

Chapter 2

FIELD OF THE STUDY

This chapter introduces the field of the study which comprises four villages; namely, Bhuyan, Charal/Hira, Borbahoni and Lahdoigarh Mishing Gaon having different castes in Sivasagar district of Assam. The Assam state situated in the centre of the North-East is surrounded by national and international boundaries like Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Bhutan and Bangladesh. It is bounded by Arunachal Pradesh on the East and West Bengal on the West. While the Northern side is flanked by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, the southern side is covered by Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya. The southernmost side is flanked by Mizoram. Assam is divided into two valleys, i.e., Brahmaputra Valley and Barak Valley. The two big rivers Brahmaputra and Barak flow through the state. From ancient period, different types of racial groups have come to the fertile Brahmaputra valley. Assam is known for its fertile land, blue hills, green forestry, liquid gold and mighty snow. The river Brahmaputra has attracted different people during different historical periods. Located between 90°-96° east longitudes and 24°-26° north latitudes, Assam has comparatively developed economy in North-East India. Dispur is the capital of Assam and Guwahati is the largest city of Assam as well as North-Eastern region. This city is the main market place of the North-East region with different types of newly growing industries. For administrative and revenue purposes, the state has 27 districts including the newly created Kamrup urban district and four districts under the newly created Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) areas; namely, Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri. According to the Census of India 2011, the population of Assam stands 31169272, out of which 15954927 (51.19%) are males and 15214345 (48.81%) females. The decadal growth of the state's population works out to be 16.93 percent during the decade 2001-11. As the context of the study the district of Sivasagar is introduced in terms of its agricultural development and communication channels.

THE SIVASAGAR DISTRICT

The four villages are located in the southern part of Sivasagar district, a historical place in Assam. It is situated in the plains of Brahmaputra valley and to the north of Nagaland with a population of 1150253. As per 2011 Census, 90.45 % population (1040376) of Sivasagar district are in rural areas, out of which males and females are 531,541 (51.09%) and 508,835 (48.90%) respectively. The population density of Sivasagar is 431 persons per square km. It is the 16th most densely populated district in Assam. Sivasagar has a sex ratio of 951 females '000 males and a literacy rate of 81.36% (males -86.75% and females -75.69%).

The ancient name of the district is Kalansupar. Formerly known as Rangpur, it was the capital of the Ahom Kingdom from 1699 to 1788. The Ahoms ruled Assam, virtually without interruption, for six centuries, until their kingdom fell to the Burmese in 1819 and their ruling class was all but wiped out (Sukafa's period:Ahom Buronji). The land was liberated by the British in 1825 and owing to the prevailing state of anarchy it was completely annexed in 1826. For administrative purpose it was divided into three sub-divisions; namely, Dibrugarh district in the North, in the South the historical Janjhi River separates it from Jorhat district since 1983. Located between 94.25° and 95.25° Longitudes and 21.45° and 27.15° North Latitudes, it has elevation of 86.6 meters above the sea level. Two national highways (NH 37 & NH 61) make the district well connected with other parts of Assam as well as India. Sivasagar is known for oil and natural gas and tea gardens. The district comprises 874 villages and 9 development blocks comprising 927,706 (80.59%) Hindus and 85,761 (8.15%) Muslims. The main communities in the district are Ahoms, tea-tribes, Sutiya, Sonowal Kachari, Mising and Deori. There are also a few villages of Buddhist tribes like the Khamyang and the Turung. There are also small populations of Konyak, Manipuri and Nocte people in some parts of the district (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sivasagar_district#Geography).

THE FOUR VILLAGES

The four villages studied are Charal, Bhuyan, Lahdoigarh and Barbahoni. These are introduced here.

Charal or Hira

The Hira village, also known as Charal, is located in the south-east of the district near Amguri College at a distance of 30 km from the district headquarters at Sivasagar town. The village is under Pengera Gaon Panchayat of Amguri Development Block. Its total population is 257 persons distributed over 55 households; male 133 and females 124. Majority of them belong to Schedule Castes.

