

**SURVEY REPORT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF
PEOPLE LIVING IN BAHBARI DEKACHUBURI VILLAGE
(WARD NO-6) OF SONITPUR DISTRICT OF ASSAM**



Submitted by

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BAHBARI DEKACHUBURI VILLAGE IS AN ADOPTED VILLAGE OF DARRANG COLLEGE:

Darrang College, since its inception focuses on building a strong linkage with the people of the neighbouring villages. The college deemed it a moral obligation to address the societal needs and contribute to redress the problems faced by the people of the neighbouring villages. Keeping in mind all these and in a bid to uphold its mission, the college adopted a village, BAHBARI DEKACHUBURI VILLAGE (Ward No 6) in 2022 and took initiatives for Community Development. Besides, with a motive to instill a sense of civic responsibilities among the students and to introduce them to the ground realities, various extensions and outreach activities are undertaken in other villages too through different units of the College. At first the Department of Education with collaboration of IQAC of Darrang College conducted a survey on socio-economic status of the people living in Bahbari Dekachuburi village to make a roadmap. The survey report has helped us to know about the major problems of the village. On the basis of the report we are able to find out the ways to reach our goal.

1. INTRODUCTION

Assam, one of the eight states of North Eastern Region (NER) is located to the south of the eastern Himalayas along the Brahmaputra and Barak river valleys. The North Eastern Region is way behind as compared to the mainland India. After Meghalaya, Assam is the poorest state in the Northeast, with 32.67 percent of population below the poverty line (NITI Aayog – Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, 2021). Almost 70 percent of the total population in Assam are predominantly dependent on agriculture as farmers or agricultural laborers, and the other 15 percent on allied activities like animal husbandry, poultry farming, agro-processing, fishery etc. for its living (Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana, 2022-23).

Rural development can bring about a desirable improvement in social, educational, economic, health, cultural aspects, and other aspects of rural life, with progressive removal of poverty (Mitra, 1985). There are some complex of factors determining the socio-economic development of rural areas. Socio-economic status is “a composite measure that typically incorporates economic status, measured by income; social status, measured by education, and work status, measured by occupation”. The socio-economic position of an individual, family or a group is an important determinant of livelihoods, as they influence the level of knowledge, skills and income that they have to live on (Debajyoti et al. 2022).

The state government has been implementing poverty alleviating programs, undertaken and sponsored by the central government with an objective to eradicate poverty and bringing about rural developments by uplifting the economic condition of people in rural areas. Rural Development Programmes are being implemented through the Panchayat and Rural Development Department at state level and by the Zilla Parishad at the district level. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is one of such initiatives started by a group of dedicated faculty members of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi 2014. The program was formally launched by the Ministry of Education (MoE) (formerly Ministry Human Resource Development (MHRD)) in presence of The President of India on 11th November, 2014. It was inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. The main mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is to enable higher educational institutions of India, including students and faculty members to work

with the people of rural areas so as to help them in identifying various challenges towards development and implying the best solution for accelerating sustainable growth.

With an objective to understand the current socio-economic condition of the state, the investigators have undertaken the survey on socio-economic status of the people, by using Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Baseline Household Survey Form. For the present study, a survey was undertaken in Bahbari Dekachuburi village in Bihaguri Tehsil in Sonitpur district of Assam state, India.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the socio-economic status of people residing in Bahbari Dekachuburi village, under Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

3. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- a) The study has been delimited to Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam.
 - b) The study was conducted only on ward number 6 (six) of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam.
4. **STUDY AREA:** Bahbari Dekachuburi Village, Sonitpur district, Assam, India (A Profile)

Bahbari Dekachuburi village is in Bihaguri Tehsil (Block) in Sonitpur district of Assam state India. It is located 40km towards west from district head quarter, Tezpur and 132 km from state capital, Dispur. Tezpur, Dhekiajuli, Nagaon and Morigaon are the nearby cities to Bahbari Dekachuburi. The name of the constituency is Bahbari Dekachuburi. Under Bahbari Panchayat there are total 10(ten) number of wards. Bahbari Dekachuburi village is under ward number 6(six) out of the 10(ten) wards. The inhabitants of this village are Adivasi community in majority, Assamese community and a few residents belong to Bodo community.

