			No of total students		
		Boys	Girls	total	Boys	Girls	total
Nagaon	L.P	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	M.E	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	2
	H.E	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	College	5	7	12	7	3	10
	Above College	3	Nil	3	4	2	6
	Technical institute	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

CHAPTER –III

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY.

A. Forest Villages of Golaghat District (Village Schedule)

The study covered 15 Forest Villages of Golaghat district. Two villages namely Kather of Golaghat Sub Division and Uriamghat of Sarupathar Sub Division are not populated at present. The total population of the surveyed villages is 9307, male 5005, female 4302 out of which 2582 male 1394, female 1188 are tribals belonging to Bodo Kachari, Karbi, Sonowal Kachari, Mising, Tiwa and Mech.

In order to involve the forest villagers in the forest management affairs Joint Forest Management Committees have been formed in all the 13 inhabited villages. Out of 570 members in the committee, there are 95 tribal members.

13 Forest Villages (FV) are located in plains areas and 2 are in undwelling plains areas.

71% of the households have thatched houses, 20.20% possess Katcha Assam Type (AT) houses, 8.67% have pucca Assam Type and 2 households have RCC houses.

Cultivable lands occupy the major share of the total land (87.07%) 7.86% land are under Homestead, 2.57% under plantation, 1.77% grazing and 0.72% fishery.

The F.V. does not have most of the infrastructural facilities like drinking water, transport of communication facilities, health care, etc. Unemployment is a serious problem as 53.8% villages indicated unemployment as first major problem. Lack of civic facilities, deforestation, encroachment, lack of educational facilities and interstate problems (boundary problem) are the major problems in the Forest Villages.

Only 15.4% of the F.Vs. have motorable roads within the villages and 69.2% of the Forest Villages have motorable roads at a distance of 1-2 kms. 46.1% Forest Villages have nearest transport station at a distance of above 10 kms. Railway Stations, Block Development Office, Office of Civil S.D.Os. are located at a distance of above 10 kms. 61.6% Forest Villages use katcha roads while 30.8% Forest Villages have katcha fair weather roads. 92.3% of the Forest Villages use motor bus as primary mode of conveyance.

Mass communications facilities like T.V., radio are found in 92.4% F.Vs. 22.8% F.Vs. have mobile phones. Newspapers 7 (53.6%), community centres (53.6%) are also found in these villages. Four Forest Villages (30.8%) have telephone connections.

Post Office, police station, medical sub centres, state dispensaries, hospitals, veterinary sub centres, medical shops, private medical practitioners are located at a

considerable distance from the Forest Villages. However, 2 Forest Villages have post office within the villages. One village has police station within the village.

The forest villagers prefer to go to the Government hospitals in case of serious diseases. Public Health care given second preference while Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic centres are least preferred (only 2 F.Vs have first preference). 3 Forest Villages have village quacks. Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic treatment facilities are located within 3 villages.

There are private primary schools in all the Forest Villages. Out of 11 L.P. schools ((Govt.) 9 are located within the villages. There are 12 Govt. and 1 venture M.E. school in or near the Forest Villages. 7 Government and 6 venture H.E. Schools are located in or near the Forest Villages. Only one village has college at a distance of 1-2 kms from the village. There are 2 boys undergoing ITI courses and one boy studying engineering (Diploma) courses from these Forest Villages.

Number of tribal students is much less in all the categories beginning from pre-primary to college standard. In pre primary p.c. of tribal students is 16.82, similarly the p.c. in L.P. is 15.6, in M.E. the p.c. is 15.58, in H.E. the p.c. is 14.51 and in college the p.c. of tribal students is 10.18.

The F.Vs use tube wells and ring wells only for the purpose of drinking water. 422 households have electric connections out of which 70 households belong to tribals.

Veterinary facilities are available for Forest Villages, but only one village each has such facility within 0-1 km and 1-2 kms respectively. Only one Forest Village told that veterinary officials visit regularly.

Out of 368 tribal families in the Forest Villages only 220 (58.5%) families each earn above Rs. 24,000.00 annually while 140 (38%) families each earn within the range of Rs. 10000.00 to 24000.00 P.A. Only 8 (2.5%) families earn below Rs. 10000.00 P.A.

Deforestation becomes a problem for the Forest Villages. The agencies located by the Forest Villages are neighbouring villagers, outsiders and timber dealers.

There are 10 Fair Price Shops and 22 others shops in the villages. For business transactions, villagers go to the daily/weekly/biweekly hats situated near the villages. Rice, betel leaves, nuts, mustard seeds, jute, and vegetables are brought to the hats for sale. Forest products like wooden furniture, thatch, bamboo mats are also sold by the forest villagers in these hats.

Co-operative societies are found in all the Forest Villages. Two NGOs are operating in the forest villages namely Chungajan Tribal Women Welfare Society and Gamariguri

Sanskritic Mancha. In the former all the 21 members 3 are tribal while in the latter out of 12 members 4 are tribals.

Gaon Panchayat institution has been extended to the forest villages and out of 13 villages, 10 villages have Gaon Panchayats.

As regards cottage and small scale industries there are 2 Handloom, 1 Piggery, 1 carpentry and one cycle repairing shops in the Forest Villages. In the Handloom industry 5 Nos. of families are engaged including one tribal family. The piggery is owned by a tribal family. The carpentry industry is run by 3 non tribal families while the cycle repairing shops is owned by a non tribal. Raw materials are collected locally as well as from outside. The products are sold by owners, through middlemen and through both the sources,

The impact of small industries in the socio-economic status of the owners is not very satisfactory. Only 4.6 owners reported that economic status of their families improved while 76.7% owners of industries remarked that improve of economic status was average and there was no impact for 18.6 owners of industries.

B. Forest Villages of Nagaon District (Village Schedule)

The study covered 37 Forest Villages (FV) of Nagaon district and out of these 10 F.Vs. is non-residential. The villages are not included wither in T.S.P. or I.T.D.P. The tribals constitute only 14 in 37 F.Vs. of Nagaon. The total population of the surveyed villages (excluding 10 non residential villages) is 24180 male 13316, female 10864, out of which 3363 male 1868, female 1495 are tribals belonging to Karbi, Tiwa, Mishing and Bodo Kachari tribes. Altogether 2614 households are recorded in the surveyed villages. There are 6 Forest Villages with 100% tribal population and two villages with more than 50% population.

Of late the Forest Department is realizing the need of involving forest villagers in the management of forest affairs. Thus Joint Forest Management Committees have been constituted in the Forest Villages with forest officials and forest dwellers. In the surveyed villages out of a total 684 members of J.F.M.C. there are 114 tribal members constituting 16.6%. The J.F.M.C.s are providing infrastructural facilities to the Forest villages.

The living condition of the forest villagers has not improved as 77.7% F.Vs. have thatched houses, 15.95% F.Vs. have Katcha Assam Type houses, 6.16% F.Vs have pucca Assam Type houses and 0.03% F.Vs have RCC houses. Two Mishing houses are constructed in raised platform as per their tradition.

As regards land holding pattern, cultivable lands occupy the major share of the total land, the p.c. being 72.00. Lands under plantations come next with 13% followed by grazing land with 8.3%, homestead land 5.7% and fishing 1%.

Lack of employment (25.9%), lack of transport and communication (14.8%), lack of health care (18.5%), problem of illegal migrants (11%), lack of drinking water (7.4%), natural calamities (7.4%), and encroachment of land (7.4%), deforestation (3.7%), and lack of educational facilities (3.7%) were the first major problems of the Forest Villages.

The transport and communicational facilities, are not easily available as the distance from the villages to the nearest motorable road varies from 1-2 km to 5-10 kms. Transport stations are located at a considerable distance from the villages. Majority 10 nos. villages have the facility at a distance of above 10 kms. Railway stations, Block Development Office, Civil S.D.O's offices are located at a far distance from the villages.

Even at the beginning of 21st Century 40.74% Forest Villagers use foot track to come out from the villages. 37.03% villagers have katcha fair weather roads, 11.11% villagers use katcha all weather roads and 11.11% villagers are somewhat lucky to have graveled road.

Motor bus and bicycle are the primary mode of conveyance. Some villagers use Tempo (three wheelers).

Modernism has caught the imagination of the people in spite of utter insufficiency of infrastructural facilities. As many as 66.6% of the villagers possess T.V. sets and all the households have radio sets (transistor radios). Community centres are found in 40.7% of the villages. 11.1% of the villages have newspapers and mobile phones. But libraries are found in 3.7% of the villages.