The village is surrounded by Japiahajia village in the north and Borbam Tea Garden in the south along with large cultivated fields in the east. Kathkotia Baruah Road is passing through the village which connects the village with Geleki (famous for stone, coal, oil etc. The villagers belong to Hira community and are Sudra in sect. Though they have had a very low status in traditional Hindu society, now-a-days they are following all the rites and rituals as the other Vaishnavite Hindus do. Out of the total 55 households, 22 are semi-pacca and 8 are kachcha and 25 families live in pacca houses including Raw Concrete Cement (RCC) house. Of the households, 27 have four living rooms, 25 families have five, 2 families have 3 and only one family has 6 living rooms besides kitchen. The village has electricity, water supply and road facilities. Though there is no government bus passing through the village, but autorikshaw and Tata magic vehicles are available to visit other places. Generally, the villagers visit the town by their private vehicles and bicycles as it has a short distance of 1 km. Besides the houses, there are five shops found on both the sides of the main road. Four of the shops deal in grocery and one deals in fertilizers and tea medicines.

Hira Lower Primary School is situated at the end of the village. For high school education, students usually go to Amguri boys higher secondary school, Janata high school or Gyan Vikash Vidyapith (private semi govt. school) situated in the west and east side of the village at a distance of 2 kms. For college education, students take admission in Amguri College and Janjhi College which are located half a km & 8 kms from the village respectively. So, educational facilities are available to the villagers. The primary health centre located in Kowar Gaon near Boruah Tea Garden hardly facilitates the villagers. So, they visit the other nearest hospitals, i.e., Pengera Primary Hospital or private nursing homes in Amguri town. People use supply water for drinking and other household purposes. The villagers established a Namghar (temple)

in the centre of the village besides the main road. Religious functions are organized and other collective decisions are taken in the Namghar.

Bhuyan Gaon

The Bhuyan village located in the north of Amguri town and south of Sivasagar town under Amguri sub-division is surrounded by Dhunia Gaon, Charaimoria and Maaj Gaon comprising bamboo cover and large cultivated fields. The village is 5 km away from NH-37; hardly half a km from Amguri town and NH-61. The pacca roads also connect it with Amguri town and Cheuni-ali. The village comes under Bhuyanhat Gram Panchayat and Amguri Legislative Assembly Constituency. The total population is 239 out of which 139 (58.15%) are males and 100 (41.84%) are females. In all, there are 52 households in the village, out of which 48 belong to Kalitas (general caste) and other four belong to Ahoms- both are Hindu communities. 57.69% of families are small in size and 42.31% are large size having more than five members. The settlement pattern of the village is linear and scattered. Most of the households of the village are constructed along the road side as well as farther from the road. There is one Government School named Bhuyan Lower Primary located at middle of the village. As the village is not far away from Amguri town the children face no problem of schooling. For college education they take admission in Amguri College, Arundoi Academy, Janjhi College or nearby colleges such as Jagannath Boruah, Chandra Kamal Boruah etc. in Jorhat district. The socio-economic condition of the villagers is good. Though there is no medical facility in the village, the villagers face no problems due to its proximity with the Amguri town. For any necessary requirement they can easily travel to the town. The main economic sources of the villagers are agriculture, business and service.

Lahdoigarh

Lahdoigarh is a village of Mishing tribe, having 115 households with a total population of 480 persons, 257 males and 223 females. It is about 35 kms from the district headquarters, 5 kms to the South of Amguri town and to the North from Nagaland Assam Border. The NH-61 is passing by the village towards Nagaland. The village falling under Amguri Gaon Panchayat is situated on the bank of historical Janjhi River which divides the Sivasagar district from the Jorhat district. It is linked

with Halwating Tea Garden and Chutia village. The entire road is kachcha; the village has bamboo cover along with large cultivated fields opposite to the households.

Lahdoigarh Janajati Prathomic School is the only educational institution in the village. For Middle English (ME) and high school educated children have to go either Halwating Mazdoor School or Amguri Higher Secondary School. Because of autorikshaws operating between Halwating and Amguri (NH-61) students face no problem of access to school or colleges. The settlement pattern of the village is a typical line with traditional *Chang Ghar*. The households are arranged on both the sides of the road. Though some households are pacca they still maintain chang ghar type with pacca walls. In the village, most of the Chang ghars are kachcha with bamboo & mud walls and tin roof. The Namghar, the place for taking all decisions, is located in the centre of the village. They organize various festivals, religious ceremonies there. There is no medical facility in the village; however, a primary health centre and a veterinary hospital are located 5 kms away from the village. Though there is no hospital, the villagers visit private chambers of doctors at Halwating for treatment.

Most of the villagers are cultivators, petty businessmen and a few are service holders. Janjhi River is one of the major sources of income from where they catch fish and collect wood for sale. The valuable trees like *Tita Sepa*, *Halah*, *Kokon*, *Saam* flow down from the nearest forest of Nagaland and some of the villagers carry bamboo for sale. The storing of sand in winter season from Janjhi River is also another source of income. Most of them use river water or ring well for drinking water. The village is not covered under Rural Water Supply Programme.