5. METHODOLOGY

- a) **Method Used:** Descriptive Survey method was used for the present study by the investigators. This method can be defined as an approach of descriptive research that blends quantitative and qualitative data to provide relevant and accurate information.

b) **Population:** All the inhabitants of Bahbari Dekachuburi village (ward no. 6) of Sonitpur district of Assam, India were the population of the study. A total of 126 families are the population for the present study.

c) **Sample:** The sample is taken into two phases. In the first phase out of total 126 families 100% sample that means 126 taken as sample for the study.

In the second phase total 637 (100%) members of 126 families are taken as the sample for the present study.

6. **Sampling Technique** – Purposive Sampling Technique was used by the investigators for collecting the required data.

a) **Data:**

i) **Primary data:** Primary data means the information collected through first hand research. For the study, the investigators have used Unnat Bharat Survey Form for collecting the required data, along with interview schedule.

ii) **Secondary data:** Secondary data means the data collected earlier by someone else. Various secondary sources used for the study were journals, articles, e-resources, books, magazines, government portals and official websites etc.

b) **Tool Used** - Unnat Bharat Yojana Survey Form was adopted as a tool by the investigators for the present study. The survey form consisted of factors contributing to socio economic status like source of income, health status, educational qualification of family members, number of members in a family, possessed wealth, poverty status, source of water and electricity, sanitation system etc.

c) **Statistical Technique Used** – Simple Percentage method along with statistical graph as graphical representation of statistical data were used by the investigators for the study.

7. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Objective 1: To study the socio-economic status of people residing in Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

Table 1

Number of total families and total population of Bahbari Dekachuburi village

Total number of families	126
Total number of population	637

Table 1 shows that in Bahbari Dekachuburi village total number of families is 126 and total population is 637.

Table 2

Percentage of male and female residents of Bahbari Dekachuburi village, under Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

Gender	N	%
Male	320	50.24
Female	317	49.76
Total	637	100

In table 2, it is shown that the total number of male residents is 320 with 50.24% and the total female residents is 317 with 49.76%.

Figure 1: Graph representing the percentage of male and female residents of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

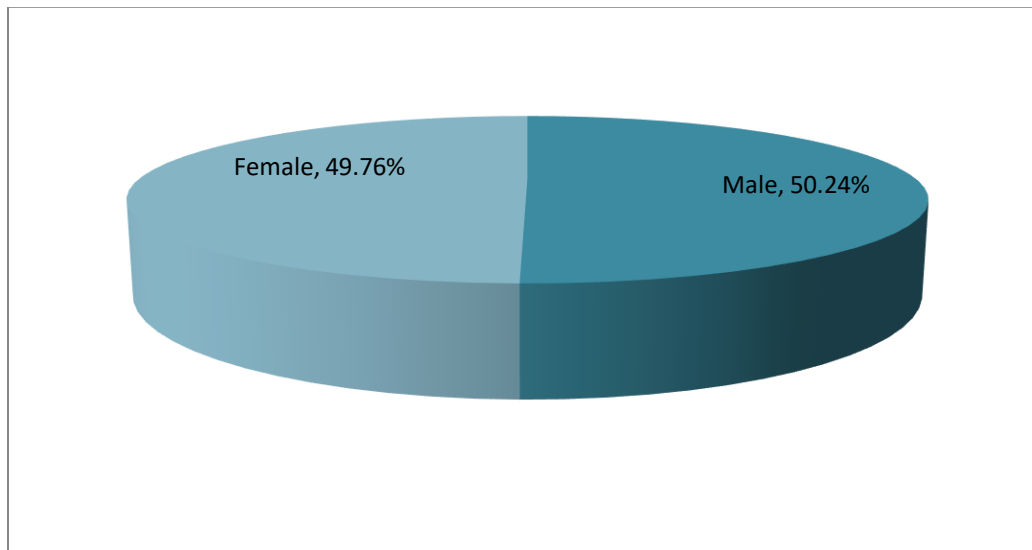


Table 3

Percentage showing the poverty status of 126 families of Bahbari Dekachuburi village, under Sonitpur district of Assam, India

Poverty Status	Number	Percentage %
BPL	64	50.80
APL	19	15.07
Others	43	34.13
TOTAL	126	100

Table 3 shows the percentage of poverty status of 126 families into three categories: BPL, APL, and others. 64 families belong to BPL category, comprising of 50.80%, 19 families belong to APL category with 15.07% and 43 families with 34.13% neither belong to BPL category nor APL category.

