

SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC SCENARIO OF THE PEOPLE IN DHEMAJI DISTRICT- A STUDY

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ABSTRACT: In the developing countries socio-economic status is the foremost issue. Socio- Economic and demographic study tries to evaluate actual situation of people in a particular region. Dhemaji district is located in the northern bank of the River Brahmaputra the total geographical area of the district is about 3237 sq km. Dhemaji district is less developed district in Assam. There are some reasons for poor economic development of the district these are- poor communications, annual flood. The present paper tries to highlight the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the people in Dhemaji district. The present paper is based on secondary sources. In case of socio- economic and human development indicators Dhemaji district is lagging behind from other district of Assam.

KEYWORDS: Socio- economic, Demography, human development, Dhemaji.

I. INTRODUCTION

Socio- Economic scenario is an important tool to measure the human development of a particular region. According to Dutton and Levin (1989) "Socio- Economic status is a composite measures that typically incorporates economic status, measured by income, social status measured by education and work status measured by occupation. The economy of the people generally agro based. Apart from that people engaged in some primary activities like sericulture, fishing etc. People become landless every year due to chronic flood. Therefore most of the people move to some non firm activities.

Study Area

Dhemaji district is located in the eastern corner and northern boundary of Assam extending from 94°12' 18" east to 94°41' 32" east longitudes and 27°05' 27" north to 27°57' 16" north latitudes. The geographical area of the district is about 3237 sq km (Statistical Handbook Himeji) and represents 4.13% of the total geographical area of Assam. The district is surrounded by hill ranges of Arunachal Pradesh to the north and east and Lakhimpur District in the western side. The River Brahmaputra flows to the southern side of the district. The district has two subdivisions and six Revenue circle. The area is characterized by colder in winter and very hot in summer season. The district influenced by tropical monsoon and annual rainfall varies from 2600-3200mm.

Table1.1: Revenue Circle of Dhemaji District

Sl NO.	Revenue Circle	Total Village
1	Dhemaji	281
2	Gogamukh	173
3	Jonai	384
4	Sissibargaon	396
5	Dhakuakhana (Pt)	51
6	Subansiri(Pt)	38

Objectives

The present paper aims to study the socio economic status of the people in Dhemaji District Assam.

To study the demographic profile of the people of Dhemaji district.

To look in to the socio-economic aspect of the people of the district.

II. METHODOLOGY

The relevant data regarding the present research study has been carried out through primary and secondary sources e.g. published books, journals, Government records. The findings have been summarized using statistical technique, cartographic technique, tabulation, analytical and descriptive method.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

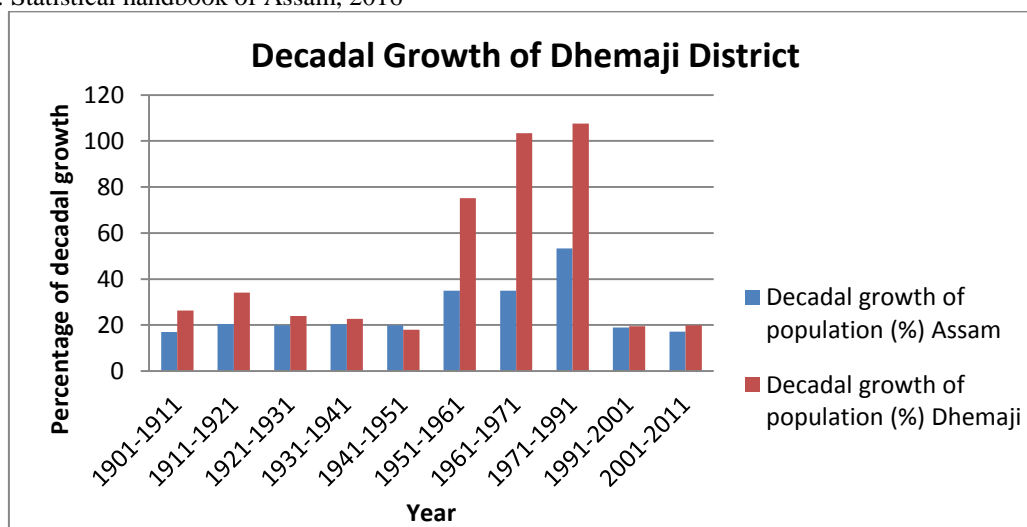
Population Growth

As per 2011 census, Dhemaji district has a population of 686133 and population density of 212 persons/sq km. The district is largely dominated by rural population comprising of 92.96%. Population distribution in any region is governed by many factors including physical, social cultural and socio-demographic one (Chandna, 2011). The table 1.2 reveals that highest growth rate has been found during 1971to 1991. The bar graph reveals that there is positive growth rate from the year1901-2011.

