

**REPORT
ON
A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITION
OF TRIBAL AND NON TRIBAL VILLAGES OF
MARIGAON AND NAGAON DISTRICTS OF ASSAM**

CONDUCTED BY

**ASSAM INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH
FOR TRIBALS AND SCHEDULED CASTES,
JAWAHARNAGAR, GUWAHATI – 22, ASSAM.**

P R E F A C E

Even after more than 50 years of Independence, the tribal people are still backward compared to the non tribal in almost all fronts. There are various governmental schemes/programmes for the welfare of the tribal. But it is very much disheartening to note that the rate of development is very slow and still economically and educationally they are not at par compared to the general people.

To measure the actual difference with regards to economic development among tribal and non tribal, this Directorate has taken up this research study on "Socio Economic Condition of Tribal and Non tribal in the Morigaon and Nagaon Districts of Assam".

I hope the outcome of the research study will help in finding out the strength and weakness of developmental plans and programmes adopted in the past for tribal development. The findings of the study would also be an important pointers to the policy makers, planners and executors for introducing need based plans and programmes for the tribal.

I am thankful to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, Government of India and Department of Welfare of Plains Tribes and Backward Classes, Government of Assam for sanctioning necessary fund for the study on 50:50 basis during 2001-2002.

I offer my thanks to Dr. G.C. Sharma Thakur, Retd. Director, Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes for his help in conducting the study

I specially my thanks to Shri G.C. Kakati, Joint Director, AIRT&SC, who were instrumental in successful completion of this research study.

Last but not least I offer my thanks to the Investigators temporarily engaged for field survey and to all the officers and staff of AIRT&SC for their help in various way.

(Mrs. N. A. Hazarika)

Director

**Assam Institute of Research for
Tribals and Scheduled Castes, Guwahati-22.**

CONTENTS

Page No.

CHAPTER - I	INTRODUCTION – A BRIEF PROFILE OF MARIGOAN DISTRICT , A BRIEF PROFILE OF NAGAON DISTRICT; CULTURAL PROFILE OF TIWAS , BORO KACHARIS & KARBIS	1 – 18
CHAPTER - II	OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY – PERIOD OF STUDY – METHODOLOGY - SAMPLING	19 – 20
CHAPTER - III	DATA ANALYSIS	21 – 69
CHAPTER - IV	FINDINGS OF THE STUDY	70 – 76
CHAPTER - V	CONCLUSION	77 – 79
APPENDICES :-		
I.	VILLAGE SCHEDULE.	80 – 86
II.	HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE.	87 – 96

A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE TRIBAL AND NON TRIBAL VILLAGES OF MARIGAON AND NAGAON DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

Situated on the Southern bank of the river Brahmaputra, the districts of Morigaon and Nagaon are characterised by similarity in respect of socio-cultural, demographic, ethnic, geographical, antiquarian, religious beliefs and practices as well as socio economic condition of the population. This has happened mainly because of the fact that Morigaon district has been carved out of the original Nagaon district and the people of Morigaon maintains close link with the headquarters of Nagaon district in respect of trade and commerce, transport and communication, educational institutions etc.

A comparative study of tribal and non tribal villages is imperative in view of significant allocations for improving the socio-economic condition of the tribal people under the state Tribal Sub Plan. It may be mentioned that unlike other states and hilly areas of the state of Assam, the tribal villages in both the districts are not located in distinct pockets exclusively of their own, rather the villages are interspersed with non tribal villages. This has led to inter and intra linkage among communities bringing forth amity and good will among various sections of ethnic and non ethnic communities. As the planned development efforts were tagged with the old district of Nagaon till bifurcation of the district to form the Morigaon district, there is not much glaring difference in respect of development strategies for tribal of both the districts. Of course the tribal populations are maintaining most of their traditional cultural traits without effecting the inter community cultural ambience. Because of the traditional traits of shyness of contact with the community at large and age old backwardness arising out of negligence by the erstwhile administrators, illiteracy, indebtedness and poverty, the tribal people of both the districts are yet to enjoy the full benefits of planned development.

A brief profile of Marigaon district

The district is bounded on the North by the river Brahmaputra, on the East by Nagaon district, on the South by Karbi Anglong Hill district with a small tract of Meghalaya and on the West by Kamrup district. There is a line of hills of different heights on the Southern boundary of Marigaon district namely Amsoi, Nelli, Jagiroad and Nakhola. There are small hillocks namely Baghara, Kumoi, Tetelia, Monoha, Baha, Buraburi, Mayang and Kachasila on the western part of the district. The hills provide the much needed house building materials and fire wood in addition to the herbs, roots, creepers, medicinal plants etc. The tribal people particularly the Tiwas use the forests as venue for their place of worship (Than) where various socio-religious festivals are held throughout the year. The non tribal villagers too, use the forests for collecting fire wood, house building materials, herbs, fruits etc. Besides the low lying forest lands are providing the needs of daily requirement of fish.

Marigaon has large numbers of swampy lands and beds which are rich sources of fish. The Kachadhara, Charon, Udari, Gauranga, Gotongga, Tihulia beels provide economic benefits to the people to a large extent as fishes are sold in the Guwahati city markets at higher prices.

The Pabitora National Forest famous for its thick forest resort of the one horned rhino, is situated on the South Western part of the district.

Agriculture is the sole means of livelihood for the people belonging to both tribal and non tribal and as many as 1,27,945 persons are engaged in cultivation. Due to fragmentation of the land holdings consequent upon division of the paternal properties among the sons and due largely to the adoption of the old technique of cultivation, the economic life of the people is far from satisfactory. Today (1991 Census) we find as many as 21,337 agricultural labourers in this newly created small district. It is relevant to mention here the various categories of workers of the district to gauge the economy of the district and the Table 1 below shows the same.

TABLE - 1

Showing Various Occupations of the People of Marigaon District as per Census 1991

	Total Main Workers	Cultivators	Agri . Labourer	Live- stock/Forestry/Fishing/ Plantation	Manufacturing/Processi ng/Repair etc in house hold industries	Manufacturing other than household industry	Construction	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Other Services	Mining and Quarrying	Marginal Workers	Non Workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Total-184695	127945	21337	2548	936	6173	1498	8554	2271	13386	47	38439	416548	
Rural-174152	126198	21040	2352	736	3539	992	6448	1620	11188	39	38189	394352	
Urban-10543	1747	236	196	200	2634	506	2106	651	2198	8	250	22196	

The district of Marigaon cannot boast of possessing industries worth the name except the Hindusthan Paper Corporation Mill, Jagiroad and the Assam Spun Mill, Jagiroad. These industries have not contributed much towards the economic prosperity of the people of the district.

As regards Cottage industry almost every household is self sufficient with material cultural items like agricultural implements, fishing implements and other items of day to day use. Every adult woman is an expert weaver and they weave clothes for all the members of a family. The *Endi chadars* woven by women folk fetch good prices at the market. They also rear poultry, goats, ducks etc. and the income is utilised for purchasing yarn. The non Vaisnavite Lalungs rear pigs as pork is essential in their socio religious ceremonies.

The district is inhabited by various castes and tribes. The Tiwas constitute the major tribe of the district. Although the people call themselves as Tiwas, their official recognition is Lalung as per list of the Scheduled Tribes (Plains) of Assam. Besides Tiwas there are scattered villages of Boro Kacharis and Karbis. There are good number of Scheduled Caste villages in the district whose main profession is agriculture and fishing forms the secondary source of income. The district is also inhabited by exclusive pockets of Char inhabitants who are mostly found in the riverine areas. A brief profile of the major scheduled tribes of the district is presented in the following pages. Table No.2 shows the salient demographic figures of the population of Marigaon while Table 3 shows the demographic data of the STs of Marigaon.

Table – 2

Showing Area, Population, Density, Sex Ratio and Literacy of Marigaon District, 1991 Census

Area in Sq. km.	Population	% to state's total	Density	Sex ratio	% of literacy total	Male	Female
Total- 1704.00	639682	2.85	375	941	47.99	56.17	39.19
Rural -1686.08	606693	-	-	-	46.36	54.52	37.63
Urban- 17.92	32989	-	-	-	76.54	83.40	68.30

Table - 3

Showing Population of S.T. Percentage to District Population, Percentage to States total S.T. Population and Literacy of ST of Marigaon as per 1991 Census

Name of District	Population of ST	% to District total Population	% to State's total ST population	Literacy	Male	Female
Morigaon	Total 98483	15.40	3.43	46.97	58.59	35.21
	Rural 94745	15.62	3.41	46.19	57.82	34.46
	Urban 3738	11.33	3.85	66.53	76.94	54.97

A Brief Pen Picture of Nagaon District :

The district of Nagaon lies in the central Assam bounded on the North by the river Brahmaputra, on the East by Golaghat district, on the South by the Karbi Anglong Hills district and on the West by Marigaon district. The district is largely a plains area with sizeable swampy low lying lands bounded by hills on the Eastern and Southern boundary with varying heights. Mention may be made of the Kathiatoli, Kandali, Sagaonbahi, Basundhari, Amsoi, Lanka, Chapanala etc. The river Kapili originating in the hills of Karbi Anglong flows through the South Eastern part of the district. The river has provided the populations with the much needed water for irrigation purposes. Besides, the river is a source of drinking water for many villagers including the tribes. Another river of importance is the Kalang which flows through the heart of the district. The life and culture of the people is largely moulded by this river. Each year low lying areas are flooded but the affected people very often consider the flood as a boon because the flood water carries with it much manner which makes the agricultural lands fertile. Perhaps for this reason the local people of Assam consider Nagaon as one of the best granaries of Assam. The flood water provides additional benefit to the fishermen as the receding water leaves behind fishes in the swampy lands and beels, contributing immensely towards the betterment of economic condition of the rural people, particularly of the scheduled castes whose main profession till recently was fish catching and selling.

The district has good number of forest resources and better quality of commercial timbers are available in these forests. The reserved forests not only

provide timber and firewood, but these are potential sources of fishery. The Laokhoa Reserved Forest is an important source of revenue for the state.

Agriculture is the primary source of sustenance for the people and Rabi and Kharif crops are widely grown. As the district possesses a sizeable hard working population emigrated from erstwhile Mymensing and Sylhet districts of East Bengal (now under Bangladesh), Rabi and Kharif crops are grown abundantly. The farmers, however are not able to reap the economic benefits of the increased prices of winter crops as they are in the unorganised sector. Industrial progress is sluggish in the district. The soil of Nagaon is suitable for growing sugarcane and the Kampur Sugar Mill helps the producers to sell their products at reasonable prices. The low swampy lands are favourable for growing jute and the jute produced by the villagers are purchased by the Jute Mill authority of Silghat. The Nagaon Paper Mill at Jagiroad lies at the border of both Nagaon and Marigaon districts. The raw materials are mostly collected from the neighbouring Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills districts. The people of both Nagaon and Marigaon district are benefited from this mill as the mill provides 3rd and 4th grade employment to the job seekers.

Nagaon can boast of a chain of gravelled roads passing criss- cross through the remotest villages. These roads are connected with the National Highway 37 which passes through the heart of Nagaon.

As per 1991 Census the total population of the district is 1893171, rural 1687449, urban 205722. Following table shows area, population , density, sex ratio and literacy of Nagaon district as per 1991 Census.

Table – 4

Area, Population, Density, Sex ratio and Literacy of Nagaon District as per 1991 Census

Area in Sq. km	Population	% to State's total	Density in sq. km.	Sex ratio	Literacy		
Total 3831.00	1893171	8.45	494	929	54.74	62.49	46.30
Rural 3795.48	1687449	-	-	-	51.30	59.31	42.63
Urban 35.52	205722	-	-	-	80.68	85.77	74.82

The demographic pattern in the district is characterised by existence of various castes and tribes such as Brahmin, Koch, Kalita, Nath (Jogi), Keot, Ahom, Chutia and Muslims. There are sizeable populations belonging to the Char areas who live mostly in the riverine areas. The Tiwas(Lalungs), Boro Kacharis and Karbis are the major scheduled tribes. The Lalungs are the pre-dominant ethnic community who are largely assimilated and at a glance one can hardly distinguished a Lalung with a non-Lalung. The Karbis, however, a hill tribe and in the plains they are not included in the scheduled tribe (plains) list of Assam. They are getting educational and economic benefits which are available to the plains tribes but they cannot send their representatives to the Assembly or Parliament. The basic demographic data of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are shown in the following tables, Table – 5 and Table – 6.

Table – 5

Showing Population, PC to District total Population, PC to State's total ST Population, Literacy of the STs of Nagaon District, Census 1991

Population	% to District population	% to States total ST population	Literacy	Male	Female
Total 69848	3.69	2.43	53.25	63.78	42.50
Rural 67729	4.01	2.44	52.79	63.39	42.00
Urban 2219	1.03	2.18	67.47	75.08	58.84

Table – 6

Showing Population, PC to District Population , PC to State's total SC Population, Literacy of the Scheduled Castes of Nagaon District as per Census 1991

Population	% to District Population	% to State's total SC population	Literacy	Male	Female
Total 189693	7.40	10.02	61.95	71.55	51.57
Rural 170822	7.18	10.12	60.93	70.71	50.39
Urban 18871	9.22	9.17	70.92	78.74	61.76

The socio cultural life of the Tiwas (Lalungs) living in the plains of Nagaon district differs with that of their hill brethren. The plains Lalungs are largely

assimilated group and most of the traditional tribal traits including the dialect are not traced. The hill Lalungs on the other hand are maintaining their traditional cultural traits intact. There is, however, intra tribal affinity between the hill and plains Lalungs. The Boro Kacharis are found in scattered villages and they are maintaining most of their traditional cultural traits while accepting some of the traits of the non Boros. The Karbis are an assimilated group but they are keeping close affinity with the hill Karbis of Karbi Anglong district.

The scheduled castes, belonging mostly to the Kaibartas, Namasudras and Hiras are also dispersed communities. There is nothing to locate a scheduled caste from their living pattern or material culture. They are part and parcel of the greater population of the district. The other SC populations like Muchis, Bansphors, etc are mostly floating inhabitants of the district. They are mainly found in the urban centres. There are good number of tea and ex tea garden labourers also who are an assimilated group in the greater Assamese society. While the tea garden labourers are found in the quarters provided by the tea gardens, the ex tea garden labourers are setting in the vicinity of tea gardens doing agriculture and jobs mostly labourers. They are included in the OBC list of Assam.

The overwhelming populations of all the above mentioned categories are engaged in cultivation of various commercial and non commercial crops. Industrial workers in household industries and other than household industries, trade and commerce, transport and communication, mining and quarrying are limited. The number of agricultural labourers indicate that there are good number of people living below the poverty line. The following table shows the figures of people engaged in various occupations.

Table -7

Showing the Figures of Total Main Workers, Cultivators, Agricultural Labourers, Livestock/Forestry/Fishing/ Plantations, Manufacturing /Processing /Repair etc. in Household Industries, Manufacturing other than Household Industries/Construction/ Trade and Commerce/Transport and Communication /Mining and Quarrying / other Services /Marginal Workers and Non Workers in the District as per Census 1991.

Sl No.		Total Main Workers	Cultivators	Agri. Labourer	Live-stock etc.	Mining and Quarrying	Manufacturing etc. in households	Other than Households Industries	Construction	Trade and Commerce	Transport and Communication	Other Services	Marginal Workers	Non Workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Total	553993	303587	81800	26228	665	3417	20448	7336	41202	16692	52618	117310	1221868
2.	Rural	497200	301217	80304	25213	642	2841	12885	4584	21822	8034	39658	116315	1073334
3.	Urban	56793	2316	1496	1015	23	576	7563	2754	19380	8658	12960	395	148534

It has already been mentioned that the tribes of both the districts are maintaining certain life style which differs considerably with that of the non tribal people and therefore development strategies, too, have had to be formulated. Thus the tribal sub plan strategies which are design to suit the aspirations of the special life style of the tribal people contains certain heads of expenditure which are not found in the general plan. In order to assess the comparative development of the two sections of the people, a brief report about the socio cultural life of the ethnic communities is felt essential and the following pages a brief account of the three main ethnic communities is presented.

The Lalungs (Tiwas)

The Lalungs who are also known as Tiwas (now for Government purposes the name Tiwa is also used, although necessary constitutional amendment in the Scheduled Tribes (plains) list of Assam is yet to be made) are the major tribal community in both the districts under study. In fact the Lalungs do not like to be called as so and they prefer the name Tiwa. According to their legend 'Ti' means water and 'Wa' means superior or big. The Tibet region is believed to be the original abode of the Tiwas. They landed on the plains of the then Assam following the course of the river Brahmaputra which is considered as a great river.

They migrated to this region sometime in the middle of the Seventeenth Century A.D. but opinions differ regarding the exact date of their migration. Grierson who had extensive research among the ethnic groups during British days also did not mention about the date of migration of the Lalungs. "How the Lalungs came to their present site or when is not known. They are not mentioned by the Ahom historians nor in the accounts of the Koch kingdom. In Nagaon they are said to have a tradition that they came from the Jayantia Hills." A legend goes that the Lalungs originally inhabiting the Jayantia Hills moved into the plains of Nagaon district (Khagarijan) because they should not bear the administration of the Jayantia kings.

The Lalungs belong to the great Bodo race into which tribes like Boro Kachari, Chutiya, Deori, Rabha, Mech etc. are included. Their concentrations are mainly located in the districts of Nagaon and Marigaon. The Lalungs living in the foot hills of Karbi Anglong district have had maintained their traditional tribal

characteristics intact while those living in the plains are largely assimilated so far material culture, language, belief systems are concerned. It may be noted that topography and multiracial peoples' contact have influenced the Lalungs considerably so much so that certain aspects of socio-cultural life of the hill Lalungs became distinct from those of the hill Lalungs. The Lalung villages of Marigaon and Nagaon are not exclusive areas. The villages are interspersed with the non Lalung villages. Most of the villages are linked with motor able roads although considerable portions of the village road are fair weather roads only.

Their population today will be approximately two lakhs. Tribe-wise figures of Lalung as per 1991 Census are not available while 1981 Census was not held in Assam. As per 1971 Census their population was 95,609.

Agriculture is the sole source of living. Rice is their staple food. Meat, fish and egg are included in their menu. Chicken and pork form their delicious. These are also essential items for their traditional socio-religious festivals. Many families rear pigs and poultry both for local consumption as well as for socio-religious occasions. The reformists, however, avoid pork. They rear cattle, goat, duck, also. Milk is not considered as the item of food as milk and rice beer (Zu) do not go together. 'Zu' locally brewed rice beer is essential for the *pujas* and most of the families prepare 'Zu' for day to day consumption. However, the day to day consumption of 'Zu' is very much limited and the educated sections do not take 'Zu' except on socio religious occasions. The enlightened sections feel that consumption of 'Zu' adversely effects the economy of the people. Tea habit has entered into the Lalung families and now a days guests are entertained with tea.