As regards civic facilities like post office, police station, medical sub centres, state dispensaries, veterinary dispensaries, hospital, private medical practitioner, medical shops etc. the villagers have to walk the distance ranging from 1-2 km to above 15 kms.

The villagers give first choice to Government hospitals in case of serious disease. Next choice is PHC. Only 3.7% of the villages give first choice to quack, Homoeopathy and Ayurved.

Distances, however to these facilities, except quack and Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic centres are considerable ranging from 1-2 km to above 15 kms

L.P. schools are located in all the surveyed villages, M.E. and H.E. Schools are located at a distance ranging from 1-2 km to 5-10 kms. Colleges are located at far away places.

Twenty L.P. and M.E. schools are Government institutions and 5 Nos. in both categories are venture schools while 2 in both the categories are privately managed. Same in the case for H.E. Schools. 21 colleges are Government aided and 6 are venture.

There are 2 boys each undergoing courses in ITI and Engineering.

Number of tribal students from the forest villages is much less in all the categories of educational institutions beginning from primary to college.

For drinking water, the villagers mainly depend upon tube wells and ring wells. Out of 1011 tube wells and 380 ring wells, Government have provided 296 tube wells and 186 ring wells in the villages.

Veterinary facilities are available at a distance from 1-2 km to above 10 kms from the villages. Majority (22 Nos.) of the villages do not get the assistance from veterinary officials regularly.

68% tribal families each of the forest villages earn above Rs. 24000.00 annually while 24% families each earn annually in the income range of Rs. 10,000.00 to Rs. 24,000.00. Only 7% families each earn below Rs. 10,000.00 P.A.

The forest villagers are not happy with the trend of deforestation affecting the eco system as well as the very existence of the villagers in forests. The agencies mostly

responsible are – 1. Villagers themselves (37%); 2. neighbouring people (23%); 3. outsiders (19%), 4. timber dealers (14%); 5. others (7%).

There are 14 fair price shops and 38 other miscellaneous shops in the villages but the villagers mainly depend upon non Fair Price Shops.

There are 12 daily and 15 biweekly hats near the villages. Locally produced items like rice, vegetables, betel leaves & nuts, mustard seeds, etc. are brought to these hats for sale. Besides forest products like wooden furniture, bamboo mats, baskets, firewood are also sold in the hats by the forest villagers.

Co-operative societies are found in 16 villages and only one village has co-operative society within the village.

Three N.G.Os namely Borhola Mahila Samiti and Assam Krishi Vikash Samiti are operating in the forest villages. In the former all the 15 members belong to the tribal communities while Madhyam Assam Sanskritik Vikash Samiti has 14 tribal members out of a total 16 members. The Assam Krishi Vikash Samiti has 36 members but surprisingly there are only 3 tribal members. All the NGOs are receiving Government aid.

Gaon Panchayat institution has been extended to the forest villages. Out of 27 forest villages, 23 Forest Villages have Gaon Panchayats.

As regards cottage and small industries, not much progress has been made. There are 2 Handloom, sericulture, 1 Bamboo & cane, 1 piggery, 1 fishery, 1 carpentry and 1 bicycle repairing industry/shop in the Forest Villages which are run by individual. The fishery is run by a group of families. The Handloom engages 4 families but no tribal family is coming forward to start handloom industry. The sericulture industry is run by 2 non tribal families while the piggery has one tribal family. The bamboo and cane industry engages one tribal and one non tribal family. The other industries like carpentry, fishery, cycle repairing have only non tribal forest villagers.

Raw materials are mostly collected from villages. Some are collected from outside the villages. 44.4% people sell the products themselves in the hats, 29.6% owners sell through middlemen, 3.7% owners sell through co-operative societies and 22% owners sell their products through all the three sources.

The impact of small industries in the improvement of the economic status of the owners of the industries is not very discouraging as 68.5% of the owners reported average impact, 17% reported positive impact while 27.5% owners felt that the industries could not improve the economic condition of the owners.

C. Forest Villages of Golaghat District (Household Schedule)

Data from 65 households of 10 villages were collected for the study. Out of 65 households 21 (32.3%) households belonged to Karbi, Tiwa, Mising, Sonowal Kachari, Bodo Kachari and Mech tribes.

Altogether 920 Bighas of land are owned by the surveyed households and out of this 290 Bighas of land are owned by the tribal households. Originally the forest Department allotted 975 Bighas to the households to the general castes and 315 Bighas to tribal. The forest villagers do not enjoy the right of transfer of land nor they are allowed to lease or mortgage the allotted lands.

Regarding utilization of the land it was found that 77% of lands owned by non tribal and 75% of the lands owned by tribal communities are utilized for wet paddy cultivation. 2.7% land of non tribals and 5% land of tribals are used for plantation; 6% land of non tribals and 6% land of tribals are used for homestead purposes. 3% land of non tribals and 1.3% lands of tribals are under fishery. There are 4.4% non tribal garden land and 3.4% tribal garden lands. Besides 6.6% fallow lands and 9.3% fallow lands are located under occupation of non tribals and tribals respectively.

The earning members are microscopic minority in as low as 11.3% earners are recorded out of 492 members in 65 households. Similarly earning dependents are very few (18.5%). Majority of the members 70% are non earning dependents.

The annual income of the households varies from below Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. Majority, 65% households each have annual income in the range of Rs. 24000.00 – Rs. 48000.00. There are 18 (27.5%) households earning above Rs. 48000.00 each annually while 5 households (7.5%) have annual income below Rs. 24000.00 each.

60 (92.5%) households each have annual expenditure above Rs. 24000.00 while 5 (7.5%) households each spend below Rs. 24000.00 annually.

52 (80%) households could not save anything while 8 (12%) households each saved below Rs. 10000.00 and 5 (7.5%) households each could save above Rs. 10000.00 P.A.

Of late unemployment is becoming a major problem for the forest villagers as employment under forest is diminishing. There are 152 unemployed persons in the surveyed villages, male 103 (68%) and female 49 (32%). There are 18 (male – 16, female -2) educated unemployed. The standard of education is considered as class X+. The figures of semi educated (head from class-I – Class-X) unemployed are quite high i.e. 101 (66.4%) male 70 (69.3%), female 31 (30.7%). There are 33 (21.7%) male 51.5%, female 48.5%, uneducated unemployed persons in these households under survey.

The survey indicates that there are only 4 permanent employees, all male, under Forest Department and out of these one is a tribal. The Department however provides casual employment for 60 to 180 days on daily wage basis of Rs. 60.00 to Rs. 90.00.

Irrigation facilities are far from adequate as only 12 households are getting such facilities using electricity (25%), Diesel (58%), Primal (8.3%) and manpower 44 (68%) households are dependent on agriculture and other related activities. In all 880 Bighas of land are utilized under various crops such as Agriculture 600 Bighas, Horticulture 120 Bighas, Sericulture 40 Bighas and garden crops 120 Bighas.

The wild elephant menace causes much damage to the crops. The other wild animals also cause much damage to the crops.

The Forest Department allows the villagers to collect forest produce like thatch, bamboos, timber, Ikora, grass, roots, leaves, flowers, etc. for household use only.

As mentioned earlier the forest villagers are not allowed the right of transfer or lease or mortgage of their lands and therefore 79% of the villagers have showed preference for revenue status enabling them to get miadi patta and allied facilities. However, 21% of the villagers preferred status quo as Forest Department provides various facilities including security of life and property.

As regards drinking water, the forest dwellers depend upon hand pipes (61.53%) and ring wells (29.13%) 5 (7.69%) households use ponds and one (1.53%) household use river water for drinking purposes. During rainy season (flood season) many villagers solely depend upon water source at public place.

Livestock resources are very few in the households. 6 families have buffaloes and 15 households have cows. Goats are reared by 14 families while fowls are found in 10 households. 14 families possess pigeons, 31 families rear ducks and 7 families possess pigs.

Only 4.6% households or 3 families are engaged in weaving in the forest villages. Gamoshas, Endi shawls, cotton chaddar, Mekhela are woven. Surplus weaving products are sold in the nearby market, through co-operative societies and middlemen. Raw materials are collected locally and from co-operative societies and nearby hats.

Bamboo and cane baskets, mat, cane furniture, bamboo fishing implements, etc. are produced for household use as well as for market. The villagers do not receive any Government aid for the cottage industry.