Figure 2. Graph representing the poverty status of 126 families of Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam.

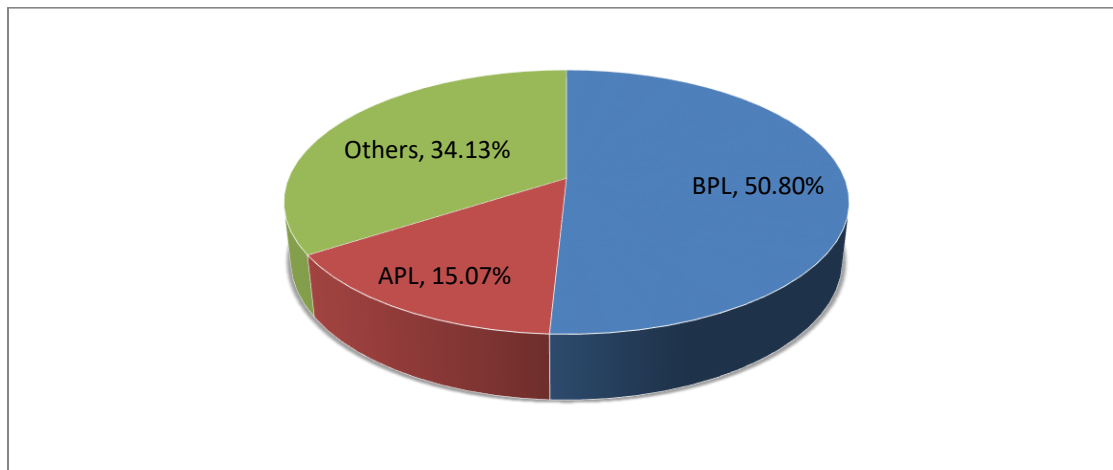


Table 4

Percentage showing the type of houses owned by 126 families of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam, India

Type of Houses	N	%
Kutcha	96	76.19
Pucca	14	11.11
Semi Pucca	16	12.70
TOTAL	126	100

In Table 4, it is shown that 96 out of 126 families own kutcha house with 76.19%, 14 families own pucca house with 11.11%, and 16 families have semi-pucca type of house with 12.70%.

Figure 3. Graph representing the type of houses owned by 126 families of Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

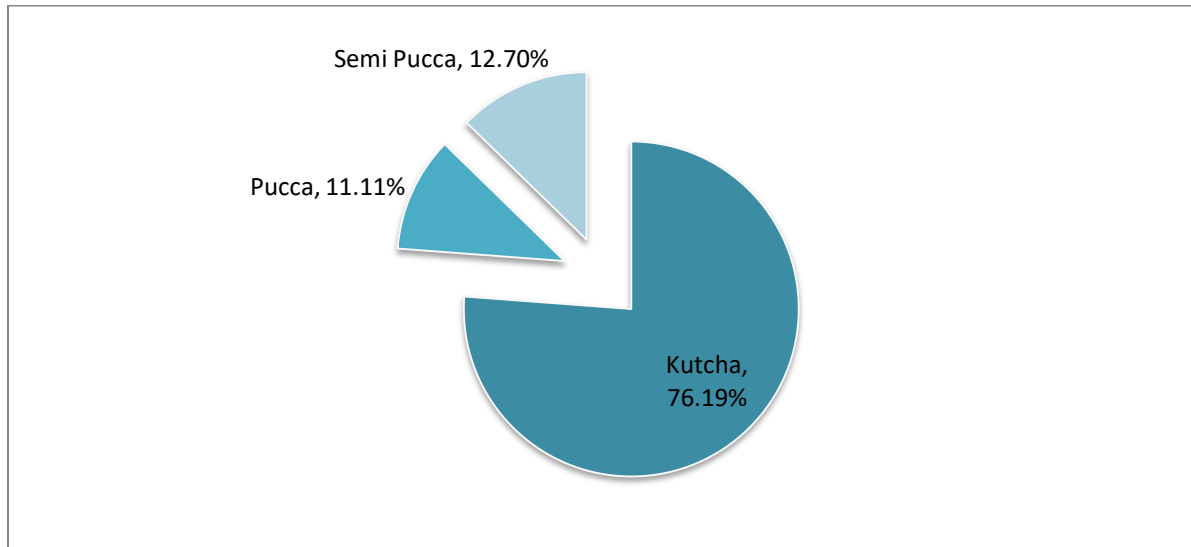


Table 5

Percentage showing the present status of people residing in Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam.