Agricultural practices of the plains Lalungs are similar to those of non tribal Assamese populations. The hill Lalungs practice Jhum cultivation. The food habit of the converted Lalungs (plains Lalungs having beliefs on Vaisnavism) is different and they scrupulously avoid 'Zu' and pork. The hill Lalungs, on the other hand, have their traditional delicacies like 'Kharisa' (a mixture prepared out of bamboo shoots) and dried fish, pork, chicken, 'Zu' are essential items in their daily menu as well as in socio religious occasions.

The pattern of plains Lalung house is almost similar to that of the Boro Kacharis. Houses are constructed on plinth. The hill Lalungs construct houses in their

traditional style with local house building materials collected from the forests. Of late C I sheet roofing Assam Type house is becoming popular among the plains Lalungs. A Lalung house has three parts viz. *Choraghar*, *Borghar* and *Majghar*. The *Borghar* is considered as sacred where household deity is kept near the main post (Thunakhuta). Only the religious office bearers like "Gharbura", 'Zela' are allowed entrance to this part of the house. People belonging to Mikir (Karbi), Kachari and Koch only are allowed to enter the *Borghar*. Each clan has a *Borghar* constructed in the campus of a respectable clan member or *Gaonbura*. For their community *pujas* and festivals the Lalungs construct a 'Than' in the nearby forests. The converted Lalungs have 'Namghars' like other fellow Assamese neighbours inside their villages.

The Lalungs had an important tradition of male dormitory ('Samadi') but of late this is fast disappearing among the plains Lalungs. The hill Lalungs still maintain the dormitory system which is also a training centre for the youths to learn various skills in cottage industry items as well as musical instruments. A big five place is found in the centre of the dormitory which is used to warm up the inmates during winter. It may be noted that the unmarried young boys spend the night in the dormitory. The elderly male persons also visit the dormitory to take part in the folk tale recitation sessions.

The dresses for both male and female persons are similar to those worn by other fellow non Lalungs in the plains. The hill Lalungs have their traditional dresses for both male and female. The Lalung women are expert weavers and every household possess a loom. The womenfolk weave clothes not only for themselves but also for all the members of a family.

The Lalungs had a proud tradition of having small principalities in the past where petty 'kings' ruled. The tradition is still maintained but such of the functioning and old glamour is lost. The Rajas wear traditional dresses during festivals only and for remaining part of the year they are like ordinary citizens during all the daily chores.

They are patrilineal people and property is divided equally among the sons. The society is stratified one having twelve exogamous clans which are again sub divided into sub clans. They have a 'Khuta' system of social grouping which can be called an extension of a family. Following a genealogy each family of a clan forms a

social grouping called 'Bangsha' or 'Khuta'. A 'Khel' (clan) consists of several such Khutas. A Lalung 'Khel' selects a 'Giyati' (priest) to preside over the religious ceremonies. The 'Zela' (an expert in the belief systems of Lalungs) plays a significant role in a Lalung village. There are various office bearers in a village possessing different socio-religious assignments. Thus we find office bearers like 'Lorok', 'Forongai', 'Changmaji', 'Koroimaji', 'Deori', 'Hatari', and 'Randhani'. The lowest administrative unit is a 'Buni' constituting more than one village. In some Lalung villages of Nagaon and Marigaon there are office bearers like 'Pathek', 'Gaon', 'Bharali' in the style of fellow non Lalung villages.

As already mentioned, the Lalungs have had kingship (Raja) which continued till the advent of the British. Gobha was and still is (in a limited sense and use) an important principality. They had twelve small Rajas called 'Powali Raja' administering small areas ('Bumis'). The Raja was assisted by a number of officers like Bordoloi, Konwar, Patra, Borbarua, Dhulia, Dalia, Kalia and Paik. The 'Raja' tradition is still followed but his role is practically nil.

The Lalungs practise four types of marriages i.e. 'Bor Biya', 'Gobhia Rakha', 'Joron Biya and Paluai Ana'. The last one is the popular type although the educated sections among them now a days prefer the negotiation marriage. Clan exogamy is strictly adhered to. Monogamy is the prevailing practice although polygamy cannot be ruled out. Preferential marriage including cross cousin marriage is not in vogue. Widows generally marry widowers.

Nominal bride price (amount paid by groom to the bride's parents on the day of marriage) amounting to Rs. 7.00 or Rs. 9.00 is required to be paid as bride price. In case of informal marriage i.e. marriage by elopement the bride price may go up to Rs. 107.00 or Rs. 707.00.

The religion of the Lalung is based on a belief in multiple deities. Except the converts, the Lalungs are the devotees of 'Sakta' religion. Stone images and iron tridents are installed in the altars of their 'Borghars' or 'Thans'. There are office bearers to perform the religious ceremonies namely Loro, Deori, Changmaji. The 'Gharbura' presides over the pujas. Lord Mahadeo is their supreme God. Besides Mahadeo other deities such as Lord Ganesh, Parameswar, Badormaji, Baolakong, Kuber, Ai Gosani, Lakhimi, Padumi etc. are worshipped. Thans are established in

each village. Groups of villages may establish a Than also community worships are performed in these 'Thans' occasionally. Of late 'Than' worship has undergone certain changes. Sacrifices of animals are rarely resorted to. They offer 'Mah Prasad' (Mug, gram, banana, betel leaves and nuts, rice, etc.) as *Naibedya* before the deities.

They have elaborate festivals which are closely linked with the worship of various deities. Songs and dance along with rhythmical tunes of musical instruments like 'Khrambar', 'Kiringadhol, flute and gamona form important part of their festivals. The important festivals are 'Bisu' or 'Bihu', Barat, Sagra Misawa, Wansua, Jon Bila Mela etc.

Both cremation and burial are practised. Formerly dead bodies of wealthy and respectable persons only were cremated, but now-a-days cremation is the general rule. Every village has a common cremation/burial ground called 'Hatham'. The Hill Lalungs, however prefer burial which they call 'Sepat Thowa'.

A Brief Note on the Socio Cultural Life of the Boro Kacharis.

The Boro Kacharis, the largest scheduled tribe community of Assam contribute a branch of the great Bodo group of the Indo Mongoloid family falling within the Assam Burmese linguistic section. Their main concentrations are Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Goalpara, Kamrup, Barpeta, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Darrang districts of lower and central Assam. In Nagaon and Morigaon, Boro villages are found in stray pockets interspersed with non tribal villages.

The Boro Kachari houses are built on plinth with locally available materials. Separate houses for family members are constructed surrounding a courtyard.

The livelihood pattern is characterised by preponderance of agricultural occupation. They produce both *Ahu* and *Sali* paddy and are very much prone to the adoption of improved techniques in production process. Their indigenous devices for preserving seeds and digging canals are widely acclaimed.

Descent is traced through the male line. The eldest male member assumes the charge of the household on the death of the father. For this he is entitled to a preferential share of the paternal property.

Every Boro village has a *Gaonbura* (village head man). He is assisted by an officer called *Halmaji* in organising meetings. Disputes of petty nature are settled in the village level *Mel* (meeting) held under the presidentship of *Gaonbura*. There is another office bearer called *Deuri* who conducts the atonement proceedings. The above office bearers, however, are not hereditary.

The society is divided into clans (*Ari*). They have as many as 23 exogamous clans such as *Swargiari*, *Goyari*, *Basumatary*, *Musahari*, *Khakhlari*, *Daimari*, *Narzari* etc. The villages are established without any clan consideration. Nor there is any clan consideration in their day to day transactions. Clan is mainly considered at the time of marriage.

Monogamy is the prevailing practice. There is no bar in contacting a junior levirate marriage i.e. younger brother marrying the wife of the elder brother on the event of latter's death. Cross cousin marriage is not prevalent in the Boro society. The usual practice of contacting a marriage is by negotiation (*Hathachuni*). Marriage by servitude (*chowdang Jagarnai*) often took place in earlier days, but today this type of marriage is discouraged. Widow remarriages are in vogue. In such cases the widowers have to cut off all patrilineal relationship and include themselves into the 'Aris' of the widows. There is another type of marriage known as 'Khar Chanai' in which the girl goes voluntarily to live with her lover. However social acceptance has to be attained subsequently which is known as 'Khar Chanai'. To-day negotiation marriage has become the normal social custom among the Boros.

The system of demanding bride price is prevalent but the educated sections have expressed their disfavour to this system. There is a custom of demanding 'Malsa' by the co villagers of a bride. The amount, if realised, is deposited in the village common fund to be spent in welfare activities.

Among the Boros there is fundamental ritualistic difference in solemnising a marriage between two sections viz. Traditionalists and the followers of Brahmanism. The former performs marriage under 'Hathachuni' system while the latter take recourse to Vedic rites with Home Yajna.

The Boro Kacharis consider 'Bathow Brai' as the supreme deity which is analogous to Lord Siva of the Hindu Trinity. The Sizu plant (*Euphorbia splendens*) is regarded as representing 'Bathow'. Every traditional Boro Kachari household

plants a Sizu plant in its courtyard along with saplings of 'Jatras' and Tulsi. Next to 'Bathow,' 'Mainao is worshipped as goddess of wealth. They also worshipped many other deities like 'Agrang, Khoila, Khaji, Rajkhandra, Rajputhur, Ali Bura, Asu Mainao, Sati Mainoa, Bagraja' etc. The Brahma sections follow religious doctrines propounded by Kalicharan Brahma based on Vedic rites.

'Baisagu' held in mid April is their main festival. It is also known as Bisu (Bihu). The two other Bihus namely Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu are also observed by the Boros as 'Katrigosa' and 'Domasi'. Songs and dances accompanied by their traditional musical instruments form the main features of their festivals. The traditional musical instruments that are used in their festivals are 'Kham', 'Jatha', 'Khowbang', 'Gogona', 'Siphuri' etc. The festivals are preceded by pujas to the main deity. The Kherai is another important festival held in the month of Kartik (October-November). During the festival the people worship 'Bathow' and 'Mainao' along with other deities. The propitiation begins with different dance sequences along with singing of traditional songs. The 'Doudini' or 'Deodhini' (fortune teller) acts as the link man between the supreme power and the villagers as he forecasts the villagers well being or otherwise. It is also customary on this occasion to community homage to the past ancestors. The observance of 'Kherai' is believed to be harbinger of peace and plenty. The *Bagrumba* dance performed by girls as a special significance.

The Boro Kacharis possess a written code of customary laws called 'Pandulipis'. All matters of socio-religious disputes and day to day administration are conducted as per rules prescribed by the customary code of conduct.

They have their own language which is recognised up to University level.

Both cremation and burial are practised. Of late cremation is the popular custom for the disposal of the dead. On the 10th day after the death the 'Dasa' and 'Dahar' is observed but the final death rite is observed on the 12th or 13th day or on a suitable date thereafter depending on the pecuniary condition of the family. Certain taboos are also observed by the members of the family of the deceased.

A Brief Note on the Socio Cultural Life of the Karbis.

Karbis are a major hill tribe in the district of Karbi Anglong hill district and the characteristics of the hill tribe are not traced among the Karbis living in

Nagaon and Morigaon districts as they are plains dwellers. They are known locally as Amri Karbis or Dumrali. Racially they belong to the Mongoloid group and linguistically they are affiliated to the Tibeto Burman group. In the plains districts they are not treated as Scheduled Tribe (plains) but they are entitled to certain educational and economic benefits.

Each Karbi village has a Gaonbura. They do not live in exclusive pockets, rather their villages are interspersed with non tribal or plains tribal villages.

Unlike the hill Karbis they do not construct their houses on raised platforms, rather houses are constructed on plinths. Building materials are collected locally.

Agriculture is the primary occupation. Besides paddy they grow other winter crops mainly for local consumption. Most of the families rear bullocks, cows, fowls, goats, etc. A few families are found to have reared buffaloes also.

The Karbi women are expert weavers and every household possess a loom. A woman without the knowledge of weaving is unthinkable in the Karbi society. Most of the clothes of domestic use are produced in the family looms. Rearing of Endi cocoons is an important cottage industry. Endi scarfs are woven in the family looms. The men-folk also remain busy in making bamboo and cane products required for household use. The women are very active and they assist the menfolk in agriculture and allied activities. The people are not experts in wet paddy cultivation and they learnt the technique only after descending to the plains. Incidentally the Jhum cultivation is still practised by most of the hill Karbis. Most of the families are not self sufficient with the annual requirement of paddy and in the lean months they earn money by various other means such as by serving in the households of well to do Karbi families as part time workers or as day labourers. They are not expert in the field of trade and commerce. In order to substitute the shortfall of paddy the womenfolk collect herbs, roots, creepers from the forests.

The traditional village council of the Karbis is called 'Me' and the council consists of all the elderly male members of a village. The Gaonbura presides over the council meetings. All the minor disputes are settled in the village 'Mel'(meeting).

The Karbis of plains are patrilocal and patrilineal people. Father is the head of the family and his authority is undisputed. After the death of father his sons inherit the property.

In respect of marriage the Karbis strictly follow the exogamy and violation of this leads to excommunication from the society. Monogamy is the rule but polygamy is not ruled out. Widow remarriage is allowed and the unmarried younger brother of the deceased is required to marry the widow of the elder brother. Under no circumstances the elder brother is admitted to marry the widow of the younger brother.

Marriage by negotiation and selection is prevalent in the Karbi society. Consent of the girl is must in case of negotiated marriage. There are cases of marriage by capture but such cases are few and far between. In such cases formal marriage has to be solemnised after the birth of the first child. Divorce is rare and it can be obtained through the approval of the village council. They do not have the system of bride.

The Karbis have 5 exogamous clans namely Terang, Teron, Enghee, Ingti and Timung. Each the clan has a number of sub clan which are also exogamous. Although the clans have equal status, the members of Ingti clan are treated with respect as the priests are taken from this clan alone.

Cremation of the dead is the prevailing practice. The cremation ground is called Thiri. Although they observe the funeral rite at the time of cremation, another ritual called Chomangkan is also observed at a later date which is most expensive and elaborate socio-religious occasion of the Karbis.

CHAPTER – II

OBJECTIVE :

In the pre Independence period not much effort was made by the then alien administration to improve the socio economic condition of the masses. The people also had no voice to protest against the maladministration of the British rulers and they could not but surrender to their fate. But the Independence brought a new lease of life and after the formulation of the Constitution of India and consequent upon the embarkation of the egalitarian socialistic pattern of society in the Five Year Plans, the entire spectrum of social life have had undergone metamorphic changes. Special plans were formulated to upgrade the socio economic life of the downtrodden particularly of the scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other backward classes. Special thrust was laid on rural infrastructural development. Various welfare schemes were launched. Poverty alleviation programmes, mass literacy campaign decentralisation of power, etc. were the catch words over the decades. But very often allegations are made that real benefits were not percolated to the needy and rich because richer and poverty line is not receded as desired. The tribal people became unhappy with the style of functioning of the power that be and everywhere there is demand for tribal autonomy. The mainstream approach had a still birth corruption, nepotism, favouritism, and at the vitals of the development efforts and age old differences between rich and poor, urban and rural remained in spite of the planned development.

In this backdrop it is felt that a comparative study of the socio economic development of tribal and non tribal people in the post Independence period is imperative which will largely help the planners and administrators to chalk out need based pragmatic planning in order to eliminate the differences, if any between tribal and non tribal at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

The Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes has undertaken a comparative study of non tribal and tribal of Nagaon and Morigaon districts to find out the imbalance in the development effort.

Period of Study:

Field investigations were conducted during a period of two months during September and October, 2002 and report writing was completed during January, 2003.

Methodology:

Participant observation method with the help of schedules was followed during data collection from the selected villages and households. Six Investigators were assigned the task of data collection and they collected the data by visiting the selected households under survey. Two schedules viz. Village schedule and Household schedule were prepared covering the entire socio economic aspects of the tribal and non tribal under study. Census figures as per 1991 census are incorporated to substantiate the data. For the introductory part secondary sources are resorted to. State Government's Annual Plan document for Tribal Sub Plan was also consulted.

Sampling:

Ten villages each from tribal and non tribal population of the two districts of Morigaon and Nagaon covering five development blocks of Morigaon and six development blocks of Nagaon were selected for study on the basis of random sampling. On hundred and fifty households from tribal and non tribal each from both the districts were surveyed with the help of household schedules.

CHAPTER – III

Data Analysis :

It has already been mentioned that unlike other states of the Indian Union, the tribal people in the plains districts of Assam do not live in exclusive pockets, rather than villages are interspersed with non tribal villages contributing towards a tribal non tribal interface. Thus in most cases what holds good and beneficial for non tribal villages is also applicable in case of tribal villages. For instance a P W D road passes through a non tribal leading to tribal villages and vice versa. Similarly a health centre established in a tribal locality under the Tribal Sub plan caters to the needs of the non tribal villagers living nearby. In some tribal villages, non tribal households are also found. In almost all cases the village weekly hats are places for business transactions for both tribal and non tribal. Even then a comparative study relevant as the tribal people because of their age old backwardness, shyness of contact with the community at large and allied impediments arising out of indebtedness, crude method of agricultural practices et al. are not at the same level of development in comparison with the non tribal population. Educationally also they are lagging much behind.

To ascertain the imbalance, if any, and to have a comparative study of tribal and non tribal development 10 villages each from tribal and non tribal population of Morigaon and Nagaon have been selected covering one hundred fifty households from tribal and non tribal each from both the districts. Villages have been selected from different development blocks spread over the entire district so that a holistic picture is attained. From Morigaon district villages are selected from five development blocks namely, Kopili, Dolanghat, Bhurbandha, Mayang and Laharighat.. Similarly the villages of Nagaon are selected from six development blocks viz. Khagarijan, Barhampur, Kathiatali (Rengbeng), Batadraba, Raha, and Rupahi. Both tribal and non tribal villages are selected from these blocks. Village-wise population of surveyed tribal and non tribal villages are shown in the following tables (Table 8,9,10,11,12, 13,14, 15).

TABLE -8

Showing Village-wise Population of Surveyed Tribal Households of Morigaon District.