As many as 90.7% villagers depend upon Allopathic medicine for treatment of diseases of as first preference and only 4.6% as second preference. Very few depend upon Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic or occult medicines.

69.23% households administered polio vaccine, 61.53% household administered B C G, 4.61% households administered Diphtheria vaccine, 15.38% chicken pox, 15.38% measles, 15.38% Hepatitis vaccines to the children. Vaccines were given at Government hospitals and P.H.Cs.

Sanitation in the villages is far from satisfactory as 60% households use katcha latrine, 3% households use open field and 37% households have sanitary latrines.

Katcha Assam Type houses (56.92%) are the predominant feature of the pattern of houses in the forest villages. There are pucca Assam Type houses (26.15%). Traditional thatched houses (15.38%) and RCC (1.53%) in the surveyed households.

Modern gadgets are entering into the far flung forest villages. 27.5% households possess T.V. sets, 80% households have radio sets, 67.5% have watches, 4.5% households possess telephones, 3% households have water pumps, 6% households possess motor cycles and 63% households possess bicycles. Traditional bullock cart is not extinct as 18.5% households possess this 'heritage' conveyance.

The household income from cultivation exceeds other sources of income. Thus the household annual income from cultivation is Rs. 1,66,075.00, from service Rs. 25,025.00, from wages Rs. 6825.00, from business Rs. 22750.00 and other sources Rs. 6825.00.

Although the household earning appeared to be substantial, yet expenditures on various items of daily use consume sizable amount of the income. On food item alone each household spends Rs. 1,11,300.00 annually. Expenditures on dress and ornaments, Rs. 18,350.00, on education Rs. 14,840.00, social obligation Rs. 14,840.00, on health care Rs. 12,985.00 and on special festive occasions Rs. 12,985.00. Thus the total expenditure comes to Rs. 1,85,500.00.

55.5% households save regularly and 45.5% do not do so. Post office/Bank A/C holders are 9 families. People also like to invest in NGO, Co-operative society, purchasing land and olden jewellery. On an average each family is in a position to save Rs. 42,000.00 annually.

The villagers do not like to take loans except in case of urgent need like purchase of bullocks, marriage of daughter, etc. Only 3 households received loan amounting Rs. 15,000.00 each from co-operative societies at 15 to 20% interest.

The villagers, by and large, appeared to be happy with their present status as 77% villagers are not willing to leave forest because Forest Department provides many facilities and they have emotional bond with forest.

89.2% villagers do not prefer inter caste marriage because of social prejudice, fear of losing tribal identity.

Only 17% households are aware of Government welfare measures. Out of 21 tribal households only 6 households are aware of Government welfare measures meant for tribals.

88% non tribal and 81% tribal households are of the opinion that existing welfare schemes are not enough to remove the age old backwardness.

All the households are of the opinion that untouchability should be totally abolished.

95.5% villagers are suffering from inferiority complex because of non receipt of revenue status.

Out of 44 L.P. school going students (24 boys and 20 girls) there are only 14 tribal students (7 boys and 7 girls). There are 33 non tribal M.E. school going students and 10 tribal M.E. students. Among non tribals the p.c. of H.E. School going students is 23.6 while the pc of tribal students is 32%. There are only 7 non tribal and 2 tribal college going students in the households under survey. Girl students are very few in all the categories. There is no college going girl students among tribals whereas only one non tribal girl is prosecuting studies in college.

Drop out from L.P. school standard to college standard is more among girls than boys. Out of 43 drop outs of general castes, 25 are girl students and out of 25 tribal dropouts, 16 are girl students. Drop out in H.E. Standard is more in both tribal and non tribal categories. The reasons for drop out are economic hardship and non availability of future scope of employment.

As regards scholarship none of the boys and girls up to H.E. Standard is receiving any. In the college level, 3 students (2 boys and 1 girl) from general castes and 5 students (3 boys and 2 girls) from tribal communities are enjoying scholarship. In the above college standard one boy each from general caste and tribal is enjoying scholarship.

D. Forest Villages of Nagaon District (Household Schedule)

Data from 135 households of 27 villages were collected and out of 135 households, 45 (30%) households belonged to tribals belonging to Karbi, Tiwa and Bodo Kachari.

Altogether 1910 Bighas of land are owned by the surveyed households, out of which 601 Bighas are in possession of the tribal communities. Originally the Forest Department allotted 2035 Bighas of land to the villagers including 675 Bighas to tribals.

78% lands of non tribals and 73% lands are utilized for wet paddy cultivation. Rest of the lands is used for plantation, house building, fisheries, gardening, etc.

Out of 972 members 123 (12.6%) earn regularly. The part time workers constitute 15.3% who are earning dependents. 72% members are non-earning dependents.

The annual income of the households varies from Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. Majority 95 (70%) households have annual income in the above range. There are 31 (23%) households each earning above Rs. 48000.00 and 9 (6.67%) households each have annual income below Rs. 24000.00.

126 (93.4%) households each have annual expenditure above Rs. 24000.00 while 9 (6.6%) households each spend below Rs. 20,000.00 P.A.

84% households are not in a position to save anything while 6.6% households each could save above Rs. 10,000.00 P.A. and 10% households each could save below Rs. 10,000.00 P.A.

The forest villages of Nagaon district have 300 unemployed persons, 199 male and 101 female. There are 33 educated unemployed persons (Class X+), male 29, and female 4. The figures of semi educated unemployed persons are quite high i.e. 186, male 130, female 56. The figures of uneducated unemployed are also not insignificant i.e. 81, male 40 and female 41.

Employment under Forest Department is very limited. There are 6 permanent employees and all are male. The number of tribal permanent employee under Forest Department is only 2.

Irrigation facilities are far from adequate as only 33 families are getting such facilities using electricity (30%), Diesel (30%), primal (6%) and manpower (33.3%).

94 (70%) families of the Forest Villages are dependent on agriculture and other allied activities. Rice, mustard, jute, sugarcane, etc. are grown (69%). 19% households produce horticultural crops, 3% rear Endi Muga and 10% households produce garden crops.

In all 1890 Bighas of land are utilized under various crops. But main problem of the villagers is the elephant and monkey menace causing much damage to the crops.

The first villagers collect the forest produce not only for household use but for market also. Besides consumption items like herbs, roots, creepers, and the villagers collect house building materials like thatch, bamboo, lkora, cane, timber, grass, etc.

The villagers are emotionally attached to the forests but of late they want to shift as they have not been given the revenue village status. But 20% of the villagers prefer status quo as outsiders cannot own lands in forests and the Forest Department provides security to the villagers protecting life and property.

Most of the villagers (64.44%) use drinking water from hand pipes. 22.96% use ring wells, 9.63% use ponds and 2.96% collect drinking water from river/stream.

During flood, the villagers depend largely on water source located at public places.

The villagers do not possess much livestock. 14 families possess buffaloes, 31 families have cows, goats are reared by 15 families, fowls, ducks, pigeons, and pigs are found in 21, 26, 31 and 14 families respectively.

The womenfolk of 8 (6%) families only weave clothes like gamoshas, eri chaddars/shawls, mekheles, etc. which are also marketed at nearby market through co-operative societies and middlemen. Raw materials are collected from nearby forests.

As regards health care the forest villagers largely depend upon Allopathic treatment. 86.6% of the villagers gave first preference to Allopathic treatment. Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and occult treatment are preferred by lesser number of households.

The womenfolk are becoming aware of latest modern treatment of babies. Polio, B C G, Diphtheria vaccines were administered to the children at Government hospitals and P.H.Cs.

Much remains to be done in respect of sanitation as 75.5% of the households have katcha latrines, 14.8% have sanitary latrines and 9.6% use open fields for sanitary purpose.

Majority (48.14%) households have thatched houses followed by 38.52% households with Katcha Assam Type houses and 13.33% households with pucca Assam Type houses. Modern gadgets are becoming popular with the villagers, although electric connection yet to be provided to all the villagers. Only 35.5% households have electric connections. 32% households possess T.Vs and 83% households have transistor radio sets. 92.5% households have bicycles and 4.5% households have motor cycles, 3% households possess water pumps and 3.7% households have telephones. But traditional bullock cart and ploughs are also there, of course, in lesser numbers. 70% households have watches.