	N	%
Worker	203	31.87
Non worker	207	32.50
School Going	197	30.92
Infant	30	4.71
Total	637	100

In table 5 it is shown that out of the total population of 637, 203 individuals are workers and engage in any kind of work for income source comprising of 31.87% and 207 individuals are non-workers, without engaging in any income source with 32.50%. 197 individuals are students and go to school with 30.92%. And 30 are infants with 5.71%.

Figure 4: Graphical representation of present status of people residing in Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam.

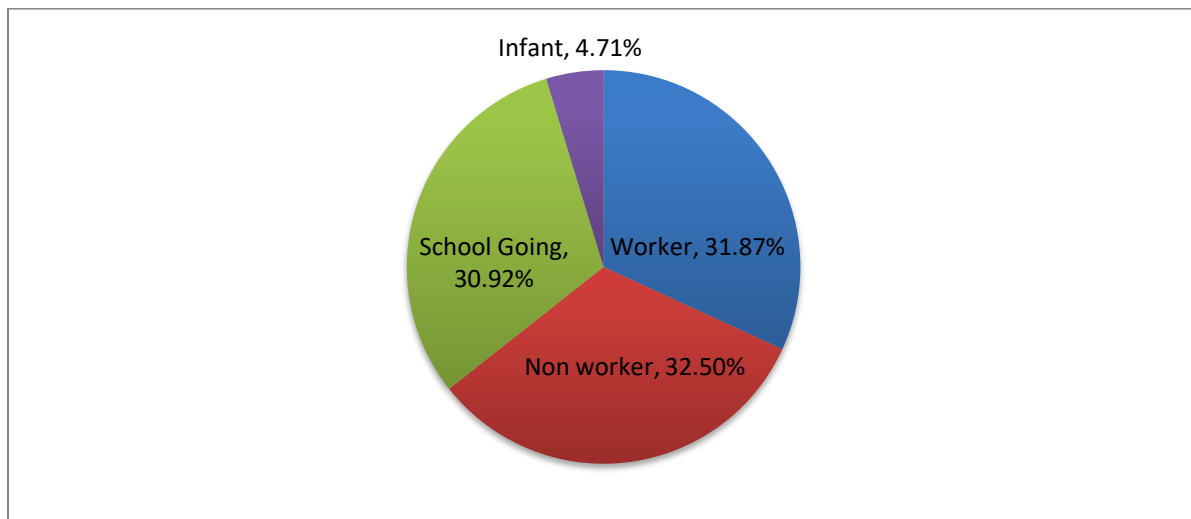


Table 6

Table showing the sources of income of Bahbari Dekachuburi villagers under Sonitpur district of Assam

Sources of Income	N	%
Farming	14	6.90
Sharecropping	03	1.48
Fishing	01	0.50
Skilled Labourers	42	20.69
Unskilled Labourers	117	57.64
Government Job	06	2.96
Private Job	09	4.43
Weaving	01	0.50
Other Artisans	02	0.99
Trade Business	08	3.94
Total	203	100

In table 6, it is shown that out of 637 total population 203 individuals are earning members of their respective families. 14 individuals farm their own land with 6.90%, 03 individuals engage in share cropping with 1.48% and one is involved in fishing with 0.50%. 42 individuals are skilled labourers with 20.69%, whereas 117 are unskilled labourers with 57.64%. 06 individuals engage in government job comprising 2.96%, on the other hand 09 individuals are involved in private job with 4.43%. 1 person is into weaving with 0.50%, 02 artisans with 0.99% and 08 individuals are engaged in business and trading with 3.94%.

Figure 5. Graph representing the sources of income of Bahbari Dekachuburi villagers under Sonitpur district of Assam.