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Mazgaon	41	37	78
2.	Garmari	43	39	82
3.	Tongunmara	57	55	112
4.	Dolong-ghat Santipur	49	43	92
5.	Katahguri	53	53	106
6.	Manipur	43	52	95
7.	Bangthai Gaon	51	43	94
8.	Monoha Konwar Gaon	44	46	90
9.	Garapar	49	50	99
10.	Lauhhurunga	45	53	98
Total :-		475	471	946

TABLE - 9

Showing Village-wise Population of Surveyed Non Tribal Households of Morigaon District.

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Satgaon	54	53	107
2.	Rahdhola	48	54	102
3.	Jajari Bormanipur	46	44	90
4.	Mulan Kamura	39	44	83
5.	Chakabahi	36	36	72
6.	Bogoriguri	45	43	88
7.	Borbheti	37	29	66
8.	Kumoi Thakurgaon	35	48	83
9.	Lalaibori	40	38	78
10.	Titatola	45	40	85
Total :-		425	429	854

TABLE – 10

**Showing Village-wise Population of Surveyed Tribal Households of
Nagaon District.**

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Mahariti Kumar Gaon	42	36	78
2.	Pukhuri Par	43	45	88
3.	Bamuni Karbi Gaon	46	44	90
4.	Nam-bor Lalung Gaon	43	45	88
5.	2 No. Kachari Gaon	35	38	73
6.	Bhumuraguri Lalung Gaon	49	39	88
7.	Topakuchi	44	46	90
8.	Laufulabori	52	50	102
9.	Katahguri	44	55	99
10.	Belaguri	39	41	80
Total :-		437	439	876

TABLE – 11

**Showing Village-wise Population of Surveyed Non- Tribal Households of
Nagaon District.**

Sl. No.	Name of the village	Population		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	Checha Mukh	37	39	76
2.	Nam – Kariyani	32	30	62
3.	Halowa Gaon	40	42	82
4.	Borhampur Bisoya Chuk	36	39	75
5.	Jumar – mur Ahom Gaon	37	33	70
6.	Bordowa Mukali Gaon	45	38	83
7.	Bhetioni	40	37	77
8.	Saragaon	40	46	86
9.	Mohgarh	50	49	99
10.	Latarimari	36	39	75
Total :-		393	392	785

Table – 12

Showing Blocks and Village-wise Tribal Population of Surveyed Villages of Morigaon District

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Name of the Tribal Village	Total Nos. of Households	Population		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Kapilee	(1) Mazgaon	82	222	230	452
		(2) Garmari	34	87	78	165
2	Dolong- Ghat	(3) Tangummara	80	312	248	560
		(4) Dolong-ghat Santipur	89	196	276	472
3	Bhurbandha	(5) Katahguri	78	240	222	462
		(6) Manipur	150	450	460	910
4	Mayang	(7) Bangthai Gaon	121	308	340	648
		(8) Monoha Konwar Gaon	78	258	240	498
5	Laharighat	(9) Garapar	279	701	809	1510
		(10) Laubhurunga	120	355	380	735
Total :			1111	3129	3283	6412

Table – 13

Showing Blocks and Village-wise Non-Tribal Population of Surveyed Villages of Morigaon District

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Name of the Non-Tribal Village	Total Nos. of Households	Population		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Kapilee	(1) Satgaon	265	603	607	1210
		(2) Rahdhala	323	600	618	1218
2	Dolong-Ghat	(3) Jajari Bormonipur	687	1797	1828	3625
		(4) Mulan Kamura	525	1297	1328	2625
3	Bhurbandha	(5) Chakabahi	177	382	440	822
		(6) Bogoriguri	120	358	390	748
4	Mayang	(7) Borbheti	60	186	154	340
		(8) Kumoi Thakur Gaon	45	135	144	279
5	Laharighat	(9) Lalaibori	61	243	224	467
		(10) Titatola	71	211	220	431
Total :			2334	5812	5953	11765

Table – 14

**Showing Blocks and Village-wise Tribal Population of Surveyed Villages of
Nagaon District**

Sl. No	Name of Block	Name of the tribal village	Total nos. of households	Population		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Khagarijan	1) Mahariati Kumar Gaon	47	138	146	284
		2) Pukhuri par	47	187	166	353
2	Borhampur	3) Bamuni Karbi Gaon	145	364	382	746
3	Rengbeng (Kathiatoli)	4) Nam-bor Lalung Gaon	168	418	440	858
		5) 2 No. Kachari Gaon	45	131	141	272
4	Batadrava	6) Bhumuraguri Lalung Gaon	135	327	368	695
5	Raha	7) Toppakuchi	192	491	661	1152
		8) Laufulabori	213	767	511	1278
		9) Katahguri	117	408	528	936
6	Ropahi	10) Belaguri	352	1065	1085	2150
TOTAL			1461	4296	4428	8724

Table – 15

**Showing Blocks and Village-wise Non Tribal Population of Surveyed Villages of
Nagaon District**

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Name of the non tribal village	Total nos. of households	Population		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Khagarijan	(1) Checha Mukh	118	378	332	710
		(2) Nam Karaiyani	83	166	249	415
2.	Borhampur	(3) Halowa Gaon	168	582	594	1176
		(4) Borhampur Bisaya Chuk	42	102	156	258
3.	Rengbeng (Kathiatoli)	(5) Jumur-mar Ahom Gaon	42	92	97	189
4.	Batadrava	(6) Bordowa Mukali Gaon	115	365	370	735
		(7) Bhctioni	131	421	448	869
5.	Raha	(8) Saragaon	115	373	317	690
		(9) Mohgarh	61	141	160	301
6.	Ropahi	(10) Latarimari	52	125	175	300
Total :-			927	2745	2898	5643

Thus out of a total 1111 tribal households in the selected 10 Nos. of villages of Morigaon, 150 households with total population of 946 and out of 2334 total households in the 10 Nos. of non tribal villages of Morigaon, 150 households with a total population of 854 have been selected for survey. Similarly in Nagaon

district out of a total 1461 tribal households in 10 Nos. of villages, 150 households with a total population of 876 and out of 927 non tribal households in 10 nos. of villages, 150 households with a total population of 785 have been surveyed.

It is seen that in both the districts tribal villages except one in each district are situated in plains while the lone village in each district is situated in undwelling plain area. As regards non tribal villages all the villages are located in plains (Table-16).

TABLE – 16

Showing the topography of the selected villages of Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

Name of district	Topography of tribal villages				Topography of non- tribal villages			
	Hilly	Plain	Undwelling plain	Others	Hilly	Plain	Undwelling plain	Others
Morigaon	0	9	1	0	0	10	0	0
Nagaon	0	9	1	0	0	10	0	0

The settlement pattern indicates that only one village of Nagaon is isolated which belongs to tribal while in Morigaon isolated villages are non existent. Four tribal villages of Nagaon and one non tribal village of the same district fall in the category agglomerated, while in Morigaon 4 tribal villages and 5 non tribal villages fall in that category. Six tribal villages of Morigaon and 5 tribal villages of Nagaon are included in the category dispersed where as 5 non tribal villages of Morigaon and 9 non tribal villages fall under the category dispersed (Table 17).

TABLE – 17

Showing settlement pattern of tribal and non tribal villages of Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

Sl. No.	District	Community	Settlement pattern				
			Agglomerated	Dispersed	Isolated	Others	Total
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	4	6	-	-	10
		Non-Tribal	5	5	-	-	10
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	4	5	1	-	10
		Non-Tribal	1	9	-	-	10

As regards transport facility both tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts are having reasonably fair facilities. In Marigaon, out of 10 tribal villages under survey, 3 villages have bus stoppage within the village, 6 villages have bus stoppage within 1-2 kms. And only one village lies at a distance of 2-5 kms from the bus stoppage. Similarly in Nagaon district 5 tribal villages have bus stoppage within the village, 4 villages have such facility within 1-2 kms and only one tribal village has bus stoppage at a distance of 2-5 kms. Five non tribal villages of Morigaon have bus stoppage within the village, 4 villages within 1-2 kms. and only one village has bus stoppage within 2-5 kms while 4 villages on non tribal belonging to non tribal have bus stoppage within the village, 5 villages within 1-2 kms and 1 village has bus stoppage within 2-5 kms.

Railway facilities for the tribal villages are not within easy reach as the Morigaon railway station lies within 5-15 kms from the surveyed villages. For Nagaon tribal villages railway station is not far from the villages. 2 villages get railway facilities within 1-2 kms and another 2 villages have the railway station within 2-5 kms. Rest 6 villages, however have to go 5 kms. and above to reach the railway station. The railway station is not nearer for the non tribal villages of Morigaon. Majority of the villagers have to walk 5 kms. and above to get the facility of railways. In contrast the non tribal villages get such facilities nearer to the villages. One village has the station at a distance of 1-2 kms, 3 villages 2-5 kms., 2 villages 5-10 kms, 3 villages 10-15 kms and one village has the station at a distance of 15 kms and above.

The Morigaon tribal villages have comparatively easy access to the Block Development office as 2 villages have the office located within the villages. Another 2 villages have the block office at a distance of 1-2 kms. Four villages have the block office at a distance of 2-5 kms and only 2 villages get the facilities of block office by walking the distance of 10-15 kms. The Nagaon tribal villages have more or less similar distances to the Block Development Office. Here only one village has the block office within the village. In case of Morigaon non tribals 50% of the surveyed villages lie at a distance of 5-10 kms. From the block headquarters while one village has the block office within the village. Another one village has the office within 1-2 km, 2 villages have the office within 2-5 kms and one village have the same at a distance of 10-15 km. In Nagaon majority of the surveyed non tribal villages i.e. 7

Nos. have the block office at a distance of 5-10 kms while 2 villages have the same at a distance of 1-2 km and one village has the block office within 2-5 kms.

The S.D.O. (Civil) Office is not far from the tribal villages of Morigaon. One village has the office at a distance of 2-5 kms, 3 villages 5-10 kms, 3 villages 10-15 kms and 3 villages above 15 kms. The tribal villages of Nagaon are not nearer from the S D O Office as the same is situated beyond 5 kms for 1 village, while the rest 9 villages have the office beyond 10 kms and above. In case of non tribal of Morigaon the S D O Office is situated at a distance of 2-5 kms for 2 villages and for the rest 8 villages have the office located at a distance of 15 kms and above. Same is the situation for the non tribals of Nagaon. Details are shown in the table No. 18 below.

TABLE – 18

District-wise Transport and Communication facilities in the Surveyed Villages.

Sl. No.	District	Village	Facilities	Distance (In Km.)					
				Within the village	1-2	2-5	5-10	10-15	More than 15 km.
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	Bus stoppage	3	6	1	-	-	-
			Railway station	-	-	-	2	4	4
			Block Office	2	2	4	-	2	-
			Sub-Divisional H.Q.	-	-	1	3	3	3
		Non - Tribal	Bus stoppage	5	5	-	-	-	-
			Railway station	-	-	-	2	2	6
			Block Office	1	1	2	5	1	-
			Sub-Divisional H.Q.	-	-	2	-	1	7
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	Bus stoppage	5	4	1	-	-	-
			Railway station	-	2	2	3	3	-
			Block Office	1	-	5	3	1	-
			Sub-Divisional H.Q.	-	-	-	1	4	5
		Non Tribal	Bus stoppage	4	5	1	-	-	-
			Railway station	-	1	3	2	3	1
			Block Office	-	2	1	7	-	-
			Sub-Divisional H.Q.	-	-	2	-	6	2

Today the nation is heading towards implementation of the 10th Five Year Plan, but ironically the tribal villagers of Morigaon and Nagaon are crying hoarse for all weather motorable roads as 4 villages under survey of each district still use foot tracks. One tribal village in each district has only katcha fair weather motorable roads. Four tribal villages of Morigaon district and 5 tribal villages of Nagaon district get the benefits of gravelled road throughout the year. One tribal village of Morigaon still depends upon the boat to come out of the village during summer season.

The condition of roads in the non tribal villages of both the districts too cannot be called satisfactory in as much as 3 villages of Morigaon and 4 villages of Nagaon use foot tracks, 2 villages each of Morigaon and Nagaon have only katcha fair weather roads. The number of gravelled roads of Morigaon and Nagaon are 3 and 4 respectively. Two non tribal villages of Morigaon depend upon katcha all weather motorable road. Details are shown in the following table.

TABLE -19

Showing District-wise Condition of the Road Linking the Villages under Survey in Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl. No.	District	Villages	Category	
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	Foot tracks	4
			Katcha Fair Weather Motorable roads	1
			Katcha All Weater Motorable Roads	-
			Gravelled Road	4
			Others (Boat)	1
		Non-Tribal	Foot tracks	3
			Katcha Fair Weather Motorable roads	2
			Katcha All Weater Motorable Roads	2
			Gravelled Road	3
			Others (Boat)	-
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	Foot tracks	4
			Katcha Fair Weather Motorable roads	1
			Katcha All Weater Motorable Roads	-
			Gravelled Road	5
			Others (Boat)	-
		Non-Tribal	Foot tracks	4
			Katcha Fair Weather Motorable roads	2
			Katcha All Weater Motorable Roads	-
			Gravelled Road	4
			Others (Boat)	-

It is seen that all the surveyed tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts use only the motor bus as mode of conveyance. It may be mentioned that buses in these areas are always over crowded and the commuters have great difficulty in embarking in these buses. One considers himself lucky if he manages a standing space inside the bus.

As regards mass communication and modern equipment facilities both tribal and non tribal villages of the two districts are not lagging behind. Television

and telephone which were proud possession of urban elite till a decade past, are now available in these far flung tribal and non tribal villages. A few decades back newspaper was a rare item. Today there are 125 Nos. of television sets, 275 Nos. of radio sets, 60 No. of newspapers in the surveyed tribal villages of Morigaon district. The figures from Nagaon tribal villages are 208 Nos. of television sets, 368 Nos. of transistor radios and 53 Nos. of newspapers. The tribal villages of Morigaon have 5 telephone connections whereas the tribal villages of Nagaon possess 9 telephone connections. There are community centres and libraries in the tribal villages of both the districts. The non tribal villages of both the districts possess more of modern paraphernalia. There are 355 television sets, 429 transistor sets, 207 newspapers, 5 libraries and one community centre in the 10 Nos. of non tribal villages of Morigaon. The non tribal villages of Nagaon have lesser number of television sets (283 Nos.), radio sets (360 Nos.) and newspapers (160 Nos.). There are 5 libraries, one community centre and 79 telephone connections in the non tribal villages of Morigaon while the figures for Nagaon non tribal villages are 7 libraries, 3 community centres and 70 telephone connections. Thus there is a tangible gap between tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts so far availability of modern amenities are concerned. But compare with the facilities which were existing till two decades past, the improvement cannot be under stressed Table No. 20 below shows the modern facilities available in the surveyed villages of Morigaon and Nagaon .

TABLE – 20

Showing District-wise Mass Communication Facilities in the Surveyed Villages in Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl.No.	District	Villages	Category	Approx Nos.
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	Television	125
			Radio	275
			Newspaper	60
			Library	2
			Community Centre	2
			Telephone Facility	5
		Non Tribal	Television	355
			Radio	429
			Newspaper	207
			Library	5
			Community Centre	1
			Telephone Facility	79
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	Television	208
			Radio	368
			Newspaper	53
			Library	6
			Community Centre	1
			Telephone Facility	9
		Non Tribal	Television	283
			Radio	360
			Newspaper	160
			Library	7
			Community Centre	3
			Telephone Facility	70

As regards civic amenities like post and telegraph, medical sub centres, state dispensaries/hospitals, veterinary dispensaries, private doctors, the differences could be noticed in respect of tribal and non tribal villages of both the

districts, although the situation compared to the last two or three decades is fast improving due to development activities extended to the villages.

Among the tribal villages of Morigaon, 4 Nos. of post offices are found inside the villages. One tribal village has post office at a distance of 1-2 kms and 5 villages have the same within 2-5 kms. In case of non tribal villages 4 villages have post office within a distance of 1-2 kms and only one village has the same within 2-5 kms. Telegraph offices are located at a far distance from the tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts. On an average the telegraph offices are located beyond 10 kms. Regarding location of medical sub centres the tribal villages of Morigaon are better placed as 6 nos. out of 10 Nos. of surveyed villages have medical sub centres within the village while only 5 non tribal villages have such facility within the village. Maximum distance to the medical sub centres for rest of the tribal and non tribal villages is 5 kms. Similarly 3 Nos. of tribal villages of the district have state dispensaries within the villages where as only one non tribal village has such facility within the village. Majority of the villages belonging to both tribal and non tribal have the dispensary within the range of 1-5 kms. The veterinary dispensaries of most of the tribal and non tribal villages of Morigaon district are located within 0-5 kms while 4 tribal and 2 non tribal villages possess dispensaries within the village. Private medical practitioners are also available in both tribal and non tribal villages. One village each of tribal and non tribal possess private doctors within the village. Two tribal villages have private doctors within 2-5 kms and another two tribal villages have such facilities within 5-10 kms. Rest of the villages have private doctors beyond 10-15 kms. In case of non tribal, 4 villages have private doctors within 1-2 kms and 3 villages have such facility at a distance of 10-15 kms or above.

As regards civic amenities like post and telegraph office, medical sub centres, state dispensaries, etc in Nagaon district it is found that 2 nos. of tribal villages and 3 nos. of non tribal villages have post offices located within the villages. No telegraph office is located within any of the villages. Six tribal villages of Nagaon have post office within 1-2 kms whereas 5 non tribal villages have post office within 1-2 kms. The position in respect of location of telegraph office is more or less similar in both tribal and non tribal villages as 2 villages each for tribal and non tribal have telegraph office at a distance of 1-2 kms. In respect of medical sub centres 5 villages belonging to both tribal and non tribal have such centres within the villages. For rest

of tribal and non tribal villages the sub centres are located within easy reach of the villagers. Four tribal villages of Nagaon have medical sub centres within a distance of 1-2 kms and one tribal village has the same at a distance of 2-5 kms. Five non tribal villages have such centres within 1-2 kms. The nearness of medical centre helps the villagers with the much needed medical facilities. Medical dispensaries are also located conveniently for most of the tribal and non tribal villages of Nagaon district. Two state dispensaries are located within the villages of two tribal communities and the dispensaries are providing necessary facilities to the nearby tribal villages also. In case of non tribal too 3 state dispensaries are found inside the non tribal villages.