Table 1.2: Decadal growth of Population in Morigaon and Assam, 1901-2011

Year	Decadal growth of population (%)	
	Assam	Dhemaji
1901-1911	16.99	26.29
1911-1921	20.48	34.07
1921-1931	19.91	23.92
1931-1941	20.40	22.69
1941-1951	19.93	17.94
1951-1961	34.98	75.21
1961-1971	34.95	103.42
1971-1991	53.26	107.50
1991-2001	18.92	19.45
2001-2011	17.07	19.97

Source: Statistical handbook of Assam, 2016



Schedule caste and Schedule tribe population

In Dhemaji district schedule tribe population is much higher in comparison to the schedule caste population both the year both 2001 and 2011 census. According to 2011 census 7.6% Schedule caste population are found in urban areas followed by 6.3% in rural areas. Highest number of schedule tribe population is found in rural areas whether 17.2% are found in urban areas.

Table 1.3: Percentage of SC, ST population in Dhemaji (2001, 2011)

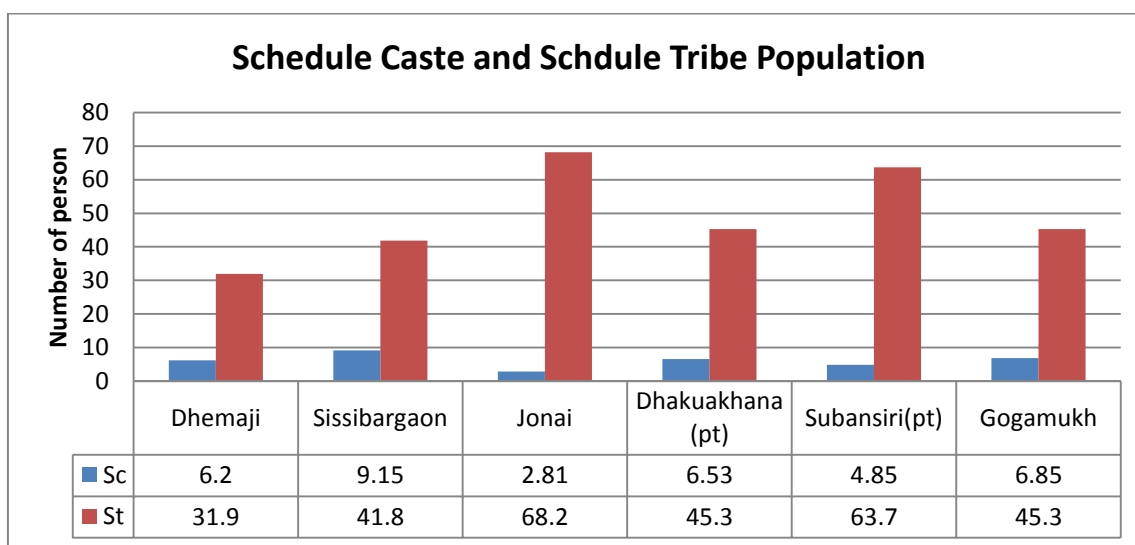
Year	2001		2011	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Area				

Rural	5.3	49.5	6.3	49.7
Urban	5.1	16.5	7.6	17.2

Source: Census of India, (2001, 2011)

Revenue circle	Sc	St
Dhemaji	6.2	31.9
Sissibargaon	9.15	41.8
Jonai	2.81	68.2
Dhakuakhana(pt)	6.53	45.3
Subansiri(pt)	4.85	63.7
Gogamukh	6.85	45.3

Source: Census of India, 2011



Among the six revenue circle of Dhemaji district schedule tribe population mainly concentrated in Jonai circle whereas schedule caste population is very less in comparison to schedule tribe population.