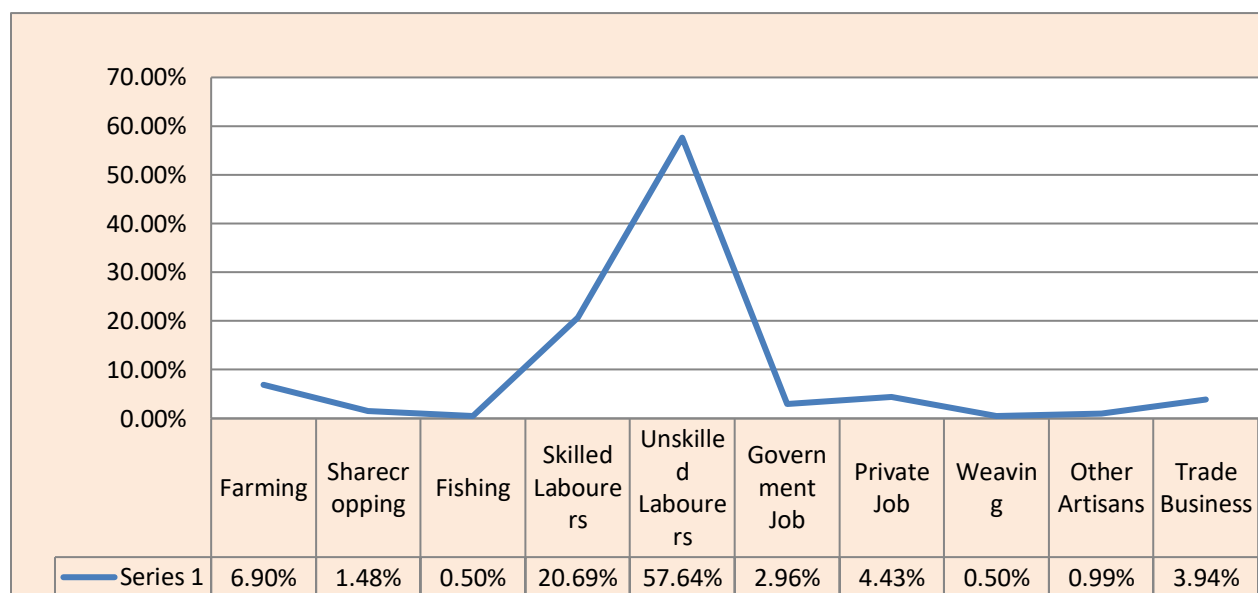


Table No. 7

Table showing total livestock numbers in Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam.

Sl No.	Livestock	N	%
1	Cows	155	15.58
2	Goats	306	30.75
3	Calves	17	1.70
4	Bullocks	04	0.40
5	Poultry/Hen	331	33.26
6	Ducks	180	18.09
7	Pig	02	0.20
Total		995	100

In table 7 it is shown that there are total 995 livestock in Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam. Out of the total numbers 155 are cows with 15.58%, 306 goats with 30.75%, 17 calves with 1.70%, 04 bullocks with 0.40%, 331 hens with 33.26%, 180 ducks with 18.09% and 02 pigs with 0.20%.

Figure 6. Graph representing the total number of livestock in Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam.