Two or three decades ago the tribal and rural people could not think of possessing tribal doctors within the villages. Today it becomes a reality and no longer the people solely depend upon the traditional healing practices. However, the serious cases have to be shifted to the hospitals which are located far away. The study revealed that two tribal villages of the district have tribal doctors within the village while only one non tribal village has such doctors in the village. One tribal village gets private doctor's facility within a distance of 1-2 kms. Another 5 villages have such facility at a distance of 2-5 kms. Two tribal villages, however, have to go a long distance 10-15 kms, to consult a private medical practitioner. The position is not much different in the non tribal villages as private doctors are available for two villages within 1-2 kms, 5 villages within 2-5 kms and rest 2 villages within 5-15 kms. The following table (Table-21) shows the position of civic amenities in the surveyed villages of Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

TABLE - 21

**Showing District-wise Civic Facilities in the Surveyed Villages of
Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.**

Sl. No	District	Village	Category	Distance in Km.					
				Within the village	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	More than 15
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	Post Office	4	1	5	-	-	-
			Telegraph Office	-	-	2	1	2	5
			Medical Sub Centres	6	1	3	-	-	-
			State Dispensary	3	2	4	1	-	-
			Hospital	-	-	2	1	1	6
			Veterinary Dispensary	4	-	6	-	-	-
			Private Doctor	1	-	2	2	2	3
		Non tribal	Post Office	5	4	1	-	-	-
			Telegraph Office	-	-	2	3	1	4
			Medical Sub Centres	5	3	2	-	-	-
			State Dispensary	1	3	4	-	2	-
			Hospital	-	-	1	3	4	2
			Veterinary Dispensary	2	3	5	-	-	-
			Private Doctor	1	4	-	2	1	2
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	Post Office	2	6	2	-	-	-
			Telegraph Office	-	2	2	3	2	1
			Medical Sub Centres	5	4	1	-	-	-
			State Dispensary	2	2	6	-	-	-
			Hospital	-	-	-	2	4	4
			Veterinary Dispensary	2	2	5	1	-	-
			Private Doctor	2	1	5	-	2	-
		Non tribal	Post Office	3	5	2	-	-	-
			Telegraph Office	-	2	3	3	2	-
			Medical Sub Centres	5	5	-	-	-	-
			State Dispensary	3	5	2	-	-	-
			Hospital	-	-	2	1	4	3
			Veterinary Dispensary	-	6	3	1	-	-
			Private Doctor	1	2	5	1	1	-

Governmental efforts to improve the hitherto pitiable educational standard of tribal and rural areas under various educational schemes have its impact at least in establishment of chain of educational institutions in rural and tribal areas particularly in the pre-primary and primary standard. The present survey indicated that there are 10 nos. pre-primary/Anganwadi schools in the 10 nos. of surveyed tribal villages and 11 nos. pre-primary schools in the non tribal villages of Morigaon district located within the villages. In Nagaon district also there are 16 nos. of pre-primary schools in the tribal villages under study located within the villages and 11 nos. of such schools in the non tribal villages located within the villages. Similarly all the surveyed villages both tribal and non tribal of the two districts have L.P. schools located within the villages. Except 2 L.P. Schools in the tribal areas of Nagaon and one L.P. School in tribal areas of Morigaon, all the schools are run by the Government. Most of the M.E. schools of the surveyed villages belonging to tribal and non tribal of Morigaon and Nagaon are located within the villages. In Morigaon district out of 10 tribal villages, 4 nos. of villages have M.E. schools within the villages. Five M.E. schools are at a distance of 1-2 kms from the tribal villages. However the nearest M.E. school for one tribal village is located at a distance of 2-5 kms. Similarly out of 10 nos of M.E. schools in the non tribal villages of Morigaon, 7 nos. are located within the villages, 2 nos. are within 1-2 kms and one school within 2-5 kms. In the tribal villages of Nagaon out of 10 M.E. schools, 7 nos. are located within the villages and 3 schools are within 1-2 kms. Three schools are government and 7 nos. are venture. For non tribal villages of Nagaon there are 10 M.E. schools and out of this, 6 nos. are located within the villages, 3 nos. are at a distance of 1-2 kms and one M.E. school is situated at a distance of 2-5 kms. All these schools are government schools.

As regards H.E. schools, the both tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts have easy access to the High Schools. Four H.E. schools are located within the non tribal villages of Nagaon while 5 H.E. schools are found within the tribal villages of Nagaon district. In Morigaon 4 H.E. schools are found within the tribal villages and 6 H.E. schools are located within the surveyed non tribal villages. In comparison with pre-Independence period this development is noteworthy. Except one non tribal village of Nagaon, the students of rest of the tribal and non tribal

villages of both the districts are not required to walk more than 5 kms. The lone non tribal village of Nagaon has the H.E. school at a distance of 5-10 kms.

Unlike the situation that prevailing two or three decades back when rural students aspiring for higher education had to stay in distant district or sub divisional headquarters by carrying monthly rations, the situation today has undergone metamorphic changes so far college education is concerned. Now colleges are established within reasonable distances from the tribal and rural villages catering to the needs of the poorer sections. The study shows that except one college of Marigaon tribal village which is located within the village itself rest of the colleges both tribal and non tribal do not have colleges within the villages. But cottages are situated at reasonably walkable distance. For instance 2 non tribal villages are located at a distance of 1-2 kms and other 2 villages within 2-5 km . For 5 nos. of tribal villages colleges are situated at a distance of 2-5 kma Another four tribal villages have colleges at various distances ranging from 5-10 km, 10-15 km and above 15 km. In Nagaon District 2 nos. of non tribal villages have colleges within 1-2 kms and three villages have such facility at a distance of 2-5 kms. For the tribal villages of Nagaon most of the villages (6 nos.) have colleges at a distance of 2-5 kms. Details of educational facilities are shown in Table 22.

Table – 22

Showing District wise Educational Facilities in the Surveyed Villages of
Marigaon and Nagaon Districts

Sl No	District	Village	Category	Distance in k.M						Type	
				Within the village	0 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	More than 15	Govt.	Venture
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	Pre primary/ Anganwadi	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
			L.P.School	10	-	-	-	-	-	9	1
			M.E.School	4	5	1	-	-	-	9	1
			H.E. School	4	2	4	-	-	-	9	1
			College	1	-	5	1	1	2	2	8
			Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Non Tribal	Pre primary Anganwadi	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
			L.P.School	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
			M.E.School	7	2	1	-	-	-	5	5
			H.E. School	6	2	2	-	-	-	7	3
			College	-	2	2	3	1	2	2	8
			Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Nagaon	Tribal	Pre primary Anganwadi	16	-	-	-	-	-	16	-
			L.P.School	9	1	-	-	-	-	8	2
			M.E.School	7	3	-	-	-	-	3	7
			H.E. School	5	3	2	-	-	-	8	2
			College	-	-	6	1	3	-	6	4
			Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Non Tribal	Pre primary Anganwadi	11	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
			L.P.School	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
			M.E.School	6	3	1	-	-	-	10	-
			H.E. School	4	3	2	1	-	-	8	2
			College	-	2	3	3	2	-	2	7
			Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Unlike their forefathers, the present generation of the villagers of both tribal and non tribal villages of Nagaon and Marigaon districts are not apathetic towards education of their children. Awareness created by media has been noticed. Governmental efforts towards eradication of illiteracy also has borne fruit to a larger extent. Children are provided educational facilities by the parents and the parents too are realising the necessity of education. Besides in these days of cut throat competition, no progress could be made unless the children are educated. The tribal people who were not eager to educate their children two or three decades earlier, are no longer disinterested to send their wards to the school. Thus today we find a very encouraging picture if we compare the status of enrolment in pre primary or L.P. schools in tribal villages. In Nagaon non tribal villages 440 students are enrolled in pre primary school whereas the tribal villages under study showed an enrolment of 642 in the pre primary stage. In Marigaon district the enrolment in pre primary of tribal villages is somewhat less 400 against 440 enrolment in the non tribal villages. Differences of enrolment in L.P., M.E. H.E. and colleges between tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts are noticed. Against 871 nos. of students in L.P. schools of non tribal villages of Nagaon district there are 776 students in the L.P. schools in the tribal villages of Nagaon district. The contrast is more vivid in Marigaon district. Against 1313 enrolment in L.P. schools of non tribal villages, the tribal villages have an L.P. school enrolment of 872. The enrolment variation in respect of M.E. school of non tribal and tribal villages of Nagaon has also drawn our attention. Against 556 students in non tribal villages there are 314 students in tribal villages. The difference is glaring in Marigaon. While non tribal villages have enrolment of 450 students in M.E. standard, the tribal villages have 290 students. Again there are more students in the H.E. schools of non tribal villages of Marigaon district i.e. 634 whereas tribal villages have only 328 H.E. students. In Nagaon the difference is not much. Against 383 students of non tribal villages we find 351 H.E. students in tribal villages. Number of students in colleges of non tribal villages (155) of Nagaon is much higher than that of the tribal villages of the district (84). But in Marigaon there is only marginal variation of college students of non tribal (114) and tribal villages (112).

It is interesting to note that number of girl students in pre primary classes in all the tribal and non tribal villages is more than the boy student indicating

much awareness among the people towards the necessity of female education. Girl students in L.P. school of tribal villages of both Nagaon and Marigaon districts are more than boy students in contrast to non tribal villages (Table 20).

As regards other studies like medical, technical agriculture, veterinary, others (including carpentry , embroidery , cutting, tailoring etc.) the non tribal villages in both the districts possesses more persons than the tribal villages. In Nagaon district there are 28 males and 12 females, 5 among non tribal in these professions and trades against 20 males and 4 females among tribal. Marigaon district is much behind in this respect. There are only 13 males among non tribal and six males among the tribal villagers. Female students belonging to tribal and non tribal are conspicuous by absence in Marigaon district in the matter of technical courses. There are no medical students, both male and female among the tribal of Marigaon district. Likewise no tribal students either male and female is found in the courses like agriculture, veterinary and others in Marigaon districts. But against six male students of non tribal villages in technical course in Marigaon, there are three male students from the tribal villages in such course. In the district female students are not found in any branch of the technical courses either from tribal or non tribal villages whereas in Nagaon district female students are coming out to undertake technical courses in both tribal and non tribal villages. In the tribal villages of Nagaon there are 4 male students in technical studies viz. 1 in agriculture and 3 in others whereas there are female students in technical courses viz. one in medical, two in technical (diploma), one in technical degree and eight in others. It is seen tribal people, both male and female are not apathetic towards female education even in medical and technical courses (Table 23).

Table – 23

**Showing District wise and Village wise figures of Students undergoing
Studies in Various Categories of Educational Institution**

SI No	District	Village	Category	Nos. of students		
				Boys	Girls	Total
1	Morigaon	Tribal	Pre Primary/Anganwadi	190	210	400
			L P School	427	445	872
			M E School	140	150	290
			H E School	173	155	328
			College	59	53	112
		Non Tribal	Pre Primary/Anganwadi	209	231	440
			L P School	679	634	1313
			M E School	263	187	450
			H E School	332	302	634
			College	63	51	114
2	Nagaon	Tribal	Pre Primary/Anganwadi	306	336	642
			L P School	433	343	776
			M E School	155	159	314
			H E School	192	159	351
			College	43	41	84
		Non Tribal	Pre Primary/Anganwadi	209	231	440
			L P School	444	427	871
			M E School	282	274	556
			H E School	181	202	383
			College	74	81	155

Table – 24

**Showing District wise and Community wise number of Students undertaking
Technical , Medical and Other Studies of Marigaon and Nagaon Districts.**

SI No	Category	Morigaon District				Nagaon District			
		Tribal		Non tribal		Tribal		Non tribal	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Medical	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	1
2	Technical (Diploma)	3	0	6	0	8	0	7	2
3	Technical (Degree)	3	0	1	0	3	0	8	1
4	Agriculture	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
5	Veterinary	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
6	Others	0	0	2	0	6	3	6	8
Total:		6	0	13	0	20	4	28	12

Dropout.

Drop out from educational institutions is a chronic problem in rural areas more particularly in tribal villages. There are multifarious socio economic factors leading to the drop out syndrome. Main causes are the age old economic backwardness due to insufficiency of agricultural lands, indebtedness lack of awareness among parents/guardians towards female education, lack of educational environment, lack of minimum facilities of study at home, inhospitable physical environment, multifarious socio religious festive occasions, lack of motivation by local people, lack of female teachers, lack of facilities at school etc. etc. These factors are doing havoc specially in tribal areas which are remaining cut off from the main centres during rainy season and condition of most of the school buildings is far from satisfactory. The figures of drop out shown in Table 22 indicate the seriousness of the problems in spite of the implementation of so many well meaning schemes for upliftment of education among the masses. During 2000-2001 the figures indicate that in both the districts the drop out from L. P. to college standard is more among the tribal than non tribal. In the year under reference 14 boys and 16 girls of Nagaon non tribal villages left school half way against 32 boys and 33 girls droppers in L.P. standard from the tribal villages of that district. Similarly there are 10 boy and 15 girl L. P. droppers in non tribal villagers of Marigaon against 36 boy and 27 droppers from tribal villages. In H.E. standard there are 14 boy and 18 girl droppers from non tribal villages of Nagaon district against 46 boy and 33 girl drop outs from tribal villages of that district. It is interesting to note that drop out figures in H.E. standard in Marigaon tribal villages are less than non tribal villages. In the district there are 23 boy and 31 H.E. drop outs in the non tribal villages against 24 boy and 24 girl dropouts. Like wise in college standard the figures of drop out are less in the tribal villages of Marigaon. Against 16 boy and 14 girl drop outs of non tribal villages, there are 14 boy and 11 girl drop outs in college standard. Details are shown in Table 25.

Table – 25.

**Showing Dropout Position from Individual Institutions in the Villages
under Study in Morigaon and Nogaon Districts during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and
2000-2001.**

Sl. No	District	Level	Tribal						Non-Tribal					
			1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	Morigaon	L.P.	43	42	44	44	36	27	28	28	18	23	10	15
		M.E.	31	21	46	43	26	19	37	34	29	31	19	22
		H.E.	23	15	33	33	24	24	40	38	31	31	23	31
		College	22	16	24	16	14	11	20	14	18	17	16	14
2	Nagaon	L.P.	43	46	37	41	32	33	37	37	23	23	14	16
		M.E.	51	61	51	52	35	45	40	27	29	17	18	18
		H.E.	47	48	51	39	46	33	26	24	30	27	14	18
		College	13	08	17	14	17	10	30	21	35	28	16	23

Drinking Water

Till recent years there was not much awareness about the utility of safe drinking water among tribal and rural poor. Very often the people were suffering from various water borne diseases. Due to various measures adopted by the concerned government departments much progress has been made in respect of creating awareness among the people in respect of using drinking water. Till two decades past the villagers could not think of getting pipe water in their villages but today the dream came true. Except four villages of Nagaon district none other villages under survey are found to be using pond water. Besides most of the households are possessing ring wells and some are having tube wells. Government have also provided wells in the villages. Thus there are 15 nos. of government and 73 numbers of private wells are found in the non tribal villages of Nagaon against 37 nos. of government and 214 private wells in the tribal villages of the district. There are 55 nos. of government and 641 private tube wells in the non tribal villages against 32 nos. of government and 732

nos. of tube wells in the tribal villages of Nagaon district. Pipe water facilities are yet to be extended to all the villagers. This facility is available in 47 non tribal and 57 tribal families of the district of Nagaon.

Marigaon district is also not lagging behind in respect of awareness towards usefulness of probable drinking water. There are 23 nos. government and 136 private wells in the non tribal villages against 16 nos. of government and 64 nos. private wells in the tribal villages. Private and government tube wells are also installed in the villages. There are 43 nos. government and 1729 private tube wells in the non tribal villages of Marigaon against 45 government and 768 nos. of private tube wells in the tribal villages. Twelve non tribal and 30 tribal families of the district are enjoying pipe water facilities. Details are shown in the Table No. 26 below.

Table No. – 26

Showing Drinking Water Sources in the Villages under Survey of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl. No	Districts	Source	Tribal		Non-Tribal	
			Government	Private	Government	Private
1.	Morigaon	Pond	-	-	-	-
		Well	16	64	23	136
		River	-	-	-	-
		Tube Well	45	768	43	1729
		Reservoir	-	-	-	-
		Water Supply	30	-	12	-
2.	Nagaon	Pond	-	4	-	-
		Well	37	214	15	73
		River	-	-	-	-
		Tube Well	32	732	55	641
		Reservoir	-	-	-	-
		Water Supply	57	-	47	-

Household Survey

In order to have a thorough picture of the comparative development of tribal and non tribal of Marigaon and Nagaon district, a detailed household survey covering 150 households each of tribal and non tribal of the surveyed villages of both the districts was conducted. It was found that the households, both tribal and non tribal of Nagaon have possessed less total lands under cultivation than the tribal and non tribal households of Marigaon district. While the tribal households of Nagaon possessed 811 bighas of land, the tribal counterparts of Marigaon possessed 1025½ bighas of land. The non tribal of Nagaon also possessed lesser cultivable lands than the non tribal of Marigaon. The former possessed 913 bighas 4½ kathas of land the non tribal of Marigaon possessed 947 bighas 4½ kathas of land. Similarly the total lands under wet paddy cultivation of the tribal people of Nagaon is 747 bighas 2½ kathas where as the land for the tribal people of Marigaon under wet paddy was 947 bighas and 1½ kathas. On the other hand non tribal households of Nagaon possessed more area, 866 bighas 2 kathas, under wet paddy cultivation while the non tribal of Marigaon possessed 844 bighas ½ kathas of wet paddy lands.

Marogaon is famous for beels and marshy lands suitable for development of fisheries while Nagaon has lesser beels and marshy lands, consequently there are lesser fisheries. It is found that the total land under fishery in Marigaon is 19 bighas 1 katha against Nagaon 7 bighas 3½ kathas. Tribal households of Marigaon posses bigger areas i.e. 11 bighas ½ kathas against 3 bighas 4 kathas of fisheries of Nagaon tribal households. The non tribal households of Marigaon possess bigger areas 8 bighas ½ kathas against the areas of non tribal households of Nagaon which is 3 bighas 4½ kathas. Fallow lands are not found in the tribal house of Marigaon while the tribal households of Nagaon possess 3 bighas of such land. The non tribal households of Marigaon possess 17 bighas of fallow land while the non tribal of Nagaon have 16 bighas 4½ kathas under fallow land. Area under forest among tribal of Marigaon is 11½ bighas whereas the area under forest among tribal of Nagaon is 16 bighas 3½ kathas. Among non tribal of Marigaon the area under forest is 25 bighas and the area under forest among the non tribal of Nagaon is 21 bighas ½ katha. None of the tribal and non tribal households in both the district possess lands under mulberry cultivation. Table 27 shows the position of land holdings among the tribal and non tribal of Marigaon and Nagaon districts.