The total annual income of the households is not insignificant as the same appears to be reasonable with an amount of Rs. 4,72,500.00 P.A. for each household. Major income source is cultivation followed by service, wage earning, business and others like rickshaw pulling, part time labour, etc.

Expenditure on food swallows the major income accounting for Rs. 2,60,400.00 per household P.A. Other expenditure heads like dress or ornaments education, health care, social obligation, festivals, death rites, marriage, etc. also consume sizable amount throughout the year bring the total expenditure to Rs. 4,20,000.00 P.A. Yet 60% of the households save regularly. The villagers resort to other means of saving like buying golden jewellery, deposit in N.G.O., Co-operatives, etc. On an average each household saves Rs. 52,500.00 annually. 98.5% households feel the need of saving to meet emergency expenditures.

People are not eager to take loans as their essential requirements are met through local earnings. Only 6 households borrowed Rs. 20000.00 each from N.G.Os, Co-operatives at 18-24% interest P.A.

Although the forest villagers are not recognized as revenue villages and consequent benefits there of, yet 77.7% households under survey are not willing to leave the villages. The reasons are (1) they are getting benefits from forests; (2) they have long emotional attachment with the forests; (3) forest is the only source of livelihood for them. Rest of the households 22.2% want to live (1) they want to settle with their kith and kin; (2) want Miadi-patta land and (3) avoid recurring flood.

Regarding inter caste marriage 71.5% do not prefer because of adjustment problem of the girl (bride) in a different socio-religious setting. Besides inter caste marriage entails delinkage with the traditional and culture followed through generations while the reformist section prefer inter caste marriage because of nationalized human behavior and respect towards one and all.

The forest villagers are yet to be oriented towards welfare measures implemented by Government. Only 46.6% households are aware of welfare measures.

Only 17 households (12.5%) belonging to general caste and 13 tribal households (28.8%) are enjoying benefits out of the welfare measures.

92% of the non tribal forest villagers are of the opinion that the welfare schemes meant for them are not sufficient. Similarly 80% tribal households maintain similar opinion.

All the 135 surveyed households do not want untouchability to prevail in society.

95.5% households do not feel inferiority complex while 4.5% households feel such complex because of non-recognition of the forest villages as revenue villages thereby undermining their social status. ...

There are 75 (31%) L.P. school going students out of which 23 (30.6%) are tribal students. In M.E. standard 98 (40.5%) students are studying out of which 29 (29.5%) are tribal students. In H.E. standard there are 61 (25.2%) students and the figure for tribal students is 18 (29.5%) while in college standard only 8 (3.3%) students are studying and out of these only 2 (25%) belong to the tribals. Against 86 (35.5%) girl students in all categories there are only 14 (41%) girl students belonging to tribal communities. No tribal girl student is found in college standard. One redeeming feature is that girl students in all other categories from L.P. to college are more than boy students.

Drop out of girl students is more in all the standards from L.P. to college. Out of 78 total drop outs 49 are girl students. Out of 39 tribal drop outs 23 belong to tribal girls. There are 32 drop outs in M.E. standard, 12 boys and 20 girls. Again out of 14 drop outs in H.E. standard there are 5 boys and 9 girls.

As regards scholarship except 2 boy students of M.E. standard, none of the boys and girls from L.P. to H.E. standard is receiving scholarship. In college level 5 boys and 7 girls belonging to tribal and 7 boys and 3 girls belonging to non tribal are enjoying scholarships. In above college standard 3 tribal boys and 4 non tribal boys and 2 non tribal girls are receiving scholarships.

CHAPTER -IV

CONCLUSION

Lots of academic and official references have been made about the scheduled tribes and their socio-economic conditions over the decades but very little are discussed about the socio-economic conditions of the forest villages that are the backbones of the forest and custodian of forest wealth. In order to fill up the vacuum, the present study on forest villages has been undertaken with thrust on the socio-economic life of the scheduled tribes living within the reserve forests.

The forest villages are governed under the rules for establishment of forest villages and overall provision of the Assam Forest Regulation 1891 (Vol) as per Chapter-VII under section 72 (b), 74, 75. The responsibility for enforcing development activities among the forest villagers entirely remained with the Forest Department. They are neither covered by the Tribal Sub Plan nor under the Integrated Tribal Development Programmes. Of late they are having Panchayati Raj facilities.

In order to improve the extremely backward socio-economic condition Government of Assam initiated a well meaning scheme known as 'Improvement of Forest Villages during 1984-85 within the overall provision of Forest Conservation Act of 1983. However, the ambitious scheme met with an untimely death without making much impact on the socio-economic life. Again Government of Assam in Forest Department implemented certain concessional programme for the forest villages of Kokrajhar district as per Forest Policy of 1988. Extension of such benefits other forest divisions will go a long way towards improvement of the economic conditions of the forest dwellers. But a silver lining appears in the horizon for the forest dwellers when Government of India passed the Forest Rights Act of 2008 entitled 'The Scheduled Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2007 providing much needed relief to the tribal forest villagers. The legal rights under this Act include rights to cultivate forest land to the extent under occupation subject to a ceiling of four hectares, right to collect, use, dispose of minor forest produce and rights inside forest which are traditional and customary. The right holders, however, will have to ensure sustainable use conservation of bio-diversity and maintenance of ecological balance.

There are 450 forest villages with a total population of 1,60,179 comprising 19,222 families. The total area covered under forest villages is 50602.52 hectares. There are 49 Tangia villages covering both residential and non residential categories constituting additional

labour force. They do not come under the purview of forest villages as they are not treated as regular forest villages in respect of allotment of land also in respect of terms and conditions laid down by the Forest Department applicable for forest villages.

Out of a total of 524 forest villages including Tangia villages, 283 Nos of villages are tribal villages (constituting 50% or more tribals).

As mentioned above, the forest villagers are extremely backward which has been testified by the present study. 71% households of Golaghat and 77.7% households of Nagaon are thatched. Most of the forest villages of both the districts do not have adequate infrastructural facilities like drinking water, all weather roads, transport and communication, health care, etc. Lack of employment, encroachment of land by illegal migrants, deforestation, natural calamities, lack of civic facilities within each reach, lack of higher education facilities in or near the villages, interstate disputes (boundary are the major problems of the forest villages) of both Golaghat and Nagaon districts.

Mass communication facilities are available in the villages of both the districts and as many as 92.4% villages of Golaghat and 100% villages of Nagaon have radio sets and 92.4% villages of Golaghat and 66.6% villages of Nagaon possess T.V. sets. More than 50% villages of both the districts have community centres. Newspapers, mobile phones, are also found in the villages.

Post office, police station, medical sub centres, state dispensaries, veterinary dispensaries, hospitals, medical shops, private doctors are available at a considerable distance from the villages of both the districts.

The forest villagers of Golaghat and Nagaon give first preference to the hospitals in case of serious diseases. P.H.Cs are given second preference. Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, quacks are least preferred.

Educational facilities particularly L.P. to H.E. appear to be adequate but colleges are located at far away places. Number of tribal students in all the categories is much less.

Veterinary facilities are available at a distance ranging from 1-2 kms to above 10 kms in both the districts. Two villages of Golaghat, however, have veterinary dispensaries within the village and 0-1 km from the villages. The forest villagers of both the districts do not get assistance from the veterinary officials regularly.

The annual earning of the families of forest villages is not very insignificant as 58.5% families of Golaghat and 68% families of Nagaon earn above Rs. 24,000.00 annually.

The forest villagers of both the districts are highly apprehension of the trend of deforestation caused by the villagers, neighboring villagers and timbers dealers as that will affect the very existence of the forest villagers.

Fair price shops and other miscellaneous shops are found in the villages. The daily/weekly bi-weekly hats are available for business transactions. Co-operative societies are found in all the forest villages of both the districts. Two NGOs of Golaghat and 3 NGOs of Nagaon forest villages have provided welfare service to the villagers. 25 tribal members are included in the NGOs of forest villages of Golaghat while the NGOs of Nagaon forest villages have 32 tribal members.

No longer the forest villages are left to the Forest Department alone for development activities. The Panchayat institution has been extended to the forest villages. Most of the villages of both the districts have Gaon Panchayats.

There are few small and cottage industries in the forest villages. There are 5 such industries in the forest villages of Golaghat and 7 industries in the forest villages of Nagaon benefiting 2 tribal families each of Golaghat and Nagaon districts. The industries have provided economic benefits to 76.7% families of Golaghat and 68.5% families of Nagaon.