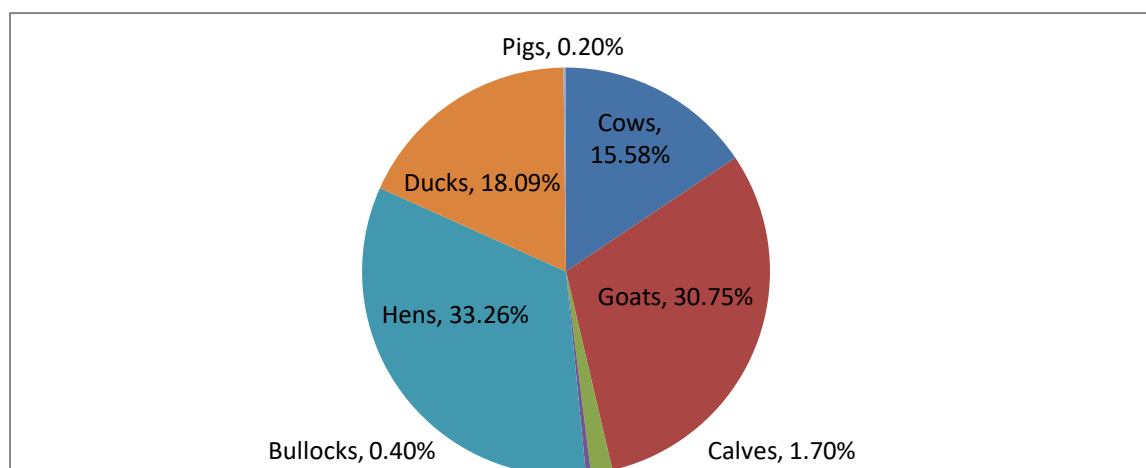


Table 8

Percentage showing the educational qualification of overall population (637) in Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

Educational Qualification	N	%
Illiterate	183	28.73
Infant	30	4.71
Anganwadi	06	0.94
Class 1-5	216	33.91
Class 6-8	93	14.60
Class 9-10	78	12.24
Class 11-12	25	3.92
Under Graduate	05	0.80
Post Graduate	01	0.15
Total	637	100

In Table 8 it is shown that out of 637 population, 183 are illiterate with 28.73%, the number of infant is 30 with 4.71%, 6 persons went to Anganwadi with 0.94% and the educational qualification of 216 number of residents are from class 1-5 comprising of 33.91%, 93 number of residents fall under class 6-8 with 14.60%, the educational qualification of 78 residents is from

class 9-10 level with 12.24%, 25 number of residents fall under class 11-12 with 3.92%, and the educational qualification of 5 residents is up to Under Graduate level with 0.80% and 1 resident up to Post Graduate level with 0.15% respectively.

Figure 7. Graph representing the educational qualification of overall population (637) in Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam, India.