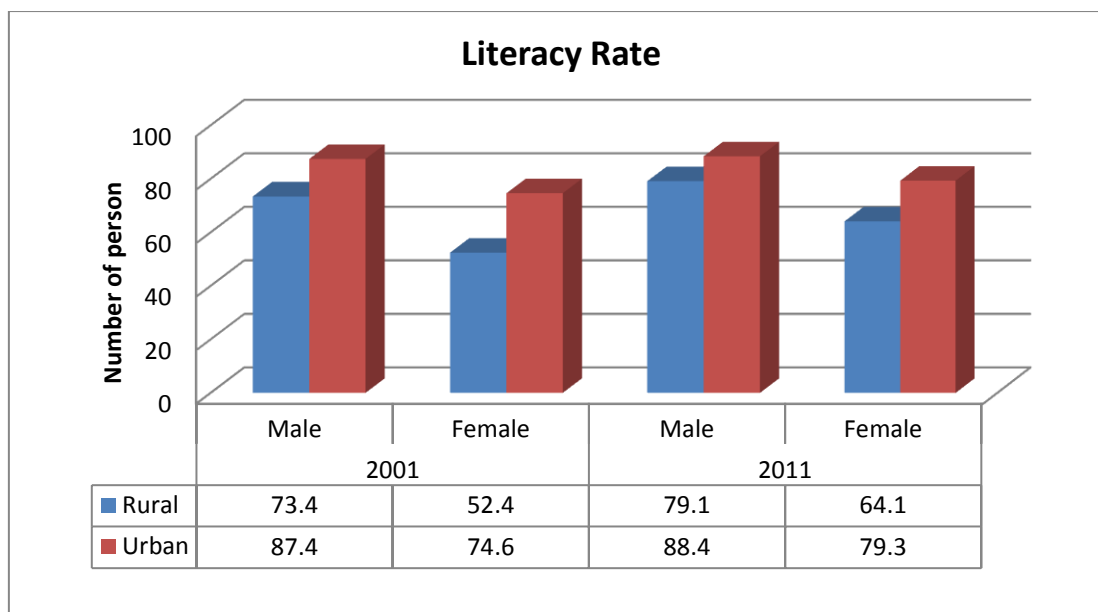
Literacy rate

For the assessment of human development of any region educational status is very important. According to census of India (2011), the literacy rate of Assam is 78.8%, in the study area 72.7 % of the populations are literates of which 79.8 % are male and 65.2 % are female. Dhemaji circle represents 81.89% the highest literacy of the study area which constitutes 88.08% male and 75.51% female. On the other hand Subansiri (part) circle represents the lowest literacy of the study area whether 72.53% male and 56.5% female. The bar graph reveals that male literacy rate 74.4% in 2001 and 79.8% in 2011 which is highest in comparison to the female both the year 2001 and 2011.

Table 1.4: Literacy rate of Assam and Dhemaji, 2011

District	Area	2001		2011	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Dhemaji	Totral	74.4	53.9	79.8	65.2
	Rural	73.4	52.4	79.1	64.1
	Urban	87.4	74.6	88.4	79.3

Source: Statistical Handbook Morigaon, (2001,2011)



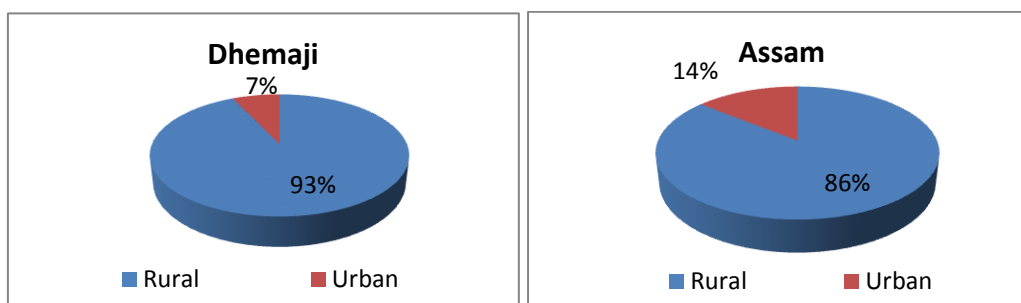
Rural Urban composition of Population

The district represents a predominantly rural based population composition. The census report (2011) reveals that urban population in Dhemaji district only 7.04% whereas

Table 1.5: Rural Urban Population in Dhemaji and Assam (2011)

Category	Dhemaji	Assam
Rural	92.96	85.90
Urban	7.04	14.10

Source: Census of India, 2011



urban population in Assam 14.10%. On the other hand rural population is very high constitutes of 92.96%. The process of urbanization is very slow in the District. In comparison to other district like Kamrup, Nagaon, Jorhat, Tezpur, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh of Assam Dhemaji district is lagging behind in urbanization.