Table – 27

Showing Household Lands, Lands under Fishery, Forest etc. of the Surveyed Villages of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No	Category	Morigaon			Nagaon		
		Nos of Household lands	Tribal	Non-Tribal	Nos. of Household lands	Tribal	Non-Tribal
i.	Total Land Possessed	2360b. 4katha	1200b. 2katha	1157b. 2katha	2112b. 3½katha	985b. 4½katha	1126b. 4katha
ii.	Total area of Land under Cultivation	1973b. 2katha	1025½b.	947b. 4½katha	1724b. 4½katha	811b.	913b. 4½katha
	a) Wet Paddy Land	1791b. 4katha	947b. 1½katha	844½b.	1613b. 4½katha	747½b.	866b. 2katha
	b) High Land/ Jhum Land	181b. 1katha	78b. 1katha	103b.	111b.	63½b.	47½b.
	c) Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
iii.	Area under Home-Stead	314b. 3½katha	155b. 1½katha	159b. 2katha	322b. 2katha	151b. 2katha	171b.
iv.	Fishery Area	19b. 1katha	11b. ½katha	8b. ½katha	7b. 3½katha	3b. 4katha	3b. 4½katha
v.	Fallow Land	17b.	-	17b.	19b. 4½katha	3b.	16b. 4½katha
vi.	Area under Forest	36½b.	11½b.	25b.	37b. 4katha	16b. 3½katha	21b. ½katha
vi i.	Area under Som / Mulberry/ Eri Plantation	-	-	-	-	-	-
vi ii	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-

The villagers both tribal and non tribal of the two districts are earning their livelihood mainly through agricultural activities throughout the year. While the men folk remains busy in out door agriculture and allied activities the women folk also remain busy in maintaining the household activities like cooking, bringing water, rearing poultry, weaving cloths, collecting fire wood. The children above 10 years also contribute towards the family income. The aged grand father and grand mother also help with their mite by way of scaring away the birds from the paddy kept in the courtyard for drying in the sun rays, looking after the young children, doing cane and bamboo works and other petty jobs which do not require physical exercises. Thus in the rural setting the line among earners, earning dependents and non earning dependents is their. But for our propose we are considering those persons as earners who earn cash through employment as well as who are directly involved in the animal requirement of food and other expenses. The womenfolk who weave the

clothes, rear the poultry and men folk who are casual earners depending upon the head of the household and help partially agricultural activities may be considered as earning dependents. Non earning dependents are those children of 7 years and aged persons above sixty years of age. In the present study we have seen that earners are slightly in the higher side among the tribal of both the districts than the non earners. Earning dependents are more among tribal of Marigaon and Nagaon than non tribal. Same is the case for non earning dependents. The figures are shown in the Table No. 28 below.

Table – 28

Showing Earners, Earning Dependents, Non-Earning Dependents in the Surveyed Village of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Category	Morigaon			Nagaon		
	Tribal	Non-Tribal	Total	Tribal	Non-Tribal	Total
a. Earners	234	229	463	203	201	404
b. Earning Dependents	199	189	388	211	187	398
c. Non-Earning Dependents	513	436	349	462	397	859

Of late unemployment is major problem not only the rural areas but also throughout Assam. There are various Census of rural unemployment. Agricultural lands do not commensurate with the rising population of the families. There are surplus hands in almost each family. Due to expansion of educational facilities the educated youths are searching after white collar jobs and agricultural activities are left to the aged elderly persons. But employment avenues are drastically shortened self engagement in small and cottage industry is the only solution and government also puts thrust on self help income generating schemes, through the DRDA, JRY etc. There are more educated unemployed youths among tribal (31) and non tribal (83) of Marigaon than the tribal (17) and non tribal (69) of Nagaon district. Educated unemployment is more among females of tribal people than non tribal women of Marigaon district. In Nagaon district the figures of educated unemployed persons among males are high among males of tribal (9 males against 8 females) and non tribal (42 males against 27 females).

As regards uneducated unemployed youth who are considered extra for the limited agricultural activities of the families and who are school drop outs, the problem is acute among the tribal families of both Marigaon and Nagaon districts.

There are 122 unemployed tribal youths in Marigaon and 58 such tribal youths in Nagaon against 78 nos. non tribal youths in Marigaon and 34 non tribal in Nagaon. Female tribal uneducated youths are more 68 against 54 male in Marigaon . In Nagaon district the figures for males and females tribal uneducated youths are equal i.e. 29. Among non tribal the figures vary in both the districts. While there is more tribal unemployed female youths in Nagaon (18 against 16 males, the figures for Marigaon non tribal youths are 30 females against 48 males). The Table 29 below shows the details position of educated and uneducated employed youths of tribal and non tribal of Marigaon and Nagaon district.

Table No – 29

Showing Unemployment Position in the Surveyed Villages under Study in Morigaon and Nagoan Districts.

Sl. No	Category		Morigaon						Nagaon					
			Tribal			Non-Tribal			Tribal			Non-Tribal		
			M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
(i)	Educational Unemployed	Number	15	16	31	44	39	83	9	8	17	42	27	69
		Percentage	10.00%	10.66%	20.66%	29.33%	26.00%	55.20%	06.00%	05.33%	11.33%	28.00%	18.00%	46.00%
ii.	Uneducated unemployed	Number	54	68	122	48	30	78	29	29	58	16	18	34
		Percentage	36.00%	45.33%	81.00%	32.00%	20.00%	52.00%	19.33%	19.33%	38.66%	10.66%	12.00%	22.66%

Paddy is the principal crop of the tribal as well as non tribal people of both the districts. As many as 84.6% tribal people of Marigaon and 78.6% tribal people of Nagaon district resort to paddy cultivation as principal source of living. The non tribal of Marigaon (82.6%) and Nagaon (79.3%) rural areas too resort to paddy cultivation as the main source of living. Next to paddy horticulture is practised as a substitute principal crop. The tribal households of Marigaon grow more (62.6%) of this crop than their Nagaon counterparts (46.6%). The non tribal growers of horticultural crop are much less in both the districts. About 50% of the households of Marigaon and Nagaon produce horticultural crops. Mustard seeds are produced as commercial crops by both tribal and non tribal people of Marigaon as 22.6% tribal households and 22% non tribal households grow this crops as third important crop.

The tribal people of Nagaon grow more mustard (27.3% households) than the non tribal households (10.6%) but jute occupies the third place of importance among the tribal and non tribal as 29.3% tribal households and 20% non tribal households produce jute mainly for market. The tribal and non tribal households of Marigaon grow jute as fourth important crop. Conspicuously sericulture remained uncultivated among tribal and non tribal of both the districts. Rabi crop has good potential for commercial purposes but only 6 tribal households of Marigaon and 2 non tribal households of Nagaon are engaged in Rabi crop. The villagers opinion in that Rabi crops are not grown in their lands which are elevated. Similarly production of pulses, sugarcane is minimal in the households with the sole exception of 4 tribal households of Marigaon and one household of Nagaon. Table 30 shows the districtwise and communitywise principal crops grown during 2000-2001 in the surveyed villages.

Table No – 30.

Showing District wise and Community wise Principal Crops Grown during 2000-2001 of the Surveyed Households of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No	Category	Morigaon		Nagaon	
		Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households	Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households
1.	Paddy	127 (84.60%)	124 (82.60%)	118 (78.60%)	119 (79.37%)
2.	Pulses	4 (02.60%)	-	-	1 (00.60%)
3.	Mustard	34 (22.60%)	33 (22.00%)	41 (27.30%)	16 (10.60%)
4.	Rabi Corps	6 (04.00%)	-	-	2 (01.30%)
5.	Horticulture	70 (46.60%)	77 (51.30%)	94 (62.60%)	79 (52.60%)
6.	Sericulture	-	-	-	-
7.	Jute	27 (18.00%)	32 (21.30%)	44 (29.30%)	30 (20.00%)
8.	Others (Sugarcane)	1 (00.60%)	-	-	4 (02.60%)

Agricultural Labour

The economic condition of the villagers both tribal and non tribal could be gauged by the existence of the agricultural labourers among them. The post Independence period have brought certain changes to the villages of Marigaon and Nagaon and the prevailing self sufficient economy of the people underwent tangible lowly position due to socio-demographical and economic factors. Due to immigration of people from Bangladesh , beginning from the days of Sir Sadulla, the then Prime Minister of Assam in the pre independence period till the end of the 20th century., influx of people from government of Pakistan / Bangladesh continued and the result is

lack of sufficient agricultural lands for the indigenous tribal and non tribal people. Besides there are other factors of lessening agricultural lands. The age old indebtedness, expenditures incurred in multifarious socio-religious factors like marriage, death rites etc. are responsible of lesser lands in comparison with the growth of population. Thus it is seen that agricultural labourers are more among the tribal people of Marigaon, 38% followed by the non tribal households of Nagaon with 36% . The non tribal households of Marigaon, too, have sizeable agricultural labourers i.e. 35.3% . The percentage is less among the tribal households of Nagaon which is 25.3%. The Table No. 31 shows the detailed position of agricultural labourers in the two districts.

Table No – 31.

Showing District wise and Community wise Agricultural Labourers in the Surveyed Households of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No	Districts	Community	Nos. of Households	Total Nos. of Agricultural Labourers	Wages Received in	
					Cash	Kind
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	57 (38.00%)	3,877	1,90,300.00	-
		Non-Tribal	35 (35.30%)	3,344	1,59,200.00	-
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	38 (25.30%)	2,660	1,20,860.00	-
		Non-Tribal	54 (36.00%)	3,236	1,59,635.00	-

Irrigation

Irrigation facilities are provided to the villagers by various agencies like department of Agriculture, Government of Assam through the ITDPs, Tiwa Autonomous Council and NABARD's Agricultural Development Schemes etc. The needy villagers get 66% government subsidy on shallow tube well, diesel pump sets. Fifty tribal households, 33.3% and 44 non tribal households 29.3%, of Marigaon are getting the said irrigation facilities while a meagre 4% households belonging to tribal and non tribal households of Nagaon only are enjoying the benefits of irrigation schemes. Table No. 32 shows the number of households getting benefits from irrigation schemes.

TABLE – 32**Showing District-wise Irrigation facilities in the Surveyed Households**

Sl No	District	Community	Total No. household s engaged in irrigation	Type of energy				Source of Assistance	Amount of Assistance
				Electr icity	Diesel	Man power	Others		
1.	Morigaon	Tribal	50 (33.3%)	-	39	11	-	1) Deptt. of Agril., Govt. of Assam. 2) NABARD 3) ITDP. 4) ADC	66% Subsidy
		Non tribal	44 (29.3%)	-	40	4	-	-do-	
2.	Nagaon	Tribal	6 (4%)	-	5	1	-	-do-	
		Non tribal	6 (4%)	-	5	1	-	-do-	

Livestock:

Livestock are the prized items of the rural agricultural families as mechanised farming is yet to head way in a prominent scale. Only the lucky richer sections who form microscopic minority are in a position to go for mechanised firming as the same requires certain condition to be fulfilled which the majority of the villagers are not in a position to meet. Ploughing with bullocks is still resorted to by the villagers but ironically more than 50% of the households are not possessing the minimum requirement of one pair of bullocks .Thus among the tribal households 58.6% and among non tribal 56.6% households of Marigaon are not having one pair of bullocks. Similarly 62.6% tribal households and 52% non tribal households of Nagaon are in the same status. There are very few households possessing more than 2 bullocks. Out of 150 households each among tribal and non tribal households of both the districts only 11 nos. of tribal households (7.3%) and 5 non tribal households (3.3%) of Marigaon, 13 nos. of tribal households (8.6%), and 11 nos. (7.3%) of non tribal households of Nagaon possess more than 2 bullocks. Except one non tribal household of Nagaon none other households of both the districts under survey possess more than 6 nos. of bullocks. Cows are found in 62 tribal households and 70 non tribal households of Marigaon and 72 tribal households and 88 non tribal households

of Nagaon. Buffaloes are not reared by all. Only a limited households are found with buffaloes. The tribal households of Marigaon having buffaloes are only 6 nos. while among non tribal only 2 households are rearing buffaloes. There are only 3 tribal and one non tribal households of Nagaon with buffaloes. Poultry are found among tribal and non tribal households of both the districts which are required for households consumption as well as for market. Twenty eight tribal and 10 non tribal households rear poultry. The tribal households of Nagaon rear poultry in larger quantities. Thirty one households have 4-6 nos. each, 29 households have more than 6 nos. each, 15 households have 2-4 nos. each and 22 households have less than 2 poultry each. On the other hand nos. of tribal households rearing poultry in Nagaon are negligible. Only 3 households have highest number, 4-6 poultry each. Goats and ducks are found in very limited number of households of both the districts. Pigs are required not only for occasional household consumption but these are essential items in the socio religious occasions of the tribal people. Among the tribal families of Marigaon 42 nos. of households are having less than 2 pigs each and only one household possesses more than 6 nos. of pigs. There are only 5 tribal households in the district having pigs numbering 2-4. The non tribal families of Marigaon are not rearing pigs. The tribal households of Nagaon are rearing pigs. In 41 households there are less than 2 pigs in each family. Seven households have 2-4 nos. of pigs each, 2 households have 4-6 nos. of pigs each. Most of the non tribal families are not rearing pigs. There are only 4 nos. of non tribal households having less than 2 pigs each. Table 33 shows the district wise and community wise livestock position in the surveyed households.

Table – 33

Showing District wise and Community wise Livestock position in the surveyed households of Marigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No.	District	Community	No. of Livestock	Category																			
1.	MORIGAON	TRIBAL	Less then 2	Bullock	88	Cow	62	Hc-buffalo	03	She- Buffalo	02	Hc-Goat	06	She-Goat	31	Fowl	09	Pigeon	08	Duck	08	Pig	42
			2 - 4	11	10	00	00	00	03	10	11	02	08	05									
			4 - 6	03	00	00	01	00	02	13	01	05	00										
			More then 6	00	02	00	00	00	03	28	02	04	01										
		NON-TRIBAL	Less then 2	85	70	02	00	00	03	19	10	02	07	00									
			2 - 4	05	07	00	00	00	05	07	00	08	00										
			4 - 6	00	02	00	00	00	01	9	05	03	00										
			More then 6	00	00	00	00	00	01	07	03	03	00										
2.	NAGOAN	TRIBAL	Less then 2	94	72	02	00	01	01	06	15	00	05	07									
			2 - 4	13	02	00	00	00	00	00	31	00	02	02									
			4 - 6	01	01	00	00	00	00	00	02	05	01										
			More then 6	00	00	00	00	00	02	29	02	05	01										
		NON-TRIBAL	Less then 2	78	88	00	01	10	32	01	04	05	04										
			2 - 4	11	10	00	00	01	05	02	05	11	00										
			4 - 6	00	00	00	00	01	01	03	02	05	00										
			More then 6	01	01	00	00	01	00	02	05	04	00										

Weaving

The tribal and rural non tribal women in Assam and for that matter of the North Eastern states are expert weavers and their contribution to the family economy cannot be overlooked. Every household except the poorest of the poor who are not in a position to purchase the materials for loom, yarn and other paraphernalia of a loom and who have to earn their livelihood by serving as day labourers, possesses

a loom where clothes are woven not only for themselves but for other members of the family. It may be mentioned that the womenfolk remain busy in their looms after performing the daily chores like cooking, cleaning, going to fields to help menfolk, gathering firewood, preparing rice beer and what not. They also rear poultry and pigs and the earnings are spent mostly for purchasing yarn. The Endi chadars woven in their looms fetch good market value and these are considered as prize possessions by both tribal and non tribal Assamese people. The survey shows that there are as many as 91.37% weavers among the tribal of Marigaon district against 72.6% non tribal weavers. There are 86.6% tribal households possessing looms in Nagaon against 62.6% non tribal households of loom owners. Of late womenfolk have formed associations so that they can produce clothes to meet the changing tastes of the people. Thus there are two Weavers Associations viz. Jajori Weavers' Association and Molan-komora Weavers' Association. These associations are helping the weavers to collect yarn etc. at competitive prices and to sell the finished products at reasonable prices. The 'Kecha Pat' (raw silk) clothes have good market value and villagers are benefited much due to the community effort. Table 34 shows the numbers of families engaged in weaving in the tribal and non tribal households of Marigaon and Nagaon.

Table – 34

Showing Weaving in the Surveyed Villages of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No.	Districts	Community	Nos. of Family Engaged	Percentage (%)
1	Morigaon	Tribal	137	91.3 %
		Non-Tribal	109	72.6 %
2	Nagaon	Tribal	130	86.6%
		Non-Tribal	094	62.6 %

Health and Hygiene:

It is seen that health consciousness has developed among the tribal and non tribal of both the districts and no longer the people solely depend upon quacks, traditional medicine man and superstitious beliefs and practices. But much remains to be done to educate the rural tribal people about the necessity of consulting physicians as the people take the patients to the doctors when traditional method of healing is of no avail. It is however, a good indication that majority of the villagers have indicated Allopathic treatment as a first preference towards curing illness. Thus 66.6% tribal households and 70.6% non tribal households of Marigaon and 56% tribal and 62.6% non tribal households of Nagaon have shown preference towards allopathic medicine.

and 8.6% non tribal households of Nagaon are lucky to get pipe water. Ring wells are also used by limited number of households. Details are shown in the Table 36 below.

Table – 36

Showing District-wise and Community-wise most common source of Drinking Water in the Surveyed Households of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl. No.	Source	Morigaon		Nagaon	
		Nos. of households		Nos. of households	
		Tribal	Non Tribal	Tribal	Non Tribal
1.	Well	19 (12.66 %)	33 (22.00 %)	24 (16.00 %)	17 (11.33 %)
2.	Ponds	-	-	-	-
3.	Hand-Pipe	127 (84.66 %)	115 (76.66 %)	122 (81.33 %)	120 (80.00 %)
4.	Pipe-Water	4 (02.66 %)	2 (01.33 %)	4 (02.66 %)	13 (08.66 %)
5.	River/Stream	-	-	-	-
6.	Any Other (Specify)	-	-	-	-

The survey revealed that majority of the households both tribal and non tribal have their own arrangement of drinking water. Out of 150 households in each category more than 50% households viz. 104 households (66.3%) tribal and 124 households (82.6%) non tribal of Marigaon and 106 households (70.6%) tribal and 125 (83.3%) non tribal households have their own drinking water facilities. 20% tribal households and 6.6% non tribal households of Marigaon and 16.6% tribal and 10% non tribal households of Nagaon use water public sources. On an average 9% households belonging to tribal and non tribal in both the districts depend upon the water sources of their neighbours. Details are shown in Table 37 below.