Out of 65 households of the 10 forest villages of Golaghat 21 households belonged to tribals belonging to Karbi, Tiwa, Mishing, Sonowal Kachari, Bodo Kachari and Mech and out of 135 households of 27 villages of Nagaon 45 belonged to tribals belonging to Karbi, Tiwa and Bodo Kacharis.

Out of 920 Bighas of land in the forest villages of Golaghat 290 Bighas are owned by tribal households. Similarly the tribal households of the forest villages of Nagaon own 601 Bighas out of a total land of 1910 Bighas. Paddy cultivation occupies the major portion of the lands in both the districts.

Regular earning members in the households of both the districts are microscopic minority. 11.3% in Golaghat and 12.6% in Nagaon. The annual income of the households varies from Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. Annual income of majority 65% households of Golaghat district is Rs. 24000.00 while the 70% households of Nagaon have annual income in the range of Rs. 24000.00 to Rs. 48000.00. 92% households of Golaghat and 93.4% households of Nagaon spend Rs. 24000.00 annually. 80% households of Golaghat and 84% households of Nagaon are not in a position to save.

There are 152 unemployed persons in Golaghat district and 300 unemployed persons in Nagaon district and 18 persons of Golaghat and 33 persons of Nagaon are educated unemployed. Employment under forest is diminishing.

Irrigation facilities in both the districts are far from adequate. 68% households of Golaghat and 70% households of Nagaon are dependent on agriculture but elephant and wild animals cause much damage to the agriculture. The forest resources substitute the shortfall of agricultural produce, which are used for household consumption as well for market.

Majority of the forest villagers are restive because of the non receipt of revenue status. 21% households of Golaghat and 20% households of Nagaon, however, prefer status quo.

Tube wells and ring wells are sources of water for the forest villagers of both the districts. Livestock resources are very few in the households of both the districts.

Weaving which should have been a good source of additional earning, is not widely done in both the districts as 3 families of Golaghat and 8 families of Nagaon are engaged in weaving producing Gamoshas, Endi Shawls, Chaddars, Mekhelas for household use as well as for market. The surplus if any, products are sold through co-operatives and middlemen.

Now a days dependence on allopathic medicine is increasing. 90.7% households of Golaghat and 86.6% households of Nagaon depend upon Allopathic medicine. The womenfolk are becoming alert in respect of health care of children as polio, BCG, Diphtheria, chicken pox and measles. Vaccines are administered to the babies.

Modern gadgets and mass media articles like T.V., radio, telephone, mobile phones are becoming popular.

The earning from cultivation exceeds other sources of income like service, wage earning, business, etc, in the forest villages of both the districts. Maximum of the earning is spent on food items. Remaining sources of expenditure are dress, ornaments, health care, and social obligation. The people have a habit of saving, 55.5% households of Golaghat and 60% households of Nagaon save regularly. On an average each household of Golaghat saves Rs. 42000.00 PA and each household of Nagaon saves Rs. 52,000.00 PA.

The people of the households of both Golaghat and Nagaon are not eager to take loans as their earnings are more or less sufficient to meet the expenditures.

The households of both the districts appeared to be happy with their present status as 77% households of Golaghat and 77.7% households of Nagaon do not like to leave the forest villages.

89.2% households of Golaghat and 71.5% households of Nagaon do not prefer inter caste marriage for fear of losing indigenous identity.

Only 17% households of Golaghat and 46.6% households of Nagaon are aware of various welfare measures of Government.

88% non tribal households and 81% tribal households of Golaghat and 92% non tribal and 80% tribal households of Nagaon opine that existing welfare schemes are not sufficient for their development.

All the households of both the districts do not like that untouchability should prevail.

Regarding inferiority complex 95.5% households of Golaghat forest villages feel such complex because of non recognition of the forest villagers as revenue villagers while 95.5% households of Nagaon do not feel such complex.

Educational level particularly of scheduled tribes from L.P. to college level in both the districts is not satisfactory. In Golaghat out of 44 L.P. school going students there are 14 (31.8%) tribal students while out of 75 L.P. school students in the households of Nagaon there are 23 (30.66%) tribal students. There are 10 (30.30%) tribal students out of 33 M.E. school going students in the households of Golaghat. The figure of tribal students in M.E. standard of Nagaon households is 29 (29.59%) out of 98 M.E. students. The p.c. of tribal H.E. students in the households of Golaghat is 32 while the p.c. of tribal students in H.E. standard in Nagaon district is 29.5. There are only 2 tribal college going students in Golaghat while there are only 2 tribal student undergoing studies in college out of a total of 8 college going students. Girl students are very few in all the categories in the surveyed households of Golaghat and in college standard no tribal girl is found. Again 86 girl students there are only 14 tribal girl students in all categories in the households of Nagaon district. There is no tribal girl student in college standard in Nagaon district.

Drop out from L.P. standard to college is more among girls than boys. Out of 43 drop outs of general castes 25 are girl students and out of 25 tribal drop outs, 16 are girl students in Golaghat district. In Nagaon out of 78 drop outs in all categories 49 are girl students. Out of 32 tribal drop outs 23 are girls. In Golaghat district drop out in H.E. standard is more in both tribal and non tribal categories. In Nagaon there are 32 drop outs in M.E. and 14 drop outs in H.E. standard out of these 20 girl drop outs in M.E. and 9 drop outs in H.E. standard.

None of the boys and girls of the households of Golaghat from L.P. to H.E. standards is receiving scholarship. Except 2 boy students of M.E. standard, none of the boys and girls from L.P. to H.E. is receiving scholarship. However, in the college level 3 students from General and 5 tribal students are enjoying scholarship in Golaghat district. In Nagaon district 10 non tribal and 12 tribal college going students are enjoying scholarship. In the above college standard one boy each from general caste and tribe of Golaghat is studying while in Nagaon in the above college standard 3 tribal boys and 4 non tribal boys and 2 non tribal girls are enjoying scholarship.

CHAPTER - V

SUGGESTIONS

1. The forest villagers are the essential and most important segment of the Forest Department. In fact they act as the custodian of the forest wealth. But they are living in the forests without having the basic infrastructural facilities like all weather roads, transport and communication, health care, etc. over the decades. They are demanding revenue village status since a long time, which is denied by the authorities. Inferiority complex looms large on the villagers and Government may consider their demand for revenue village status. About a decade back Government of Assam agreed to give something like a Miadi- patta, known as Akin to Patta enabling the villagers to take loans from banks and other financial institutions. But this measure could hardly satisfy the villagers. The Forest Preservation Act of 1980 of Government of India should not stand in the way.
2. Quite a good number of forest villages do not have all weather roads and for this reason alone the villagers are unable to visit the hospitals, dispensaries, higher educational centres without undergoing hazards. The womenfolk are the great sufferers particularly during delivery period. Thrusts should be given to provide all weather/graveled roads connecting the villages with hospitals/dispensaries, etc.
3. There is no provision of pipe water for drinking purposes in the forest villages. The villagers mainly depend upon ring wells and tube wells water of which remains untreated leading to water borne diseases. Pipe water facilities may be provided to these villages.
4. Jaundice/Hepatitis is the major killer disease in the villages. Special treatment centres in the villages should be opened occasionally.
5. Of late unemployment is becoming a major problem not only for the educated (Class +) section but among the uneducated sections also as employment under forest is diminishing. The National Employment Guarantee Scheme (100 days employment) should be extended to the forest villages.
6. The most important felt need of the majority of the households in the surveyed villages of both Golaghat and Nagaon districts is cultivable land as lands originally allotted to the families had been fragmented in order to distribute among the sons. Under the rules of the Forest Department is not in a position to allot lands in the name of the offspring. To add to their woes encroachment of forest land by illegal migrants is taking place. Besides, the forest villagers have developed a tendency to

compare their socio-economic condition with that of the neighboring non forest villagers who are their kith and kin enjoying the benefits under TSP or ITDP. Conferring increased quota of land at present may not be possible but the bonafide forest villagers may be allowed to develop waste lands/beels etc. inside the forests on lease basis. Encroachment of land by outsiders should be stopped forthwith drastically.