Drinking Water

People have their drinking water from their own tube well in the district. People also fetch drinking water from nearby ponds and rivers. In rural areas villagers get their drinking water from tube wells. In some places of the district poor families draw their drinking water either from ponds and rivers.

Table 1.6: Drinking water facilities, 2011

Dhemaji District		Source of drinking water					
Sl No.	Name of Revenue Circle	Handpump	Tubewell/borehole	Spring	River/ Canal	Tank/ Pond	Other sources
1	Dhemaji	47.82	30.11	0.28	5.3	5.32	1.44
2	Sissibargaon	44.15	38.01	0.1	4.39	3.34	2.31
3	Jonai	57.75	21.22	0.65	6.4	1.21	2.1
4	Dhakuakhana (pt)	85.32	8.13	0	0.97	0.07	1.89
5	Subansiri (pt)	37.46	7.71	1.99	32.48	0.68	4.02

6	Gogamukh	51.01	22.61	0.17	6.15	1.15	2.59
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Source: Statistical Handbook Morigaon, 2011

Medical facilities

Good health is one of the indicators of socio-economic development of an area. Although Govt. has taken many steps, healthcare performance in Dhemaji district lagging behind compared to the other district of Assam. In rural areas of Dhemaji district medical facilities is not satisfactory. There is one civil hospital in Dhemaji town.

Table1.7: Medical facilities in Dhemaji District

SL NO	Health Centre	No. of health Centre
1	Civil Hospital	1
2	Sub divisional Civil Hospital	0
3	Primary Health centre	22
4	First Referral Units	2
5	Community health Centres	4
6	Sub Centres	98

Source: Statistical Handbook Assam, 2016

Occupational Pattern

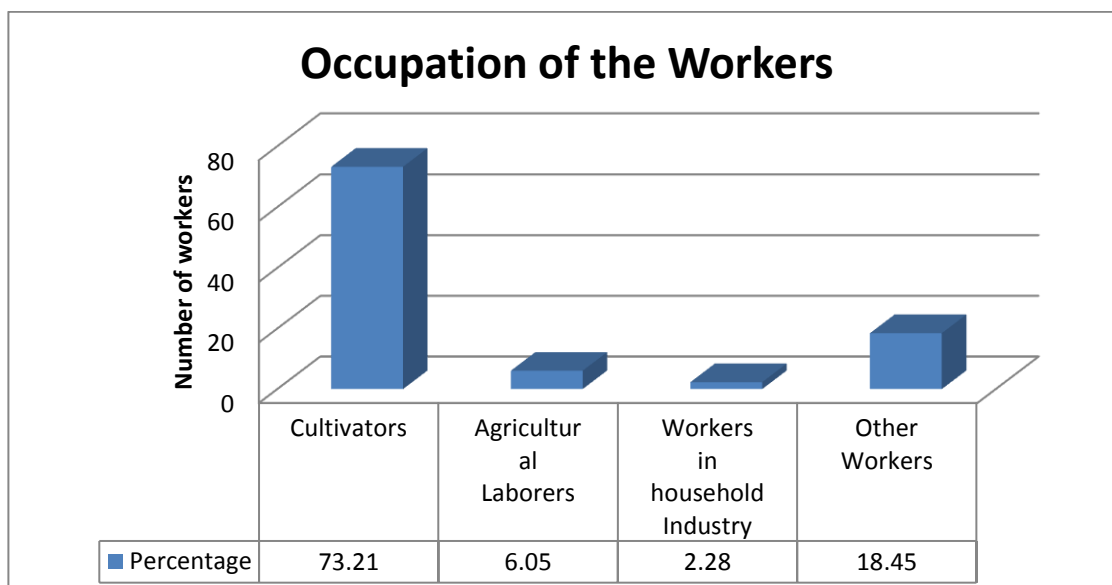
People engaged in both agricultural and non agricultural activities. The people of the have been divided in to two categories main workers and marginal workers. Occupation is a major determinant to ascertain the economic status of people. Large number of people engaged in agriculture in the study area (2011 census). Apart from this many of them are also engaged in fishing, business and informal activities.