Table – 37

Showing Districts-wise and Community-wise figures of Surveyed Households according to Status of Drinking Water of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No.	Districts	Status	Tribal Households	Non-Tribal Households
1.	MORIGAON	Own	104 (66.33 %)	124 (82.66 %)
		Public	30 (20.00 %)	10 (06.66 %)
		Neighbour	16 (10.66 %)	16 (10.66 %)
2	NAGAON	Own	106 (70.66 %)	125 (83.33 %)
		Public	25 (16.66 %)	15 (10.00 %)
		Neighbour	19 (12.66 %)	10 (06.66 %)

Sanitation :

As regards sanitation majority of the tribal households of both the districts have been found to be using open field as latrine purposes. In Marigaon the percentage of such households is 77.3% while in Nagaon the percentage is 66.6% . Fifty percent of the non tribal households of Marigaon and 17.3% non tribal of Nagaon also use open field as latrines. This phenomenon amply testifies the letter backwardness of the people so far hygienic aspect is concerned. Further katcha latrines are still in use by 17.3% tribal and 34.6% non tribal of Marigaon and 26% tribal and 58% non tribal of Nagaon district. Only a meagre 5.3% tribal and 15.3% non tribal of Marigaon and 7.3% tribal and 24.6% non tribal of Nagaon enjoy modern latrine facilities. Table 38 shows the position of sanitation of surveyed households of Marigaon and Nagaon districts.

Table – 38

Showing District-wise and Community-wise figures of Surveyed Households having Various Types of Sanitation Facilities of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No	Districts	Sanitation Facilities	Tribal Households	Non-Tribal Households
1.	MORIGAON	Open Field	116 (77.33 %)	75 (50.00 %)
		Kutcha Latrine	26 (17.33 %)	52 (34.66 %)
		Sanitary	8 (05.33 %)	23 (15.33 %)
		Any Others	-	-
2.	NAGAON	Open Field	100 (66.66 %)	26 (17.33 %)
		Kutcha Latrine	39 (26.00 %)	87 (58.00 %)
		Sanitary	11 (07.33 %)	37 (24.66 %)
		Any Others	-	-

House Pattern

Even the end of the 20th century and in spite of so many welfare schemes for development of rural and tribal areas under the Five Year Plans, majority of the tribal people both the districts are living in thatched houses which require constant repair entailing available expenses, if at least C I sheets roofing was provided. As many as 94% tribal households of Marigaon and 86% tribal households of Nagaon have thatched houses. Similarly 88% non tribal households of Marigaon have thatched houses. The percentage of thatched houses in case of non tribal households is less 40.6%. Next place is occupied by katcha Assam Type Hoses followed by pucca Assam Type Houses. Twenty six percent tribal of Marigaon and

27.3% tribal of Nagaon have katcha A.T. houses while the percentage of such houses of non tribal of Marigaon and Nagaon are 36 and 33.3%. Only 10.6% tribal households of Marigaon have pucca A.T. houses whereas the percentage of pucca A.T. houses of tribal of Nagaon is 24.6. Twenty eight households of non tribal of Marigaon have pucca A.T. houses while the percentage for Nagaon non tribal is 29.3. There are 10 nos. of R C C houses among the non tribal of Nagaon district while the figure of R C C house for tribal is nil. On R C C house each is found in the tribal and non tribal households of Marigaon district. Details are shown in Table 39 below.

Table – 39

Showing Districtwise and Community wise figures of Housing Pattern of Surveyed Households of Marigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl. No	District	Housing Pattern	Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households
1	Morigaon	R C C	1 (0.66%)	1 (0.66%)
		Pucca Assam Type	16 (10.66%)	42 (28%)
		Kutcha Assam Type	39 (26%)	54 (36%)
		Thatched	141 (94%)	132 (88%)
2	Nagaon	R C C	-	10 (6.66%)
		Pucca Assam Type	37 (24.66%)	44 (29.33%)
		Kutcha Assam Type	41 (27.33%)	50 (33.33%)
		Thatched	129 (86%)	61 (40.66%)

Household Properties :

The tribal as well as non tribal villagers of both the districts use bicycle as the most popular mode of conveyance for visiting places, carrying products to the weekly hats, carrying paddy sacks to the rice mills etc. It is also considered as a movable property by most of the people. As many as 74% tribal households and 80.6% non tribal households of Marigaon and 71.3% tribal households and 87.3% non tribal households of Nagaon possess at least one bicycle each. Again 2.6% tribal households, 4% non tribal households of Marigaon and 1.3% tribal and 10.6% non tribal households of Nagaon possess one motor cycle each. Television sets are found in 18.6% tribal and 20.6% non tribal households of Marigaon. The tribal and non tribal households of Nagaon have more television sets. Thus 23.3% tribal households and 40% non tribal households of Nagaon possess television sets each. It is interesting to note that agriculture occupies the main source of living for most of the villagers but mechanised farming is yet to gain ground. Large sections of people both tribal and

non tribal even do not possess the plough. Fifty six percent tribal households of Marigaon and sixty percent tribal households of Nagaon and 49.3% non tribal of Nagaon possess plough. On an average 36% tribal and non tribal households of both the districts possess transistor radio sets, wrist watch is considered as property and 69% households of both the districts possess at least one wrist watch each. Details of properties owned by surveyed households are shown in table – 40.

Table – 40

Showing Household Properties of the Surveyed Households in the Marigaon and Nagaon Districts

Sl. No	Household Properties	Marigaon		Nagaon	
		Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households	Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households
1	Motor Cycle	04 (2.66%)	06 (4.00%)	02 (1.33%)	16 (10.66%)
2	Bi- cycle	111 (74.00%)	121 (80.6%)	107 (71.33%)	131 (87.33%)
3	Television	28 (18.66)	31 (20.66%)	35 (23.33%)	60 (40.00%)
4	Radio	52 (34.66)	61 (40.66%)	49 (32.66%)	62 (41.33%)
5	Watch	90 (60.00%)	112 (74.66%)	97 (64.66%)	118 (78.66%)
6	Bullock –cart	20 (13.33%)	15 (10.00%)	19 (12.66%)	12 (08.00%)
7	Plough	85 (56.66%)	76 (50.66%)	90 (60.00%)	74 (49.33%)
8	Other Vehicle	10 (6.66%)	13 (8.6%)	12 (8.00%)	14 (09.33%)

Electricity

Modern amenities like electricity and allied appliances are yet to be made available to most of the tribal and non tribal villages of Marigaon and Nagaon districts. It was found that only 24.6% tribal households and 32% non tribal households of Marigaon and 28% tribal households and 56.6% non tribal households of Nagaon have electric connection in their premises. Details of households having electric connections have been shown below in Table 41.

Table – 41

Showing figures of Tribal and Non Tribal Households of Marigaon and Nagaon Districts

Marigaon		Nagaon	
No. of tribal households	No. of non tribal households	No. of tribal households	No. of non tribal households
37(24.6%)	48 (32.00%)	42 (28.00%)	85 (56.6%)

Occupation :

The overwhelming tribal population of both the districts have cultivation as the major occupation. As many as 97.3% tribal households of Marigaon and 82.6% tribal households of Nagaon have returned cultivation as main occupation while cultivation is shown as main occupation by 51.3% non tribal of Marigaon and 48.6% non tribal of Nagaon. Next higher percentage of households regarding occupation is noticed in the category government service where 20% tribal households of Marigaon and 29.3% tribal households of Nagaon are engaged. As regards non tribal the percentages are higher as they have certain advantages due to high percentage of literacy among them. The percentage, however, among the non tribal households is not very encouraging as 29.3% tribal are engaged in this sector. The non tribal of Nagaon are having 41.3% in government service. Business is accepted as alternative occupation by the tribal people . We find 4% tribal households in Marigaon and 12.6% tribal in Nagaon. The non tribal are entering into business in a somewhat greater scale as 22% non tribal households of Marigaon and 16.6% non tribal of Nagaon are engaged in business. There are very few tribal and non tribal in private companies, the figures being one household each of non tribal of Marigaon and tribal of Nagaon and 7 non tribal households of Nagaon. The detailed position in respect of occupation of the surveyed households is shown in the following table.

TABLE No. 42

Distribution of Persons as per their Occupation of the Surveyed Household in the Marigaon and Nagaon Districts

Sl. No.	Occupation	Morigaon		Nagaon	
		Tribal	Non Tribal	Tribal	Non Tribal
1	Government Service	30 (20.00%)	35 (13.33%)	44 (29.33%)	62 (41.33%)
2	Private Company	-	01 (0.6%)	01 (0.6%)	07 (04.66)
3	Business	06 (4.00%)	33 (22.00%)	19 (12.6%)	25 (16.66%)
4	Labour	25 (16.66%)	22 (14.66%)	35 (13.33%)	16 (10.66%)
5	Cultivation	146 (97.33%)	77 (51.33%)	124 (82.66%)	73 (48.66%)
6	Others*	06 (4.00%)	14 (9.33%)	02 (01.2%)	12 (8.00%)

* Others - include tution, rickshaw pulling, thela pulling, part time labour etc.

Banking:

Till a few decades past the tribal people had not shown any interest in bank facilities. There was no proper motivation also in this regard as the poor villagers could hardly save any amount fit to be deposited in banks. Besides the village 'Mahajans' played the role of bankers and very often the illiterate villagers were deceived. This phenomenon was largely responsible for the indebtedness of the poor tribal. The poor villagers took loans from the Mahajans to meet their expenditure on marriage, death rites etc. and the process contributed towards perpetual indebtedness. Today, however, the position is changed considerably as 30% tribal households of Morigaon and 33.3% tribal households of Nagaon have bank accounts. As already mentioned the non tribal are in an advantageous position as they are not shy to go through the irksome procedure to fill up forms etc. and they avoided the Mahajans who charged high rate of interest. Thus 44% non tribal of Morigaon and 51.3% non tribal of Nagaon are maintaining bank accounts. Even the small savings account of post office could not attract the attention of the poor tribal and non tribal people. It was found that only 0.3% tribal households and 1.3% non tribal households of Morigaon are Post Office savings bank account while the tribal and non tribal households of Nagaon do not possess any such account. Now-a-days, the villagers are attracted towards other saving organisations like L.I.C., Peerless, Sahara etc. Sixteen per cent of tribal households of Morigaon and 22.6% tribal households of Nagaon and 25.3% non tribal households of Morigaon and 32.6% non tribal households of Nagaon maintain savings with different private saving organisations. Loans in cash are received from nationalised banks/Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank for agriculture, business, construction of houses etc. by both tribal and non tribal. Three percent tribal households of Morigaon, 0.6% tribal households of Nagaon and 4.6% non tribal households of Morigaon and 2.6% non tribal households of Nagaon have taken loans from banks. Loans in kind are not taken by the people of both the districts under survey. Table No. 43 shows the loan position of the surveyed households of Morigaon and Nagaon.

TABLE – 43

Showing Savings Accounts of the Surveyed Households in the Morigaon and Nagaon Districts

Sl. No.	Savings Accounts	Morigaon		Nagaon	
		Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households	Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households
1	Bank	45 (30.00%)	66 (44.00%)	50 (33.33%)	77 (51.33%)
2	Post Office	01 (0.6%)	02 (01.3%)	-	-
3	Other Organisation*	24 (16.00%)	38 (25.33%)	34 (22.66%)	49 (32.66%)

* Other Organisations : LIC, Peerless, Sahara.

Inter Caste Marriage:

Due to spread of education and large scale contact with non tribal people and inter community linkages in day to day transactions the traditional caste barrier is diminishing to a considerable extent particularly among the educated sections. Data were collected from tribal and non tribal households of both Morigaon and Nagaon districts to find out the position regarding incidence of inter caste/inter tribe marriages. It was found that both tribal and non tribal accept the idea of inter caste marriage at least in principle in modern social environment. There are 12% inter tribe marriages among the tribes of Morigaon. The percentage of such marriages among the tribes of Nagaon is 10.6. The percentages of inter caste marriages among non tribal people of Morigaon and Nagaon are 16.6 and 18.00 respectively. Table No. 44 shows the position of inter caste marriages among tribal and non tribal of Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

TABLE – 44

Showing Inter-Caste/Tribe Marriages in the Surveyed Households of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Morigaon		Nagaon	
Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households	Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households
18 (12.00%)	25 (16.6%)	16 (10.6%)	27 (18.00%)

Awareness to Welfare Schemes:

After Independence, particularly after the introduction of planned development, various welfare schemes have had been undertaken by the Central and State governments for overall development of the backward communities. Government have put thrust on peoples' participation in a big way in this effort and for this awareness campaign has been launched from time to time. Awareness of the beneficiaries is urgently necessary so that the welfare schemes meant for the weaker sections fulfil the aspirations of the needy people. Various agencies such as Block Development Officers, Extension Officers, Panchayat Officials, Health Educators and other Departmental officers are engaged to create awareness among the masses. Yet it was found that only 40.6% tribal households of Morigaon and 48% non tribal households of that district are aware of the existence of some of the welfare schemes. In Nagaon the percentages of awareness of tribal and non tribal households are 32 and 45.3 respectively. As regards receipt of benefits from the welfare schemes 15.3% tribal households of Morigaon and 12.6% tribal households of Nagaon are getting benefits from various welfare schemes. The percentage of non tribal of Morigaon and Nagaon households are 8 and 9.3. It was also observed that 34.6% tribal households of Morigaon and 24.6% tribal households opined that the benefits are adequate. Among non tribal 25.3% of Morigaon and 25.3% of Nagaon also expressed that the benefits are adequate. Details are shown in the Table 45 below.

TABLE – 45

**Showing Awareness towards Welfare Measures and Benefits received by the
Surveyed Households in the Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.**

Sl. No	Districts	Category	Tribal Households	Non Tribal Households
1	Morigaon	Awareness towards Welfare measures	61 (40.66%)	72 (48.00%)
		Benefits received under welfare measures	23 (15.33%)	12 (08.00%)
		Sufficiency of the welfare measures (a) Yes (b) No	(a) 52 (34.6%) (b) 98 (65.33%)	(a) 38 (25.33%) (b) 112 (74.6%)
2	Nagaon	Awareness towards Welfare measures	48 (32.00%)	68 (45.33%)
		Benefits received under welfare measures	19 (12.6%)	14 (9.3%)
		Sufficiency of the welfare measures (a) Yes (b) No	(a) 37 (24.6%) (b) 113 (75.3%)	(a) 38 (25.33%) (b) 112 (74.66%)

Untouchability:

The rigour of untouchability is not seen in Assam although the existence of same in disguised form cannot altogether be ruled out. Even the ethnic communities have certain behavioural pattern so far allowing people of certain communities to enter into particular room of a house. In case of marriage clan exogamy and marriage within a community are strictly adhered to. This is applicable for non tribal communities also. Today, however, much relaxation is noticed particularly among the urban people and untouchability in onest form is not seen. Due to governmental measures change of social attitude is noticed and today there is no restriction for any one to enter into religious places. Thus 88% tribal households and 92% non tribal households of Morgan gave 'no' reply to the queries regarding existence of any restriction to visit religious places. Only 12% tribal and 8% non tribal said yes to the queries. Similarly 82.6% tribal and 85.3% non tribal of Morigaon strongly affirmed that untouchability should be removed from society. Same in the case of Nagaon district where 83.3% tribal and 93.3% non tribal found no difficulty in

visiting religious places. Again 80% tribal and 90% non tribal of Nagaon were in favour of removing the untouchability from society in toto.

The social behaviour is fast changing and tribal people, and their culture are honoured by all. Perhaps for this reason as many as 90.6% tribal and 92% non tribal people of Morigaon did not feel any inferiority complex. The percentages for Nagaon regarding feeling of inferiority complex showed that inferiority complex syndrome is not existent in greater sections of tribal (81.3%) and non tribal population (93.3%). Table 46 shows in detail about the untouchability position in Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

TABLE – 46

Showing Untouchability in the Surveyed Villages of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts

Sl No	Districts	Category	Tribal Households	Non-Tribal Households
1.	Morigaon	<u>Restriction to Visit Religious Places</u>		
		(a) Yes	18 (12.00 %)	12 (08.00 %)
		(b) No	132 (88.00 %)	138 (92.00 %)
		<u>Feel inferiority complex</u>		
		(a) Yes	14 (09.30 %)	12 (08.00 %)
		(b) No	136 (90.60 %)	138 (92.00 %)
2.	Nogaon	<u>Untouchability should go</u>		
		(a) Yes	124 (82.60 %)	128 (85.30 %)
		(b) No	26 (17.33 %)	22 (14.60 %)
		<u>Restriction to Visit Religious Places</u>		
		(a) Yes	25 (16.60 %)	10 (06.60 %)
		(b) No	125 (83.30 %)	140 (93.33 %)
		<u>Feel inferiority complex</u>		
		(a) Yes	28 (18.60 %)	10 (06.60 %)
		(b) No	122 (81.30 %)	140 (93.30 %)
		<u>Untouchability should go</u>		
		(a) Yes	120 (80.00 %)	135 (90.00 %)
		(b) No	30 (20.00 %)	15 (10.00 %)

Enrolment of Students in Educational Institutions:

Morigaon:

It has already been mentioned that educational institutions specially pre primary and L.P. schools are established in all the villages and M.E. schools, H.E. schools and even colleges are within reasonable distances from the surveyed villages of both the districts. Naturally enrolment of students belonging to both tribal and non tribal is increasing. Till a decade or two back the enrolment of students in tribal villages was meagre but today the difference is minimal. Thus against 301 non tribal students in various categories like L.P., M.E., H.E., College and above college standard of Morigaon district, there are 283 nos. of tribal students in the said categories. While the p.c. of total L.P. students in Morigaon tribal households is 707, the p.c. of L.P. students among non tribal in the district is 69.3. Similarly the p.c. of M.E. students from the tribal households of Morigaon is 53.3 whereas only a marginal difference viz. 54% M.E. students is noticed among the non tribal households. Interestingly the p.c. of H.E. students in the tribal households of Morigaon is 45.3 against the 41.3 per cent in the non tribal households. On the other hand there are more college students in the non tribal households 24.6% against the p.c. of college students in the tribal households which is 19.3. There is only one post graduate boy in the tribal households of Morigaon against 4 nos. in the non tribal households of the district. There is also no girl student in this category among the tribal people.