7. Wild elephants and other wild animals like monkeys destroy sizable portion of agricultural crops. Unless this menace is contained, the overall improvement of the forest villages whose main source of living is agriculture will be jeopardized.
8. Many of the forest dwellers complained about the large scale deforestation by various unauthorized agencies like "villagers themselves", outside neighboring villagers and timber dealers. The forest villagers cannot but remain as onlookers as vested interests are involved in the illegal act. Although Joint Forest Management has been constituted the illegal felling of trees continues. There should be more vigilance in this regard. Heavy fines should be imposed in case of outsiders and if the local villagers are involved in the act, they may be excommunicated.
9. The hitherto defunct (rather abandoned) "Improvement of Forest Villages during 1984-85" well meaning scheme should again see the light of the day as TSP, ITDP plans schemes are out of bound in the forest villages.
10. A noble effort was made by Government of Assam to remove the backwardness of the forest villagers as per New Forest Policy of 1988 where in forest villages were to be rearranged enabling the villagers to get settlement of land with allied facilities except the right of transfer of forest land allotted earlier. Implementation of the venture in true spirit would go a long way to fulfill a major demand of the forest villagers.
11. L.P. schools both by Government and private, have been established in the forest villages although M.E., H.E. and colleges for most of the forest villages lie at a considerable distance. The distance factor coupled with poor financial back up compels students to cut short higher education. Even there is a drop out in L.P. standards out of total 43 drop outs (as in 2007) in Golaghat forest villages, 25 are girl drop outs and out of 25 L.P. drop out 16 are girl drop outs. Drop outs in H.E. standard are more in tribal and non tribal categories. In the forest villages of Nagaon too out of 78 drop outs from L.P. to college standard 49 are girls and out of 39 tribal drop outs 23 are girl students. The main reasons shown are economic

hardship and distance to the higher educational centres, environmental hazards, work pressure at home, etc.

Some more positive steps should be taken to improve the educational standard in the forest villages.

ANNEXURE-I

(Village Schedule of Golaghat and Nagaon Districts)

GOVERNMENT OF ASAAM

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

(Research Study on Socio Economic Conditions and Problems Faced By the Tribal
Living In the Forest Villages of Golaghat and Nagaon Districts of Assam)

VILLAGE SCHEDULE

Name(S) Of Informant (S)	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation

A. General Information

- (i) Name of the village _____
- (ii) Police station _____
- (iii) Block _____
- (iv) Sub division _____
- (v) District _____
- (vi) Whether the area falls under TSP / ITDP Project ---- Yes /No
- (vii) Total no. of households _____
- (viii) Total population (a) Male ____ (b) Female ____ (C) Total ____
- (ix) Total tribal population (a) Male ____ (b) Female ____ (C) Total ____
- (x) Percentage of the tribal population _____
- (xi) Name of the tribes living in the village _____
- (xii) How many members are there from the above mentioned tribes in the Joint Forest Management Committee ? _____
- (xiii) Any welfare scheme undertaken by the JFMC (Specify) _____

B. Topography

- (i) Hilly, (ii) Plain,
- (iii) Un-Dwelling Plain, (iv) Others

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

C. Settlement Pattern

(i) Agglomerated

(ii) Dispersed

(iii) Isolated

(iv) others

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

D. Type of House

(i). No of R.C.C. house.

(ii). No of Pucca Assam Type house.

(iii). No of Katcha Assam Type house.

(iv). No of Thatched Roofed Bamboo Made house.

(v). No of Chang Ghar

(vi) Others

2. Location of the Village

(a) Name of the Forest Range

(b) Name of the Forest Division

3. Land Holding Particulars at the Time of Survey

Category of land (in bighas)

(i) Homestead land

-

(ii) Total cultivable land

-

(iii) Fishery

-

(iv) Land under plantation

:-

(v) Land used as grazing land

-

TOTAL :-

(b) Do The Villagers Have Land Outside The Forest Villagers?

Yes /No

(i) If yes mention the area in Bighas

(c) Do Outsider Have Land in The Forest Village?

Yes /No

(i) If yes mention the area in Bighas

4. The Three Major Problems Faced By The Villagers

- (a) Lack of Proper Transport and Communication Facilities.
- (b) Unemployment
- (c) Lack of Proper Health Care Facilities
- (d). Lack of Proper Drinking Water Facilities
- (e) Deprived Of Civic Facilities Like Post Office, Police Station Etc.
- (f) Natural Calamities Like Floods, Erosion Etc.
- (g) Damage Caused By the Wild Animals
- (h) Encroachment and Deforestation.
- (i) Insurgency Problem
- (j) Unavailability of Mass Communication Facilities Like Telephone Service, T.V., Radio Etc.
- (k) Inadequate Educational Facilities
- (l) Any Other Major Problem (Specify)

(USE tick mark against any three main problems faced by the tribal villagers)

5. Transportation and Communication Facilities.

(a) Distance of the illage From –

(i) Nearest Motorable Road

(ii) Nearest Transport Station

(iii) Nearest Railway Station

(iv) Block Office

(v) Sub-Divisional Headquarter

(b) Condition of the Road to the Village –

(i). Foot Tract

(ii). 'Katcha' Fair Weather Motorable Road

(iii). 'Katcha' All Weather Motorable Road

(iv). Gravelled Road

(v). Other (Specify)

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

(c) Mode of Conveyance:

(i). Motor Bus

(ii). Rail

(iii). Car

(iv). Boat

(v). Others (Specify)

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

6. Other Means Of Mass Communication Available:

(a). Television

(b). Radio

(c). News Paper

(d). Library

(e). Community Centre

(f). Telephonic Facility

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

7. Civic Facilities.

(a). Distance of the Village Under Study, In K.M. From:

(i). Nearest Post Office

(ii). Nearest Police Station

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

8. Health Related Facilities.

(a)Distance of the Village Under Study, In Km. From:

(i). Nearest Medical Sub Centre

(ii). Nearest State Dispensary

(iii.) Nearest Hospital

(iv) Nearest Private Medical Practitioner

(v) Nearest Medicine Shop

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

(b) In Case Of Major Ailments, Where Do The Patient Are Go Generally?

(i)Government Hospital;

(ii)Primary Health Centre;

(iii)Private Hospital / Private Doctor;

(iv)Village Quack;

(v)Others.

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

9. Educational Facilities.

(a). Nearest Pre-Primary Centre

(i). Type _____

(Whether Run By The Govt. /Voluntary Organisation /Anganwadi/Kindergarten Etc.)

(ii). Distance from the Village _____

(iii). No. Of Tribal Children from the Village Attending the Centre:

Boys _____ Girls _____ Total _____

(b). Nearest Lower Primary School

(i). Type (Whether Govt. Venture /Private) _____

(ii). Distance from the Village _____

(iii). No. Of Tribal Students from the Village Attending the School:

Boys _____ Girls _____ Total _____

(c). Nearest Middle English School

(i). Type (Whether Govt. /Venture/Private) _____

(ii). Distance from the Village _____

(iii). No. Of Tribal Students from Village Attending the School:

Boys _____ Girls _____ Total _____ (d).

(d) Nearest High English School

(i). Type Whether Govt. /Govt. Aided /Venture/Private _____

(ii). Distance From The Village _____

(iii). No. Of Tribal Students from the Village Attending the School

Boys _____ Girls _____ Total _____

(e). Nearest College

(i). Type (Govt. Aided/ Venture) _____

(ii). Distance from the Village _____

(iii). No. of Tribal Students from the Village Attending the College.

Boys _____ Girls _____ Total _____

(f) No of Tribal Students from the Village Doing Other Studies.

Branches	Gender	
	Male	Female
(i). Medical		
(ii). Technical (Diploma)		
(iii). Technical (Degree)		
(iv). Agriculture		

(v). Veterinary		
(vi). Any Other (Specify)		

10. Sources of Drinking Water:

(a). Distance of Common Drinking Water Source from the Village Proper:- _____

(b) Details of The Water Resources

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

(c). Give a Note on Quality of Drinking Water:-.....

11. Electricity Provision:-

(a). Whether the Village Is Having Electricity Facility: - Yes/No

(b). If Yes, Total No. Of Tribal Households Having Electricity Facilities:-

12. Veterinary Facilities.

(a) Does Any Veterinary Practitioner Pays Regular Visit to the Village: - Yes/ No

(b) If Yes How Frequently? _____

(c) Nearest Veterinary Dispensary/Hospital _____

(If it is within the village itself, mention it clearly)

13. Annual Income

Annual Income(Rs)	No Of (Tribal) Household	Percentage
Below 10,000/		

Between 10,000/ To24,000/		
Above 24,000/		

14. Whether Deforestation Is Taking Place In and Around the Village: - Yes/No

(a) If Yes Caused By Whom?