Borbahoni or Purana Baghjan

The village Borbahoni or Purana Baghjan is located between Dopdar Joradhara and Chutiabasti or Halwating town in the south of the district headquarters town of Sivasagar. It is about 35 kms from Sivasagar town, 6 kms from Amguri town and one and half kilometre from Halwating town. The total population of the village is 437 persons comprising 223 (51.02%) males and 214 (48.97%) females distributed over 101 households. Kathkotia Borua Ali and Mehgor Ali are the main roads to connect it with the outside worlds. The houses are settled beside the village road. The

canopy of bamboos and other trees covers it. It is surrounded by Barua Tea Estate in the west and cultivated field in the east. It is a village of SC, ST and OBC populations.

The entire road of the village is kachcha which is the only means of communication in the village. The people of other villages also use this road as a shortcut to the Halwating Bazaar. In rainy season the condition of road is poor due to the tea carrying vehicles. There are no private or government buses plying through the village. Although NF Railways lines (Assam to Nagaland) are passing by the village but due to illegal and some other unavoidable condition government stopped the train services in this tract. The households are located in a linear way beside the village road. Majority of the households are kachcha with bamboo walls and tin roofs. The safe drinking water supply is not available in the village and the villagers depend on pond and tube well. For marketing and shopping they use their personal vehicles.

Cultivation and labour are the main sources of earning in the village. The tea labour workers earn wages by plucking tea leaves in small tea gardens in the nearest villages. There is a Borbahoni Lower Primary School in the village; for Middle and high school education children take admission in Modern English School and Dopdar High School or Halwating Mazdoor School. The Amguri Collage is the nearest college, 6 kms. from it. The primary health centre and the veterinary hospital are 4 kms away from the village.

1. The People

The whole study area comprises different castes and communities. Charal has mostly Scheduled Caste people (52 households) who are known as Hira community and only 3 households belong to Ahom community. Traditionally Hiras are potters, but they have completely given up pottery in this village. Hiras believe that they belong to Utkal Brahman. Majority of them are distributed in the lower Assam. According to their folklore, the origin of Hira potters dates back to 500-600 BC, when one Utkal Brahman named Shri Mohendra Mohapatra came to Kamakhyadham on foot and by boat along with his wife named Hira and two sons as pilgrimage. Just after visiting the temple, Mohendra died at Kamakhya. Then Hira faced extreme problems of food, shelter and security. It was much difficult for her to return to her

native place in Orissa. One day, she walked along with his two children on the bank of the river Brahmaputra in search of food. She observed bright clay nearby and collected some amount of clay. Immediately, she made small earthen pots with the sticky clay with her fingers and burned the dry pots. Then, sold them to neighbouring people and thus began to earn her livelihood. Her sons also learnt this craft and assisted her in the work. From that day, they are known as Hiranmanu and their work is known as Hira potter. It is reported that their forefathers might have been brought here by Shrimanta Shankardeva. Although they have very low status in traditional Hindu society, now-a-days they perform all the rites and rituals as the other Vaishnavites or Hindu people do.

In Bhuyan Gaon, most of families (92.30%) belong to Brahmans and only 7.70% are Ahom. The word 'Bhuya' means landlord which is synonymous with the Persian equivalent Zaminder. They did not have any ethnic basis. There are two opinions regarding the origin of the Assamese Bhuyans. According to the one which is much prevalent in western Assam, they came from Gauda in accordance with terms of the peace agreement made between the Gaudeswar Dharmanarayan and the Kamateswar Durlabhnarayan in the beginning of the 14th century. Their original homeland was Kanauj but when that city fell into the hands of Muslims, they migrated to Assam. The other opinion ascribes an indigenous origin to the Bhuyan and makes them descendants of Samudra. In the state of Lakshmi, the grand daughter had two sons named Santanu and Shyamanta who quarrelled after death of their mother Shyamanta, then, migrated to Nowgong and Santanu remained in his original place, which he named after his mother and called it Lakhipur or Lakshimpur. But some scholars reject both the opinions. However these Bhuyan people made valuable contribution to greater Assamese culture (S. L Baruah 1985).