Nagaon:

It is seen that figures of L.P. students in both tribal and non tribal households of Nagaon are less than those of the figures of L.P. students of Morigaon. Tribal households have 50.6% L.P. students while the percentage of L.P. students in the non tribal households is 54. Except in college level the tribal students are not lagging much behind the non tribal in other branches such as M.E., H.E., and post graduation. For instance in the post graduate level there are 3 students including a girl from the tribal households while there is only one male post graduate student from the non tribal households. The Table No. 47 shows the educational standard of the tribal and non tribal households of Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

TABLE – 47

Showing Nos. Of Students in Various Educational Institutions of the Surveyed Villages of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No	Category of Students	Morigaon						Nagaon					
		Tribal			Non-Tribal			Tribal			Non-Tribal		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	L.P.	53	52	105 70.0%	47	57	104 69.3%	33	43	76 50.6%	38	43	81 54.0%
2	M.E.	37	43	80 53.3%	24	30	54 36.0%	24	26	50 33.3%	30	26	56 37.3%
3	H.E	36	32	68 45.3%	34	28	62 14.3%	34	28	62 41.3%	35	22	77 51.3%
4	College	15	14	29 19.3%	17	20	37 24.6%	14	15	29 19.3%	27	25	52 34.0%
5	Above College	01	-	01 00.6%	01	03	04 02.6%	02	01	03 02.0%	01	-	01 00.6%

Dropout:

Dropout from educational institutions by tribal and rural students became a matter of serious concern for the educational planners till a few years back but today due to the efforts made by government, academicians and other voluntary organisations the position has considerably improved. Besides awareness in respect of educating the children in growing past among the tribal and rural populations due to the media publicity as well as the planning process extended to the backward areas. But the hangover of the age old problem still continues to a lesser extent. There are various factors for dropout as the prevailing socio economic backwardness is the major factor. Even today the children are required to perform various agriculture related activities in the rural areas. School going girls are required to look after the young ones while their parents are busy in the fields or in the kitchen. There is no educational environment in the households of tribal and rural non tribal populations. Basic necessities like text books, school uniforms, table and chair, separate place for study are not available in majority of the households. The condition of school building is far from satisfactory in the rural areas. Midday meals are half heartedly implemented. There is no separate urinals for girl students. Besides no effort is being made to bring the dropout students to the educational institutions. It is hoped the recently launched 'Sarva Siksha Abhijan' will do some positive thinking in this regard.

The present study showed that dropout figures among the tribal students of both the districts are higher in L.P., M.E., and H.E. standards, than that of the non tribal in the said standards. Interestingly drop out is more among non tribal in college standard of both the districts while there is 8.6% and 6.6% dropout of college students among the tribal of Morigaon and Nagaon respectively, the figures for non tribal students in colleges of Morigaon and Nagaon are 14% and 12% respectively. Male dropouts are more among tribal and non tribal populations of both the districts. Perhaps the prevailing acute unemployment situation has contributed for this attitude among the male students. There is however an exception in case of tribal households of Morigaon where girl dropout figure in college level exceeds that of boy's viz. 8:5. Table 48 shows the detailed position of dropout among tribal and non tribal of Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

TABLE – 48

Showing nos. of School Dropout in Surveyed Households of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

Sl No	Standard	Morigaon						Nagaon					
		Tribal			Non-Tribal			Tribal			Non-Tribal		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	L.P.	04	04	08 05.30%	06	-	06 04.00%	03	03	16 09.00%	01	01	02 01.30%
2	M.E.	14	04	18 12.00%	13	04	17 11.30%	09	03	12 08.00%	04	02	06 04.00%
3	H.E	20	13	33 22.00%	15	05	20 13.30%	35	12	47 31.30%	14	11	25 16.60%
4	College	05	08	13 08.60%	16	05	21 14.00%	06	04	10 06.60%	11	07	18 12.00%
5	Above College	01	-	01 00.60%	05	04	09 06.00%	02	-	02 01.30%	01	-	01 00.60%

Scholarship Holders:

As scholarship/free studentship schemes for meritorious students has been introduced by government which acts as a moral booster not only for the scholars but for the entire community. But scholarship holders in the surveyed villages are very limited. There are only 4 recipients of scholarships, 2 boys and 2 girls, of H.E. standard among the tribal of Nagaon district. However, few college standard scholarship holders are found in the present survey belonging to both tribal and non tribal communities of both the districts. One boy each from tribal households of Morigaon and Nagaon was receiving scholarship in the post graduate level. Besides, one tribal boy student of Nagaon was awarded scholarship to undertake studies in technical education. It was observed that the amount of scholarship was duly spent by the scholarship holders. Table 49 shows the figures of scholarship holders in the surveyed villages of Morigaon and Nagaon district.

Table - 49

Showing Scholarship holders in Surveyed Households of Morigaon and Nagaon Districts.

SI No	Standard	Morigaon						Nagaon					
		Tribal			Non-Tribal			Tribal			Non-Tribal		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	L.P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	M.E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	H.E	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	02	04 2.60%	-	-	-
4	College	05	03	08 5.3%	02	03	05 3.30%	05	07	12 8.00%	07	07	08 5.30%
5	Above College	01	-	01 0.6%	-	-	-	01	-	01 0.60%	-	-	-
6	Technical Institute	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	01 0.60%	-	-	-

CHAPTER - IV

Findings of the Study :

The comparative study on various aspects of development of tribal and non tribal villagers of the two contiguous districts of Assam viz. Marigaon and Nagaon reveals a mixed picture so far socio economic development of the tribal and non tribal are concerned. As the district of Marigaon has been carved out of the present Nagaon district only recently, the differences in socio – economic development in most cases are minimal. The people of Marigaon have had closer relation with the district Headquarters of Nagaon. The demographic pattern, material culture, economic life style, socio religious festivals, transport and communication, trade and commerce, education et al of Marigaon are closely inter-linked with Nagaon, not because Marigaon is border district of Nagaon but for the reason that Marigaon, a sub divisional headquarter till recently was administered by the Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon. Due to this in built inherent commonness, the present study did not reveal marked differences in socio economic development of the two districts.

The tribal population of both the district are not concentrated in exclusive pockets, rather their villages are interspersed with non tribal villages which has led to intra and inter linkages among various ethnic and non ethnic populations. Because of the cohesiveness and intimate inter personal relationship there is not much glaring difference among tribal and non tribal way of life and culture. The tribal communities of both the districts like the Tiwas (Lalungs) which is major tribal group in both the district, followed by Boro-Kacharis, spread over in small pockets and the Karbis living in specified villages along with non tribal having a lesser numerical strength have maintained most of their traditional tribal characteristics without any conflict with the non tribal mode of life. The non tribal constitute Brahmins, Koches, Kalitas, Nath(Yogis), Keots, Ahoms, Chutiyas and other religious minorities mostly Muslims and migrant char inhabitants and tea and ex tea garden populations. The Kaibartas and the Namasudras and the Hiras constitute the important scheduled caste communities. Besides there are other non permanent residents coming from other States, like the Muchis, Sweepers (Bansphor), Napits (Barbers), who live mostly in urban areas following their indigenous professions.

The analysis of data indicated that the sample villages numbering 10 each belonging to tribal and non tribal of both the districts are well connected with the district headquarters by public transport system although considering the greater number of commuter, the buses are utterly inadequate. Both tribal and non tribal villages of Nagaon have easy access to the nearest railway station than the tribal and non tribal villages of Morigaon district. The Block Development Office which can be considered as prime mover for all round development of the rural area is located nearer the villages of Morigaon while most of the villages of Nagaon belonging to tribal and non tribal are lying at an average of 6 kms. from the Block Development Office. Similarly the S.D.O. (Civil) Office is not situated nearer to the villages of Nagaon, while the villages of Marigaon, both tribal and non tribal, have easy access to the S.D.O. (Civil) office.

The roads falling within the tribal and non tribal areas of the two districts are not in good shape and all the villages are not connected with all weather motorable roads. The wonder of wonders is that on the onset of the 21st Century four villages each belonging to tribal and non tribal of each district still depend upon foot tract to visit places out of their villages. Katcha fair weather roads are the connecting link with the nearest gravelled road for 2 non tribal villages each of Marigaon and Nagaon districts. Less than 50% of the tribal and non tribal village roads of Marigaon are gravelled where as the percentages of gravelled road of the tribal and non tribal villages of Nagaon are 50 and 40 respectively. It was reported that the villagers are simply satisfied if the villages are connected with P.W.D. gravelled roads so that they can have the transport facilities through out the year. One can imagine the plight of the villagers to bring serious patients to the nearest dispensary or hospital sans motor able road

Social change is inevitable as change is the constant of culture. In spite of not so well economic condition in the villages belonging to tribal and non tribal of both the districts, latest mass communication facilities like television, telephones, VCP etc. are entering into the far flung tribal and rural non tribal villages. Today post and telegraph facilities are available at an average distance of 1-2 kms of most of the villages. For instance for 150 nos. of surveyed tribal house holds of Marigaon the number of television sets are 125 nos. and transistor radio sets are 275 nos. Similarly the tribal households of Nagaon too possess 208 nos. of television sets.

All the villages have news papers, library, community centres. Medical Sub Centres and dispensaries are located conveniently for all the villagers. But hospitals are located at a far distance from some of the villages. Six tribal villages of Marigaon and 4 tribal villages of Nagaon and 2 non tribal villages of Marigaon and 3 non tribal villages of Nagaon, however have the hospitals at a distance of more than 15 kms. Formerly tribal and rural people could not think of possessing a private doctor within the villages but today it becomes a reality. All the surveyed villages have private doctors within the villages and no longer the villagers solely depend upon the traditional medicine man or woman.

Progress in educational sphere is noticed at least from the existence of pre primary and L P schools in all the surveyed villages of both the districts as well as from the figures of enrolment in the educational institutions. Besides most of the villages under study have M E schools within the villages. Where there are no M E schools within the village, the children are not required to walk beyond 2-5 kms to the nearest M E school. It is also an encouraging feature, so far expansion of educational facilities are concerned, to find H E schools located within easy reach of both tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts. Except one tribal village of Marigaon which has a college within the village, other villages do not have colleges within the villages. But the nearest colleges for these villages are located within a distance of 2-5 kms on an average. This phenomenon is also unique in the sense, two or three decades ago, the tribal students aspiring for higher studies had to go the Sub Divisional or District Headquarter towns bearing untold sufferings.

The awareness towards educating the children is visibly noticed in case of tribal and non tribal villagers of both the districts. The enrolment in pre primary, L P, M E and H E is increasing considerably over the past few years among tribal and non tribal of both the districts. Female education is no longer neglected and it is observed that numbers of girl students in the pre primary standard among the tribal and non tribal people are more than boy students. It is also an encouraging feature to note that number of girl students in L. P schools of the tribal villages of both the districts are on a higher side. On the other hand tribal students of both the districts are lagging behind the non tribal students in respect of enrolment in medical , technical, agriculture and professional courses. Tribal villages of Marigaon are remaining more backward in this respect. Tribal and non tribal female students of Marigaon district

are conspicuous by absence in technical courses. Female students belonging to tribal and non tribal people of Nagaon are found in the technical courses.

Drop out from educational institutions is still a problem in the villages under study. For instance during 2000-2001 drop out in L P schools among the tribal is more in both the districts. This phenomenon is noticed in case of H E students of the tribal villages of Nagaon also. The drop out of H E students of tribal villages of Marigaon is less than non tribal drop out in the district. The figures of tribal drop out students in college of Marigaon are less than that of non tribal students of that district. The analysis of household schedule showed that drop out among the students of tribal households of both Marigaon and Nagaon districts is higher in L P , M E and H E students than the non tribal drop outs in those categories. Cases of drop out of male students are higher among the tribal and non tribal households of both the districts with a lone exception of tribal households of Marigaon where girl drop out figures at college exceed that of the boy drop outs. The analysis further revealed that there was no scholarship holder in L P and M E standards in the households of both the districts. Ironically 2 boys and 2 girls belonging to tribal households of Nagaon are receiving H.E. scholarships. One male student each from the tribal households of Morigaon has received scholarship in the post graduate level, while a lone male student of tribal households of Nagaon has received scholarship for prosecuting technical studies.

Awareness about safe drinking water is increasing among the tribal as well as among the non tribal rural folk. It was found that except 4 tribal villages of Morigaon district the people of other surveyed villages do not use pond water. Most of the villagers have their own wells, tube wells. Besides pipe water facilities are also extended to limited number of households of both tribal and non tribal populations.

The survey shows that the tribal and non tribal households of Nagaon possess less agricultural lands than their counterparts of Morigaon district. As regards earners in the families are slightly on higher sides among the tribal of both the districts while earning dependence are more among tribal of both the district than the non tribal.

There are more educated youths without employment among the tribal and non tribal of Morigaon. Educated unemployment figures of women are more among tribal of Morigaon than non tribal. The problem of uneducated

unemployment youth is acute in Morigaon. Female tribal uneducated youths are more in Morigaon while in Nagaon the figures of male and female uneducated youths are equal.

Agricultural labourers are more among the tribal of Morigaon (38%). Non tribal households of Nagaon and Morigaon also possess sizeable agricultural labourers namely 36% and 35.3% respectively.

Irrigation facilities are provided to the tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts by agriculture. Irrigation department, ITDPs and Tiwa Autonomous Council.

Health consciousness is growing among the people belonging to tribal and non tribal of both the districts and majority of the people are showing preference to Allopathic medicine. Occult medicine system is in vogue among selected tribal and non tribal households of the two districts, while Ayurvedic medicine is least preferred in the villages.

It is disheartening to note that majority of the tribal people of both the districts are using open fields to clear their vowels in the morning. Katcha latrines are found in many tribal and non tribal households of both the district.

Thatched houses are common in both the districts among tribal as well as non tribal.. In Morigaon 94% households and in Nagaon 86% households are thatched.

Consumerism has entered to the psyche of both tribal and non tribal people of both the districts particularly among the well to do sections. Thus 18.6% tribal and 20.6% non tribal households of Morigaon and 23.3% tribal and 40% non tribal households of Nagaon are having latest modern consumer items.

It was found that plough which is the most essential item for cultivators is not found in many households of tribal and non tribal.

Electric connection are found in limited households. The survey shows that 24.6% tribal and 32% non tribal households of Morigaon and 28% tribal and 56.6% non tribal of Nagaon have electric connection in their premises.

Large sections of tribal of both the districts have shown cultivation as major occupation, the percentages being 97.3% tribal households of Morigaon and 82.6% tribal households of Nagaon while about 50% non tribal of both the districts have cultivation as major occupation. Both tribal and non tribal of both the districts

prefer government service next to cultivation. Business is not a favoured occupation for the tribal people where as the non tribal like to undertake business.

As regards saving, there is a marked change in comparison with the situation prevailing about two decades past. Old role of the village Mahjans is fast disappearing and people both tribal and non tribal have bank accounts although the percentage is very less. Private saving organisations are also patronised by both tribal and non tribal populations of Morigaon and Nagaon. Post Office saving is resorted to by a very small section of the tribal and non tribal of the two districts.

The people belonging to tribal and non tribal of both the districts encourage inter caste /inter tribe marriage in principle but on application cases of such marriages are few and far between.

Untouchability is discouraged by larger section, 80% and above, of tribal and non tribal of both the districts. The tribal and rural and non tribal populations of both the districts reported that they do not feel any inferiority complex nor they experience any restriction in visiting religious places.

Less than 50% of the surveyed households of tribal and non tribal of both the districts are aware of the welfare schemes launched by government and other agencies. As regards benefits from welfare schemes it was found that 8% non tribal and 9% non tribal of Morigaon and Nagaon were benefited from the welfare schemes while the percentages of tribal beneficiaries of Morigaon and Nagaon are 15.3 and 12.6 respectively.

Woman folk in Assam irrespective of tribals and non tribals are expert weavers. Almost every household in the rural areas have a family loom. They also know the methods and ingredients of indigenous dye making. They can express their artistic tendencies in their textile designs. Both floral and geometrical designs are popular among them. They weave cloth not only for themselves but for all members of the family. The artistic designs produced by the tribal and non tribal weavers have been greatly appreciated by the people of the other parts of the country and abroad. The loss of this culture, it is feared, will tantamount to in loss of her ethnic identity. In the present study, 91.3% and 72.6% tribal and non tribal families respectively of Morigaon and 86.6% and 62.6% tribal and non tribal families respectively of Nagan district are weavers. However, they are economically poor because they weave cloths for the family members only. Therefore, Govt. may encourage the weavers to take

weaving as a primary profession by giving proper training through experts, supplying raw materials in subsidiary rate and marketing the finished product through Govt. agencies. Alleviation of rural poverty through employment generating economic activity is one of the major objectives of the Govt. To empower the socio economic conditions of the people, the tribal women in targeted areas should be exposed to the factuality about their rights and responsibilities. Groups of woman should be trained for acquisition of managerial and technical skills for taking up weaving activities as a primary occupation. The potential and markets available for traditional weaving products of the tribals are immense. The key issues should be identified to ensure better returns to the village weavers. Given proper direction and support it can provide immense scope for all round development.

CHAPTER – V

CONCLUSION:

The comparative study on socio-economic condition of tribal and non tribal villages of Morigaon and Nagaon districts of Assam conducted in 40 nos. of villages viz. 10 nos. each of tribal villages of Morigaon and Nagaon and 10 nos. each of non tribal villages of the said districts covering 150 nos. of households in each village under 5 nos. of Development Blocks of Morigaon and 6 nos. of Development Blocks of Nagaon during October and November 2002, reveals tangible changes vis-à-vis the pre Independence and pre Planning period in various aspects of the socio-economic life of the tribal and non tribal of the districts. Both the districts are located in Central Assam. The population pattern is multi-ethnic and multi-racial. Micro level study in the households level and macro level study in district level showed that the tribal non tribal variation has been brought to a minimum in recent decades of planning era. The ethnic populations constituting the Lalungs (Tiwas), Boro-Kacharis and Karbis with various socio-cultural pattern characteristics of the communities are mainly plains dwellers whose villages are interspersed with non ethnic villages. Almost 90% of them are cultivators. Cultivation is also the main occupation of the rural non tribal population of both the districts. There is mutual amity and good neighbourliness among the tribal and non tribal, although the tribal communities are maintaining most of their traditional traits. It has been observed that out of 20 villages of the tribal communities of the two districts only one village has been categorised as isolated.

Transport and communication system is far from satisfactory and development of this aspect is the felt need of the tribal and non tribal people of both the districts. Four villages in each district use foot tract and one village of Morigaon district use boat to contact with outside world. These villages need special attention of the concerned authorities.