- (i) The Villagers
- (ii) By The Other Neighbouring Villages
- (iii) Due To Encroachment By The Outsiders
- (iv) By The Timber Merchant
- (v) By Others(Mention It Clearly)

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

15. Marketing Facilities:

(i). No. Of Fair Price Shops within the Village:-

(ii). No. Of Other Shops within the Village (Specify):-

(iii). Other Marketing Facilities:-

Type Of The Nearest Market(Daily/Bi-Weekly/	Distance From The Village	Transport Facilities To The Market From The Village	Three Major Locally Produced Items Available In The Market	
			Agricultural Produce	Forest Produce

(iv). Mention the Kind of Commodities Collected By the Villagers for Household Use from the Forest

Edible Items	Used For Medicinal Purpose	For Use Of The Domestic Animals	Used For Construction Purpose

16. Co-Operative Society:-

Name Of The Society	Is It Situated Within The Village?	Year Of Establishment

17. Details of the N.G.O.S

Name Of The Organisation	Is It Situated Within The Village	Year Of Establishment	Total No. Of Member	Functions (Economic, Social Cultural)	Govt. Aid Received Last Year

18. Name of the Gaon Panchayat _____

(a) Measures Implemented By/Through the Gaon Panchayat For The Development of the Villagers, If any _____

19. Cottage Industry/Small Industry.

(a) Types of Industries

Name Of The Industry	Total No. Of Families Engaged	Run By Individuals/Groups/ Co-Operative Societies.
1. Handloom		
2. Sericulture		
3. Bamboo & Cane Product Making		
4. Poultry		
5. Cattle Firm		

6. Pig Firm		
7. Fishery		
8. Bee Keeping	...	
9. Carpentry		
10. Pottery Making		
11 Others (Specify).	"	

(b) From Where The Raw Materials For The Industries Are Collected?

(i). From the Nearby Forest

(ii). In the Village Market

(iii). From Outside

(c). How The Finished Products Are Sold?

(i). By Self

(ii). Through Middlemen

(iii). Through Co-Operative Societies.

(Use Tick Mark Whichever Is Applicable).

(d). Where Such Products Are Sold?

(i). In the Village Itself?

(ii) In the near by Village Market

(iii) To the Outsiders

(Use Tick Mark Whichever Is Applicable).

(e) Has It Been Able to Change the Living Standard/Socio-Economic Status Who Are
Running Such Industries? Yes/No.

20. Any Other Worth Mentioning Information Not Covered By the Schedule.

21. Remarks: - _____

Data Collected By: _____

Supervised By: _____

ANNEXURE-II

(Household Schedule of Golaghat and Nagaon Districts)

GOVERNMENT OF ASAAM

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

(Research Study on Socio Economic Conditions and Problems Faced By the Tribals
Living In the Forest Villages of Golaghat and Nagaon Districts of Assam)

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE:

1. A. Identification

(i) Sl. No. Of sample household _____

(ii) Village _____

(iii) Police station _____

(iv) Block _____

(v) Sub-Division _____

(vi) Name of the Forest Range _____

(vii) Name of the Forest Division _____

(viii) Name of the informant _____

(ix) (a) Name of the tribe he belongs _____

(b) Age _____

(d) Education _____

(x) Name of the head of the household _____

(xi) Relation with the head of household _____

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

(e) Occupation _____

2. Land details (in bighas)

(i) Total land possessed:-

(ii) Land originally allotted to his family:-

(iii) Whether he enjoys the right of transfer:-

(iv). Has he leased out or mortgaged any land ?

Yes. /no.

(v). If yes, state the following.

Area of land (in bighas)	Type of land	Whether leased or mortgaged	To whom

3. Particulars of household land possessed (in bighas)

(a) Total area of land under cultivation:-

(i).Wet paddy land: - _____

(ii) High land/jhum land: - _____

(iii) Plantation :- _____

(iv) Others :- _____

(b) Total area under homestead:-

(i). Total area under fishery, if any:- _____

(ii) Fallow land , if any :- _____

(iii) Total area under gardening:- _____

(iv) Others :- _____

(v) Total area under plantation _____

(som /sualo/ mulberry/ eri or timber)

4. Annual income

(a) No of earners: - _____

(b) No. Of earning dependent :- _____

(c) No. Of non -earning dependent :- _____

(d) Annual income and expenditure:- _____

Annual income(in rs)	Annual expenditure(in rs)	Savings (in rs.)

5. (a) Is there any unemployed adult member in the household ? Yes/no.

(b) If yes, state the number.

(i) Educated unemployed male _____ female _____ total _____

(ii) Uneducated unemployed male _____ female _____ total _____

(c) Does the forest department has engaged you or any family member of your, Yes/no.
During the last three year?

(i) If yes how many working days (per annum) provided by the forest

Department? _____

(ii)what is the average daily wages? _____

6. Particulars of cultivation

(a) Do you have irrigation facilities for cultivation? Yes/no.

(b) If yes, what type of energy mainly use for irrigation ?

- (i) electricity, (ii) diesel, (iii) primal,
(iv) man power (v) others.

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

Name of the agriculture crops/horticulture/sericulture	Area of land utilised	Total yield
I)		
Ii)		
Iii)		

(d) Did wild animal do any damage to your crops? Yes /no

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

The year	Below 25%	Between 25% to 50%	Above 50%
2003-2004			
2004-2005			
2005-2006			

7. (a). Do you collect any usable item from the forest yes /no

(b) If yes for what purpose?

- (i) For medicinal purpose
(iii) For use of the domestic animals
(v) For other commercial purpose

- (ii) For construction purpose
(iv) As edible items

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable and mention the name of the items)

8. Do you want this village to be a revenue village? Yes/no.

(i). If yes, give reasons.

(ii). If no, give reasons

(9)(a). Did you receive any agricultural inputs from any source during the last Year? Yes/no.

(i). If yes, give details:-

(b) did you receive any agricultural loan from any source during the last five Years?

(i). If yes, give details:-

10. Did you have any surplus agricultural product to sell during the last year? Yes/no.

(a). If yes, state the approximate prices received your produces during the last Year.....

(b). Where do you usually sell your surplus produces ?

(i). In the market,

(ii) In the village,

(iii) To the middle men, (iv) To marketing societies/co-operative societies.

(use tick mark wherever is applicable)

11. Do you irrigate your land ? Yes/no.

(a). If yes , what type of energy is used to irrigate the land.

(b). Did you receive any assistance from the government to irrigate your land ?

(c). If yes, state the extend of such assistance.

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

(i). Well ;

(ii). Pond ;

(iii). Hand-pipe ;

(iv). Pipe water ;

(v). Rivers/streams ;

(vi). Any other.

(b) Source of drinking water is present in.

(i). Your own residence;

(ii). Public place

(iii). Neighbour's residence

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

13. Particulars of household livestock:

Livestock

number

- (i) Bullock
- (ii) Cow
- (iii) He -buffalo
- (iv) She -buffalo
- (v) He -goat
- (vi) She -goat
- (vii) Sheep
- (viii) Fowl
- (ix) Pigeon
- (x) Duck
- (xi) Pig
- (xii) Others (specify).

(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

14. Do you weave cloth ?

Yes/no

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

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(b) Do you have any surplus product to sell in during the last year ? **Yes/no**

(c) If yes, state the appropriate prices received from your produced during the

Last year.

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

(e) Where from you get the raw materials from your loom ?

(f) Did you receive any grant/loan etc.? From the government ?

(g) If yes, state briefly.

15. Do you make cane and bamboo basketry, etc ?

Yes/no

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

.....

(b) What do you produce from cane and bamboo ?

.....

(c) Do you have any surplus produce to sell during the last year ?

Yes/no

(d) If yes, state the appropriate prices received from your produce during

The last year.

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

(i). In the market:

(ii). In the village:

(iii). To the middle men:

(iv) To marketing societies/co-operative societies ;

(f) Did you receive any grants/loan etc.? From the government ?

(g) If yes, state briefly.

16. Health care and sanitation :

(a). Do you think medical service easily available wherever in case of any emergency ? Yes/no

(b). When members of your household falls sick where do you generally take the patient?

(i). Government hospital;

(ii). Primary health centre ;

(iii). Private hospital;

(iv). Private doctor ;

(v). Village quack;

(vi). Others.

(c). Which system of medicine you have more faith in ?