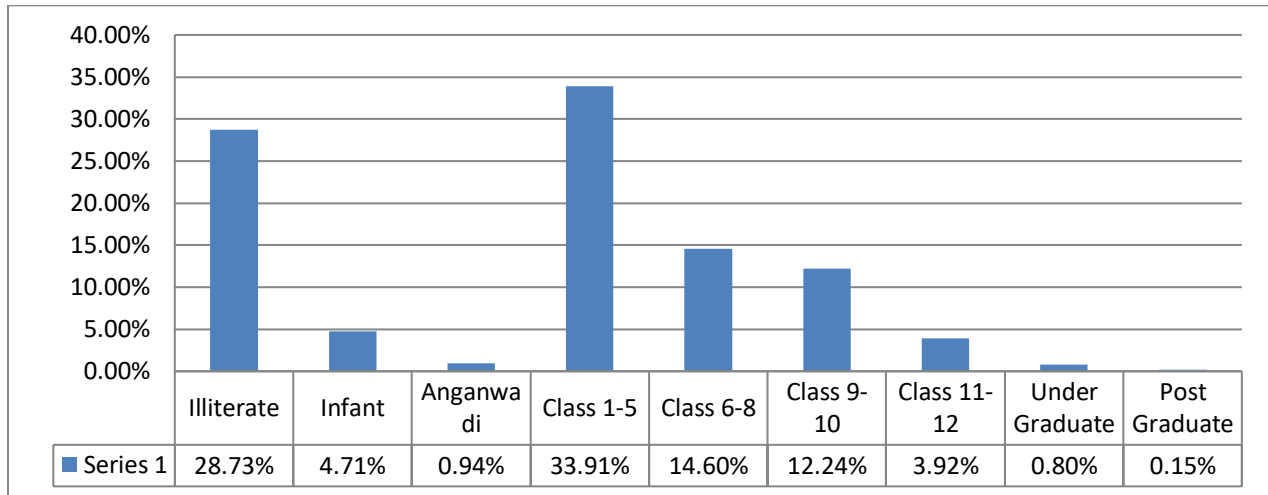


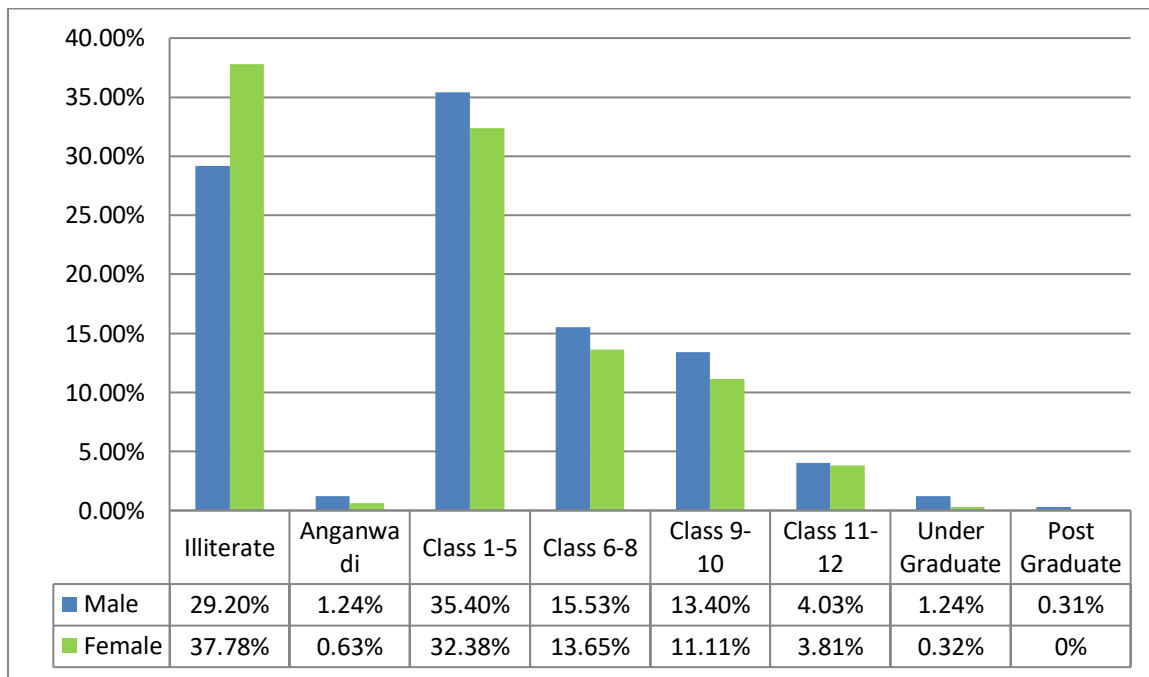
Table 9

Percentage showing the educational qualification of male and female residents of Bahbari Dekachuburi village under Sonitpur district of Assam.

Educational Qualification	Male		Female		Total
	N	%	N	%	
Illiteracy	94	29.20	119	37.78	213
Anganwadi	4	1.24	02	0.63	06
Class 1-5	114	35.40	102	32.38	216
Class 6-8	50	15.53	43	13.65	93
Class 9-10	43	13.40	35	11.11	78
Class 11-12	13	4.03	12	3.81	25
Under Graduate	4	1.24	01	0.32	05
Post Graduate	1	0.31	00	0	01
Total	322	100	314	100	637

In table 9, it is shown that 94 number of males are illiterate with 29.20% and 119 females are illiterate with 37.78%, 4 number of males with 1.24% and 2 females with 0.63% fall under anganwadi, the educational qualification of 114 number of males with 35.40% and 102 number of females with 32.38% fall under class 1-5 level, the educational qualification of 50 males with 15.53% and 43 females with 13.65% fall under class 6-8 level, the educational qualification of 43 males with 13.40% and 35 females with 11.11% fall under class 9-10 level, the educational qualification of 13 males with 4.03% and 12 females with 3.81% fall under class 11-12 level. The educational qualification of 4 males with 1.24% and 01 female with 0.32% fall under undergraduate level and only one male has post graduate degree with 0.31%.

Figure 8. Graph representing the educational qualification of male and female residents of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district, Assam.



8. MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 1) From the study it was found that males' inhabitants are more in numbers (50.24%) than female inhabitants (49.76%).
- 2) In terms of poverty status of 126 families, maximum number of families with 64 numbers belongs to BPL category (50.80%).
- 3) Regarding the type of houses owned by 126 families of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam, most of the families (76.19%) live in Kutcha houses.
- 4) From the study it was found that out of 203 individuals who are engaged in some kind of work for income, most of them belong to unskilled labourers category with a total of 117 individuals.
- 5) It was found in the study that the educational qualification of maximum number of villagers (33.91%) is under class 1-5 level, followed by illiterates with 28.73%. Only a person holds master degree, comprising 0.15% of the total population.
- 6) In terms of educational qualification of males and females residing in Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam, it was found that there were more female illiterates (37.78%) than male (29.20%). And in other levels of education also, from Anganwadi level to Post Graduate level, it was found that females are less qualified than males.
- 7) There were more non workers (32.50%) than workers (31.87%).

9. MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THE VILLAGE

Major problems found in the survey after interacting with the inhabitants of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of Sonitpur district of Assam, India are mentioned below:

- a) **Flood:** One major problem the villagers are facing is flood issue. Each year, twice or thrice they have to face this problem during monsoon seasons, compelling many of them to take refuge.
- b) **Kutcha Road:** The road of entire village is kutcha. From the interaction it was learnt that the villagers themselves construct kutcha roads together, but even these roads get destroyed during flood each year.
- c) **Transportation problem:** Transportation problem is another issue found in Bahbari Dekachuburi village after detailed survey. As most families belong to BPL category, they

had no vehicles of their own, except for bicycles. Sometimes, they have to cover miles walking due to lack of any public transport facilities in the village.

- d) **Lack of medical facilities:** Another major problem of the village is lack of any medical facilities. It has no hospital, so in case of emergency health problem, they have to take the patient to the nearest hospital. In addition, there is lack of transport facility as well during the time of emergency, making the situation more badly.
- e) **No high school:** There is no High school near the village. It was observed from the survey that, most of the students drop school after Lower Primary level. Unavailability of high school in the village or nearby is one of the cause most students drop after completing lower primary level and hesitate to complete their study up to high school level.
- f) **No drainage system:** There is no any drainage system in the village. Lack of proper drainage system could have been one cause for flood in the village, with excess rain water not being able to discharge through proper channel.
- g) **Problem in drinking water:** According to World Health Organisation (WHO) every individual has the right to safe drinking water. But it was found from the survey that the water used for drinking in the households has lots of iron and villagers had no water filters to filter the impurities in water.
- h) **No waste collection system:** There is no waste collection system in the village.
- i) **Sanitation system is not satisfactory:** The sanitation system in the village is also not satisfactory. Although most of them have toilets but they are not clean enough, leading to unhygienic issue as well.
- j) **No awareness on land and wealth:** Most of the villagers are not aware about the land and wealth they possess. They are not able to provide proper information about their land holdings, including cultivation land.
- k) **No computer literacy centre:** there is not a single computer literacy centre near the village. But it is known to all of us that computer literacy is an urgent need of hour.

10) SUGGESTIVE MEASURES TO TRANSFORM THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE VILLAGE:

- a) Residents have to face flood situation in Bahbari Dekachuburi village every year. So, to alleviate such problem the government and other officials must work on it, trying to find a permanent solution to it and giving them shelter during the crisis, distributing other necessities like ration, drinking water etc.
- b) It is the duty of the government and other officials working at local, district and state level to look into the current developmental condition of the village and take necessary measures for the development of the areas like construction of more schools, computer literacy centre, hospitals, pucca roads etc.
- c) Gaon panchayat and other bodies working at grass root level must ensure that various government schemes for rural developments and upliftment of the socio-economic status of the villagers have timely reached the needy and that no one is left out of such facilities.
- d) As it was found from the study that the educational qualification of the villagers of Bahbari Dekachuburi village is very low and most of them are illiterate parents, so firstly they must be made aware about the importance of education. In this regard, various NGOs working for education in collaboration with college students, NCC cadets by forming groups, volunteers working at grass root level etc. can come forward for creating awareness about the importance of education.
- e) As most of the youths are unemployed in the village undertaken for study, so there must be more scope of employment opportunities or any sources of income according to their capabilities, educational qualification, skills and other areas of interest.

10. Conclusion:

From the present study it can be concluded that the socio-economic status of Bahbari Dekachuburi village of sonitpur district of Assam is very low. Improvement is needed in every aspect namely education, occupation, employment and infrastructure.

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