In respect health care facilities much progress has been noticed and medical sub centres/ dispensaries are within easy reach of the villagers. Even tribal doctors are also found in some villages belonging to tribal and non tribal of both the districts. Similarly there is no problem in respect of veterinary facilities in the

villages. People are becoming conscious about safe drinking water and tube wells and ring wells are found in sufficient quantities in all the surveyed villages. But pipe water facilities are inadequate

It is not understood why the rural sanitary scheme is not extended to most of the tribal and rural areas of Morigaon and Nagaon districts as the survey showed that as many as 77.3% households of Morigaon and 66.6% households of Nagaon use the open field as latrines in this age of Science and Technology.

Educational facilities are adequate in the tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts and in spite of poverty and lack of educational environment in the villages, enrolment in pre primary, L.P, ME, HE standards is increasing. But much remains to be done in respect of improving the school buildings. Female education is spreading considerably in lower standards.

Majority of the houses of tribal people (94% in Morigaon and 86% in Nagaon) and also of non tribal are thatched without modern amenities. Television set, transistor set, newspapers are found in many households of tribal and non tribal people of both the districts. Electricity is extended to the tribal and non tribal villages but only a selected few households are taking electric connection in their households.

Many of the traditional socio-psychological attitudes are changing fast. Untouchability is not practised at least overtly. Inter caste/inter tribe marriages are not looked down upon by both tribal and non tribal of both the districts which are positive post Independence development. The tribal people no longer feel any inferiority complex and traditional shyness is fast disappearing. They also feel no difficulty in entering the religious places. In this connection the attitudinal change of non tribal people has to be reckoned also.

There is positive development so far growing the saving habit of the people belonging to tribal and rural non tribal people are concerned. Now saving in the bank is becoming popular among the villagers and the role of the village Mahajans is fast becoming unpopular.

The above pen picture based on field survey of tribal and non tribal people of Morigaon and Nagaon districts brings home certain salient features to be recorded.

1. The tribal and non tribal differences in respect of socio-economic development is brought to a minimum.

2. There are positive improvements in education. Awareness is increasing among parents/guardians towards educating their children. Female education is not neglected.
3. Infra structural facilities in tribal and non tribal villages of both the districts are extended but due to poor economic conditions most of the villagers are yet to receive the full benefits.
4. Drop outs figures from educational Institutions particularly in LP, ME and HE standards, is not falling as expected. Measures like midday meal, supply of free text books and uniforms, improvement of educational technique in schools, improvement of facilities in the schools, relieving the school children from day to day activities like helping the parents keeping themselves away from school, incentives to parents, motivating the tribal people for lessening festive occasions etc. may be undertaken. These measures have relevance in the context of recent amendment of the Constitution effecting compulsory education of children 6-14 years of age as fundamental right.
5. Schemes of self engagement of uneducated and educated unemployed youths may be chalked out as unemployment of youths are increasing due to increase of population and consequent decrease of agricultural lands.
6. People should be encouraged to undertake multiple cropping.
7. Transport and communication facilities should be improved which are in a bad shape at present particularly among the tribal people.
8. Both Morigan and Nagaon have good many swampy lands and beels providing scope for fishing on commercial line. Fishery-cum- poultry farm, fishery -cum-duckery and allied schemes may be provided so that the unemployed youths may some employment.
9. Beneficiaries from various welfare schemes are very few. Monitoring and evaluation will go a long way to find out causes of such low figures of beneficiaries.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH FOR TRIBALS AND
SCHEDULED CASTES: JAWAHARNAGAR: N. H. 37
GUWAHATI-781022

**RESEARCH STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TRIBALS
AND NON TRIBAL IN THE MORIGAON AND NAGAON DISTRICTS OF
ASSAM**

VILLAGE SCHEDULE

Name(s) of informant(s)	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation

1. A. General Information.

1. Name of the village _____
 2. Police Station _____
 3. Block _____
 4. Sub division _____
 5. District _____
 6. Total No. of Households _____
 7. Population _____
- (a) Male _____ (b) Female _____

B. Topography
(Hilly, Plain, Un-dwelling plain, Others)

C. Settlement Pattern :
(Agglomerated, Dispersed, Isolated, Others)

D. Total No. of Households.

- (a) Population _____
- (b) Male _____
- (c) Female _____

2. Transport and Communication facilities .

A. Distance of the Village from –

- (a) Nearest motorable road _____
- (b) Nearest transport station _____
- (c) Nearest railway station _____
- (d) Block office _____
- (e) Sub-divisional Headquarter _____

B. Condition of the road to the village –

- (a) Foot tract _____
- (b) 'Katcha' fair weather motorable road _____
- (c) 'Katcha' all weather motorable road _____
- (d) Gravelled road _____
- (e) Other (specify) _____
(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

C. Use mode of conveyance :

- (a) Motor bus _____
- (b) Rail _____
- (c) Car _____
- (d) Boat _____
- (e) Others (specify) _____
(Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

D. Other means of mass communication available :

- (a) Television
- (b) Radio
- (c) News paper
- (d) Library
- (e) Community Center
- (f) Telephonic facility
- (Use tick mark wherever is applicable)

3. Civic and Educational facilities.

1. Distance of the village under study, in km. from :

- (a) Nearest Post Office _____
- (b) Nearest Telegraph Office _____
- (c) Nearest Medical Sub Center _____
- (d) Nearest State Dispensary _____
- (e) Nearest Hospital _____
- (f) Nearest Veterinary Dispensary/Hospital _____
- (g) Nearest private medical practioner _____

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

4. Educational facilities.

- (i) Nearest pre-primary centre _____

(a) Type (whether run by Govt./Voluntary Organisation/ Anganwadi/ Kindergarten,etc. _____)

(b) Year of establishment _____

(c) Distance from village _____

(d) No. of children from the village attending the centre:

Boys Girls Total

(e) Remarks, if any :

(ii) Nearest lower primary school _____

(a) Type (whether Govt./Venture/Private) _____

(b) Year of establishment _____

(c) Distance from the village _____

(d) No. of students from the village attending the school :

Boys Girls Total

(ii) Nearest Middle English School _____

Age group	No. of boys	No. of girls	Total
6- 8 years			
9-11 years			
12-14 years			
Above 14 years			

(a) Type (whether Govt./Venture/Private) _____

(b) Year of establishment _____

(c) Distance from the village _____

(d) No. of students from village attending the school :-

Boys Girls Total

(iv) Nearest High English School _____

(a) Type whether Govt./Govt. Aided /Venture/Private

(b) Year of establishment

(c) Distance from the village

(d) No. of students from the village attending the college:

Boys Girls Total

(v) Nearest College _____

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

(b) Year of establishment _____

(c) Distance from the village _____

(d) No. of students from the village attending the college.

Boys Girls Total

(vi) No. of students from the village doing other studies.

Branches	Gender	
	Male	Female
I) Medical		
(II) Technical (Diploma)		
(III) Technical (Degree)		
(IV) Agriculture		
(V) Veterinary		
(VI) Others		

Any other (specify)

5(a) No. of drop-outs of students from the institutions during the last three years.

Level	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
(I) Lower Primary School						
(II) Middle School						
(III) High School						
(IV) College						

(b)

Reasons (specify) :-

(c)

Mention if any educational scheme implemented for school drop-outs :

(If yes, please mention the scheme).

6. Sources of drinking water :

Source	No.	Privately owned	Govt. agencies.
a) Pond			
b) Well			
c) River			
d) Tube well			
e) Reservoir			
f) Water Supply Scheme			

(i) Distance of common drinking water source from the village proper:-

(ii) Give a note on quality of drinking water:-

7. Electricity :-

(i) Whether the village is having electricity facility:- Yes/No

(ii) If yes, total no. of households having electricity facilities :-

8. Marketing facilities.

(i) No. of fair price shops within the village :-

(ii) No. of other shops within the village (specify) :-

(iii) Other marketing facilities :-

Name of the market/growth centre where transaction are usually held	Type Daily/ bi-weekly/ Weekly	Distance from the village	Transport facilities to the market from the village	Major items of transaction	
				Local produce	Brought from

(iv) Mention the kinds of commodities sold and purchased by the villagers.

Commodities sold	Commodities purchased.

9. Co-operative Societies :-

Name of the society	Is it situated within the village?	Years of establishment	Total share capital	Govt. aid received	
				2000-2001	2001-2002

(a) Specify the type of Co-operatives and their functions.

10. Socio-Cultural Organisation :

Name of the organisation	Is it situated within the village	Year of establishment	Total no. of member	Functions	Govt. aid received	
					2000-2001	2001-2002

11. (I) Name of the Gaon Panchayat _____

(ii) Measures implemented by/through the Gaon Panchayat for the development of the villagers, if any.

(iii) If no measures has yet been taken, is there any suggestions for such measure? Yes/No.

If yes, state the measures :-

12. Cottage Industry/Small Industry.

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) Black smithy		
5) Carpentry		
6) Pottery making		
7) Tailoring		
8) Bee keeping		
9) Goldsmithy		
10) Fishery		
11) Poultry		
12) Cattle firm		
13) Pig firm		
14) Others (Specify)		

(i) Are the raw materials for the industries readily available in the village/market? Yes/No.

If no, where from such materials are collected?

(ii) How the finished products are sold?

- (a) By self
 - (b) Through middlemen;
 - (c) Through cooperative societies.
- (Use tick mark whichever is applicable).

(iii) Where such products are sold?

- (a) In the village itself?
 - (b) In the market.
- (Use tick mark whichever is applicable).

(iv) Are the cottage/small industries remunerative in the village? Yes/No.
If no, state the reasons.

(v) Has it been able to change the living standard/socio-economic status
who are running such industries? Yes/No

(vi) Any other worth mentioning information not covered by scheduled.

(vii)Remarks :-

Data collected by:

Supervised by

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH FOR TRIBALS AND
SCHEDULED CASTES:JAWAHARNAGAR:N:H:37 : GUWAHATI-781022

RESEARCH STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TRIBALS
AND NON-TRIBALS IN THE MORIGAON & NAGAON DISTRICTS OF
ASSAM.

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE

I.A. Identification.

Sl. No. of sample household _____

Village _____

Police Station _____

Block _____

Sub-Division _____

Name of the head of household _____

(a) Age _____ (b) Sex _____ (c) Caste _____

(d) Sub caste _____ (e) Education _____

(e) Occupation _____

Name of the informant _____

(a) Age _____ (b) Sex _____

(c) Relation with the head of household _____

2. Particulars of household land possessed (in Hectare)

(i) Total land possessed :-

(ii) Total area of land under cultivation :-

(a) Wet paddy land:-

(b) High land/Jhum land :-

(c) Others :-

(iii) Total area under homestead:-

(iv) Total area under fishery, if any :-

(v) Fallow land, if any:-

(vi) Total area under som/sualo/mulberry/ eri plantation

(vii) Other:-

3. (a) No. of earners:-
 (b) No. of earning dependent:-
 (c) No. of non-earning dependent:-
4. (a) If there any unemployed adult member in the household? Yes/No
 (b) If yes, state the number.
- | | | |
|----------------------------|------|--------|
| (i) Educated unemployed - | Male | Female |
| (ii) Uneducated unemployed | Male | Female |
- (c) State the reasons for unemployment of the members concerned.
 (e.g. lack of sufficient agril. Lands/poor educational standard/lack of awareness about facilities/economic backwardness/corruption).
- (d) Do you think lack of unemployment opportunities is one of the major causes of social unrest in family/in society. Yes/No.
5. Particulars of cultivation
- (a) Do you have irrigation facilities for cultivation? Yes/No.
 (b) If yes, what type of energy mainly use for irrigation?
 (a) Electricity, (b) Diesel, (c) Primal, (d) manpower and (e) others.
- (b) State the principal crops grown and their yield during the last year.

Name of the Agril crops/horticulture/sericulture	Area of land utilized	Total yield
I)		
II)		
III)		
IV)		
V)		
VI)		
VII)		
VIII)		

6. Do you engage any agricultural labour to cultivate your land? Yes/No.
- (a) If yes, how many labourers do you engaged last year?
- (b) How much wages did you pay to the labourers?

Cash _____, Kind _____

6. (I) If no, give reasons.

7. Do you have any tenant under you? Yes/No.

- (a) If yes, how many :-
 (b) What are the terms and conditions of tenancy ?

(c) State the area of land under possession of the tenants :-

(d) Have you leased out or mortgaged any land ? Yes/No

(d) If yes, state the following :

Area of land	Type of land	Whether leased or mortgaged	To whom

Sl. No.	Name of the family members	Age	Sex	Marital status	Relation with the head	Educational qualification	Occupation		Remarks
							Primary	Secondary	

8. (I) Do you also practice share cropping ? Yes/No

(a) If yes, under what terms and conditions do you practice share cropping?

(b) State the area of land under share cropping :-

9(I) Did you receive any agricultural inputs from any source during the last year? Yes/No

(a) If yes, give details :

(II) Did you receive any agril. Loan from any source during the last year/ Yes/No.

If yes, give details :

(III) Have you received any agricultural help from the G P S S /Co-operative Society/Khadi Board/Village Industry /Agriculture Department/Other Govt. Deptt. etc.

Yes/No.

(a) If yes, give details :-

10. Did you have any surplus agricultural products 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.

11. State whether agricultural operations are entirely financed by own resources or entirely by loan received from others, or partly by loan and partly by own resources, if it is a partly or fully financed by others then state the sources and extent of loan.

12. 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 extent of such assistance.

13. Particulars of household livestock

Sl.No.	Livestock
I	Bullock
II	Cow
III	He-buffalo
IV	She-buffalo
V	He-goat
VI	She- goat
VII	Sheep
VIII	Fowl
IX	Pegion
X	Duck
XI	Pig
XII	Others (specify)

14. Do you weave cloth?

Yes/No

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

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

(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 :

(i) Do you think medical service easily available in case you need it? Yes/No

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

(a) Government Hospital;

(b) Primary Health Center;

(c) Private Hospital;

(d) Private Doctor;

(e) Village Quack;

(f) Others.

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

	1 st Preference	2 nd Preference
a) Allopathic		
b) Ayurvedic		
c) Homeopathic		
d) Occult medicine		
e) Any other (please specify)		

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

- (a) Government Hospital;
- (b) Primary Health Center;
- (c) Private Hospital;
- (d) Private Doctor;
- (e) Village Quack;
- (f) Others.

(v) Have you administered any vaccinations to your children? Yes/No

(I) If yes, please tell which of the vaccination was administered.

- (a) Polio;
- (b) BCG;
- (c) DPT;
- (d) Chicken pox/measles;
- (e) Any other.

(ii) Where have you administered the vaccines?

- (a) Government Hospital;
- (b) Primary Health Center/State Dispensary;
- (c) Private Hospital;
- (d) Private Doctor;
- (e) Village Quack;
- (f) Any Other.

VI. What is the main source of drinking water for the members of your family?

- (a) Well;
- (b) Pond;
- (c) Hand-pipe;
- (d) Pipe water;
- (e) Rivers/ Streams;
- (f) Any Other.

VII. Source of drinking water (1) above is present in your residence or public or neighbour.

Own/public/neighbour.

VIII. What kind of toilet facility does your household have?

- (a) Open field;
- (b) Kutchi latrine;
- (c) Sanitary
- (d) Any other.

17. Particulars of other household properties.

No.

(a) No. of living houses,

(i) R.C.C.

(ii) Pucca Assam Type

(iii) Kutcha Assam Type.

(iv) Thatched

N.B: Give an account of the sanitary system and source of water supply within the campus.

(b) Other properties

	<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>
(i)	Motor cycle	:
(ii)	Bi-cycle	:
(iii)	Television	:
(iv)	Radio	:
(v)	Watch	:
(vi)	Bullock cart	:
(vii)	Other vehicles (specify)	:
(viii)	Plough	:
(ix)	Others (Specify) (telephone)	:

(c) Have you got electric connection in your house?

Yes/No.

18. Particulars of household income and expenditure:

(i) Total income of the household from all sources :

Source	Income
a) Service	
b) Cultivation	
c) Others (Specify)	

(ii) Total approximate annual expenditure of the household:

Head	Expenditure
a) Food items	
b) Dress & Ornaments	
c) Education	
d) Other social obligations	
e) Health	
f) Others (Specify)	

19. Particulars of savings :

(i) Do you have a Savings Accounts in a Post Office/Bank, etc.

Yes/No.

(a) If yes, do you save money regularly: Yes/No.

(ii) If you do not have a Post Office or Bank Account, do you have other means to save money? Yes/No.

(a) If yes, what are them means ?

(iii) Howmuch money did you save during the last year ?

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

20. Particulars of household indebtedness:

(I) Did you receive any loan, in cash or kind, from any source during the last one year ?

Yes/No.

(a) If yes, state the principal amount:

Cash _____, kind _____

(b) Source _____

(c) Rate of interest :

Cash _____, kind _____

(d) Amount repaid:

Cash _____, kind _____

(e) Purpose for which the loan was taken ?

21. Miscellaneous.

A. Inter caste/Tribe marriage.

(i) Do you prefer inter caste marriage ?

Yes/No.

(a) If yes, give reasons.

(b) If no, give reasons.

(ii) Has any member of your family ever been married to a person belonging to another caste or tribe?

Yes/No

(a) If yes, did you face any social problems for the marriage? Yes/No

(I) Give details.

(III) Do you feel that inter caste/tribe marriage has been increased within your own caste?

Yes/No.

(a) If yes, what are the factors responsible?

22. Welfare measures and constitutional provisions.

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

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

(b) Have you ever enjoyed the benefit of such measures/provisions?
Yes/No

(i) If yes, give details.

(ii) Do you think that the welfare measures and constitutional provisions are sufficient to raise the socio-economic conditions of your community?
Yes/No.

(a) If no, give your suggestions.

23. Untouchability:

(i) Do you think that untouchability prevails in the society so far the relationship between your community and other communities is concerned?
Yes/No.

(a) If yes, to what extent ?

(ii) Are the members of your community restricted from entering into a religious/public place belonging to another community ?
Yes/No

(a) If yes, give details.

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

(a) If yes, why ?

(iv) Do you think that untouchability should be removed from the society for its development ?
Yes/No.

(a) If yes, what remedial measures can be taken in this regard ?

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

(iii) Is there any education programme for the school drop outs in the village?
Yes/No.

(a) If yes, do your children go to these Institutions ? Yes/No

(i) If no, why ?

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.

(ii) Do you utilise the scholarship money for the education of the recipient concerned ? Yes/No

(a) If no, what do you do with the scholarship ?

26. Any other information.

- e.g. (a) attitude towards change (among elderly persons/youths),
 (b) role of youths organisation/NGO;
 (c) inspection of educational institutions by the authorities;
 (d) visit of extension officers/gram sevaks/health educators, etc;

Collected by --

Date -

Supervised by