System of medicine	Ist preference	2 nd preference
Allopathic		
Ayurvedic		
Homeopathic		
Occult medicine		
Any other (please specify)		

(d) In case of major ailments, where do you take the patient ?

(i) Government hospital;

(ii) Primary health centre ;

(iii) Private hospital;

(iv) Private doctor;

(v) Village quack;

(vi) Others.

(e). Have you administered any vaccinations to your children ? Yes/no.

- (i) If yes, please tell which of the vaccination was administered.
- (ii) Polio
- (iii) BCC
- (iv) DPT
- (v) Chicken pox/measles
- (vi) Any other.

(f) Where have you administered the vaccines ?

- (i). Government hospital ;
- (ii). Primary health centre/state dispensary ;
- (iii). Private hospital ;
- (v). Private doctor ;
- (v). Village quack ;
- (vi). Any other ;

(g) What kind of toilet facility does your household have ?

- (i). Open field;
- (ii). Katcha latrine ;
- (iii). Sanitary ;
- (iv). Any other.

17. Particulars of other household properties.

(a). No. Of living houses,

- (i). R.c.c.
- (ii). Pucca assam type
- (iii). Katcha assam type,
- (iv). Thatched.

(b). Other properties.

no.

Name

- (i). Motor cycle
- (ii). Bi-cycle
- (iii). Television
- (iv). Radio
- (v). Watch
- (vi). Bullock cart
- (vii). Other vehicles (specify)

(viii). Plough

(ix). Others (specify)

(c). Have you got electric connection in your house ? Yes/no.

18. Particulars of household income and expenditure:

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

Source	Income
I). Service	
Ii). Cultivation	
Iii). Others (specify)	

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

Head	Expenditure
I). Food items	
Ii). Dress & ornaments	
Iii). Education	
Iv). Other social obligations	
V). Health	
Vi). Others (specify)	

19. Particulars of savings:

(a). Do you have savings accounts in a post office/bank, etc.

Yes/no.

(i). If yes, do you save money regularly ; yes/no.

(b). If you do not have a post office or bank account, do you have other means to save money ? Yes/no

(i). If yes, what are the means ?

(c). How much money did you save during the last year ?

(d). Do you think it is necessary to save money for the future ? Yes/no.

20. Particulars of household indebtedness:

(a). Did you receive any loan, in cash or kind, from any source during the last one year ?
Yes/no.

(i). If yes, state the principal amount

Cash _____ kind _____

(ii). Source _____

(iii). Rate of interest, :

Cash _____ kind _____

(iv). Amount repaid

Cash _____ kind _____

(v). Purpose for which the loan was taken:

21. Miscellaneous:

(a) Do you want to leave this village?

Yes/no.

(i). If yes, give reasons.

(ii). If no, give reasons.

(b) Do you prefer inter caste marriage ?

Yes/no

(i). If yes, give reasons.

(ii). If no, give reasons.

22. Welfare measures and constitutional provisions.

(a). Are you aware of the various welfare measures and constitutional provisions available for your community ? Yes/no.

(b). If yes, could you please name such measures/ provisions ? If yes, please furnish.

(c). Have you ever enjoyed the benefit of such measures/provisions ? Yes/no.

(d). If yes, give details

(e). Do you think that the welfare measures and constitutional provisions are sufficient to raise the socio-economic conditions of your community ?

(f). If no, give your suggestions.

23. Untouchability:

(a). Do you think that untouchability prevails in the society so far the Relationship between your community and other communities is Concerned ?

Yes/no.

(i). If yes, to what extent ?

(b). Do you feel an inferiority complex when you visit the residence of your co-villagers belonging to higher caste ? Yes/no.

(i). If yes, why ?

24. Particulars of students and school dropouts:

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

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
1). L. P. School going			
2). M.e. School going			
3). H.e. School going			
4). College level			

(ii). Do you have any school drop out in your family ? Yes/no. (a). If yes, how many ?

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total

25. (i) is there any scholarship holder student in your family ? Yes/no.

(a). If yes, how many ?

(b). What type of scholarship does he/she receive ?

(c). State the amount of the scholarship:-

(d). Interval at which this scholarship is received.:-

26. What measure do you suggest to protect the forest ?

27. Any other information.

Collected by _____

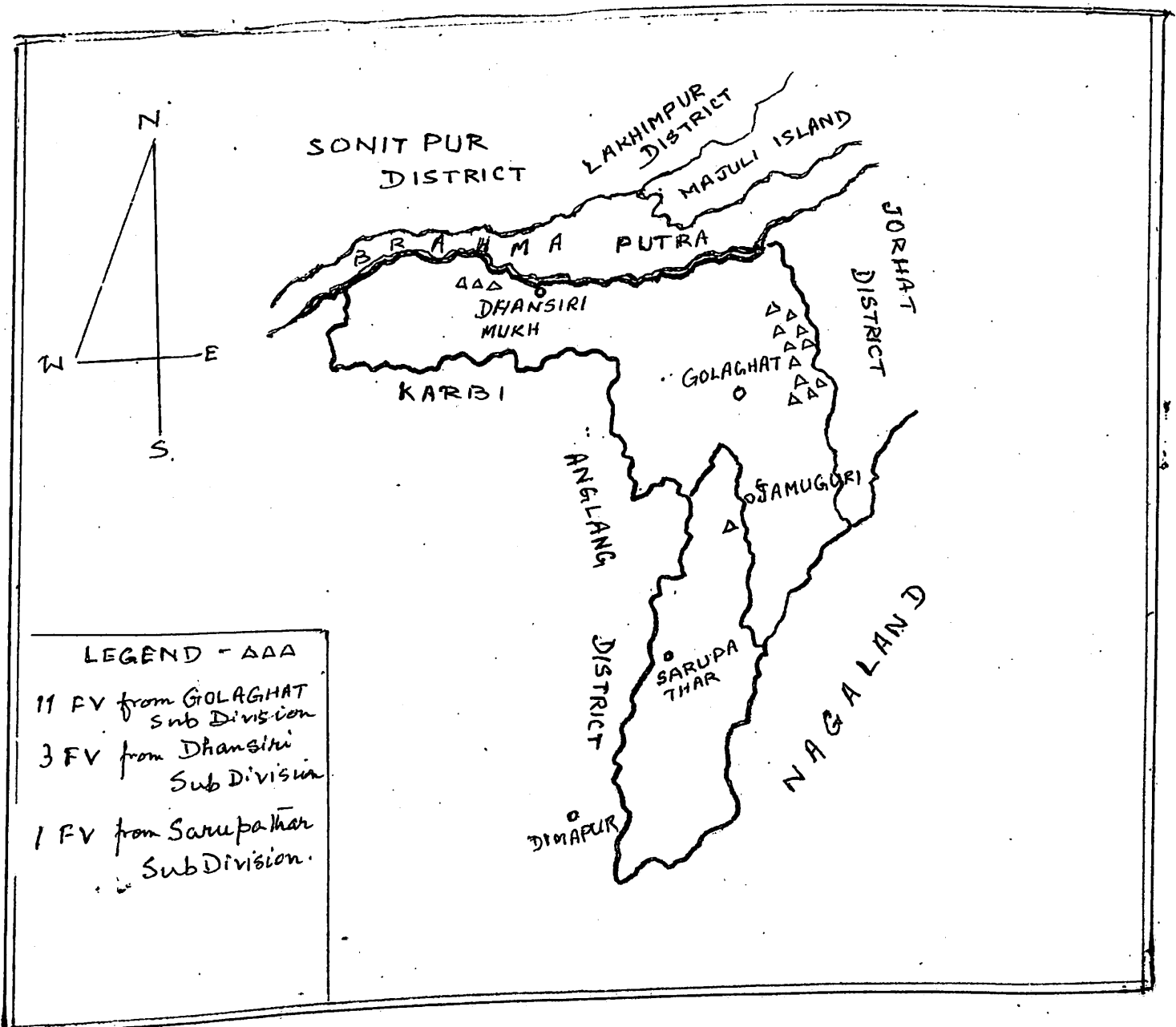
supervised by _____

Date:-

ANNEXURE-III

Sketch map of Golaghat District (not to scale) showing location of the forest villages (approx)

GOLAGHAT DISTRICT



ANNEXURE-IV

III. Sketch map of Nagaon District (not to scale) showing location of the forest villages (approx)

NAGAON DISTRICT