Table 1.8: Percentage of workers, 2011 census Dhemaji

Workers	Percentage
Main workers	29.35
Marginal workers	16.82

Main and Marginal workers	Percentage
Cultivators	73.21
Agricultural Laborers	6.05
Workers in household Industry	2.28
Other Workers	18.45

Source: Statistical Handbook Morigaon, 2011



The bar graph showing the occupational status of the of the study area which is based on 2011 census data. The data reveals that 29.35% of the population of the study area is from main workers category and 16.82% from marginal worker category. About 73.21% people engaged in cultivation which is highest in the district.

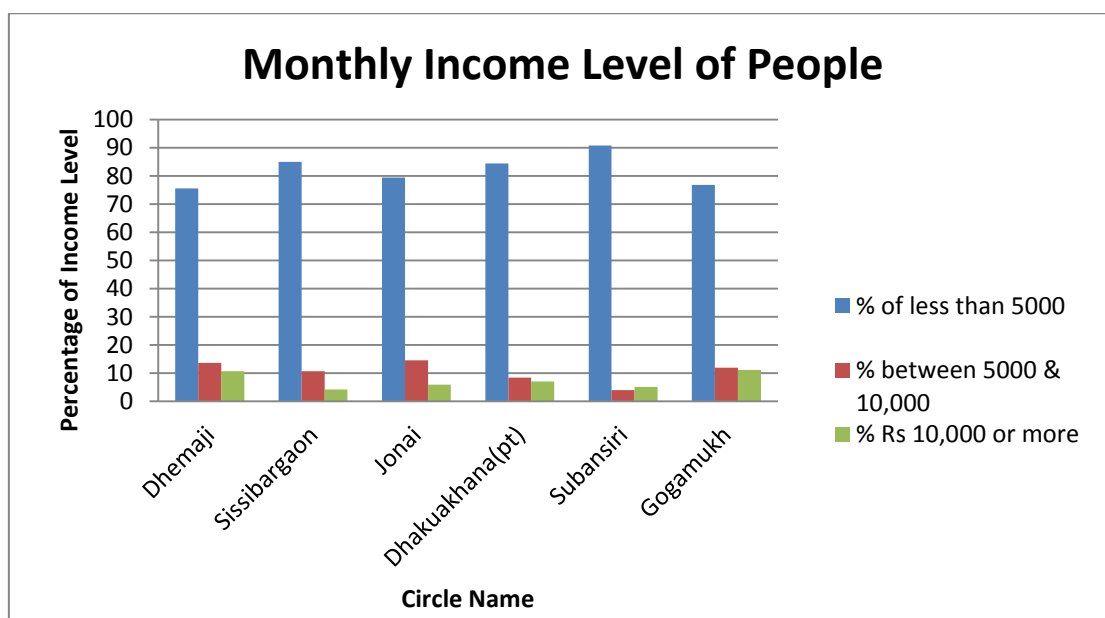
Monthly Income

The monthly income of the people in the district very less which is categorize in to three. The table 1.9 shows that large number of peoples monthly income level below Rs.5000. According to 2011 census very few people income levels Rs. 5000 to 10000 or more. From the table it is clear that the district is very poor economically.

Table 1.9: Number of Households having monthly income of highest earning household number

Sl No	Revenue Circle	% of less than 5000	% between 5000 & 10,000	% Rs 10,000 or more
1	Dhemaji	75.58	13.64	10.78
2	Sissibargaon	84.97	10.75	4.28
3	Jonai	79.46	14.63	5.91
4	Dhakuakhana(pt)	84.41	8.46	7.13
5	Subansiri (pt)	90.78	4.02	5.20
6	Gogamukh	76.84	11.99	11.17

Source: Statistical Handbook Morigaon, 2011



IV. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it is seen that population ranged from 571944 in 2001 and 686133 in 2011. The district showed higher decadal growth during 1971 and 1991. Socio economic and demographic characteristics are important indicators for measuring the advancement of a society. The present study highlights the socio-economic and demographic position of Dhemaji district. In case of urbanization less percentage of people living in urban area than rural area. Almost 93% people living in rural areas, if we look in to the urbanization process, it is very slow in the district. In case literacy rate, rural literacy is very poor compare to the urban area. From the above discussion it is seen that socio economic conditions of the district is very poor.

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