On the other hand, Ahoms (1228-1497) are the people of Tai races. In that period the word Tai was used as title of royal officers and it was first used in Hunan and Shann-si of China. Later, the word was used to imply a different caste group. Due to the pressure of Chinese imperialism they migrated from South-west of China to the south of China and other places like Assam, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. They came to Assam climbing the great Mountain Patkai. Among the Tai, Ahom came first to Assam and settled down in the Brahmaputra valley. They introduced themselves as Tai-kham or kham-Tai and the local people called them as Ahom. They

have rich culture and language. In Brahamadesh (Myanmar) they have many independent states and those Tai races' states are known as Syam Rajya (state). After Ahoms had come to Assam many other races like Tai-turang, Tai- khamti, Tai-Phake, Tai- Aitan, Tai-Khamyang also came to Assam.

One of the important characteristics of the great Tai culture is the history of written custom. Although it is sometimes easy to collect documents about Tai, there also remains problem to collect documents those came first. According to 'Shan' history in the 8th century of Christ, the 13th king Sukhanfa of Mao pong sent his brother Samlungfa to conquere the countries like Assam, Manipur, Kachari, Tripura etc. But due to quarrel between the two brothers it became impossible to make permanent state in Assam. In 1228 AD the first Ahom king Sukafa settled down permanently in Assam. His original state was Mung-Mitt-Kup KingNao of North Brahmadesh. By climbing great Patkai Mountain he entered Assam with nine thousand people. But among them only one thousand eighty people worked as soldiers and later on their children and other indigenious people like Barahi, Kachari, Chutia and Naga were known as Ahom. They ruled Assam for six hundred years which is regarded as glorious era in Assam's history (G. Baruah 1972).

The Mishing

Mishing is an ethnic group inhabiting the districts of Dhemaji, North Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat of Assam. A few live in and around Pasighat of East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. They are the second largest tribal group in North-East India, second only to Bodos in Assam. They were earlier called Miris which now they take as offensive. However, the Constitution of India still refers them as Miris. They belong to greater Tani community which comprises many tribes in Arunachal Pradesh in India and Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) in China. All Tani tribes share linguistic, cultural and ritual similarities. All Mishings trace back their root to Abutani or Abo Tani (the first man on earth) like any other Tani tribe. The Misings belong to a mixture of East Asian as well as Southeast Asian subrace of the Mongoloid stock, similar to the mixture of the Mongoloid subraces inside political China as people from Southern China may look more like the South East Asian brown-skinned Mongoloids and more towards the Northern China more fair-skinned Mongoloids dwell. It's not known exactly where they migrated from, but it is popularly believed that they were dwellers

of the hills of the present-day Arunachal Pradesh. This explains the cultural and linguistic similarities they have with many Tani tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. Other Tani tribes are Adi, Apatani, Nyishi, Padam, Minyong etc. Somewhere around the 13th century, they started migrating towards the plains of Assam, most probably in search of fertile land. Legends say that they came into contact with more civilised communities living in plains of Assam as early as in 16th century. Because of this, they lost their violent tribal nature and many embraced Vaishnavite religion. This exodus continued for at least 2-3 centuries. There is not any written history of Mishings about their migration from hills to the plains of Assam. Though they belong to Tani group of tribes and they used to be hill dwellers, they started living on the banks of rivers in plains of Assam. Reason for this change of habitat is not known except a few conjunctions. One theory says that Misings presently living in plains of Assam were not a single tribe, but evolved into one when many tribes from various Tani tribes in Arunachal Pradesh migrated to plains of Assam in search of fertile land and civilisational progress. Over a period of time, they came to be known as Miris as they acted as middle men between tribes of hills of Arunachal Pradesh and people of plains of Assam (Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia 6/21/12).

The Muslim

The majority of the population of Assam is Hindu. But Muslims are very much present in Assam, forming almost one third of the population. Most Muslims in Assam are Bengali in origin, but there are indigenous Assamese Muslims. The history of the indigenous Muslims of Assam is a long one, though many details are obscure, especially for the Assamese Muslims. A Brahmin priest from Kamrup (near the geographical middle of Assam) was reported to have embraced Islam around the 13th century. He wrote and presented a book of tantric (mystical) practices called the "Pool of Nectar" which was translated into Arabic, Persian and Turkish. Through this many yogic practices entered into Islamic mysticism throughout south, central and even west Asia. Later on, in the 16th century, an Islamic saint was said to have come to preach Islam in the area. This Muslim saint's tomb and the mosque which adjoin it is known as Pao Mecca, or One-Fourth of Mecca, as it contains a quarter of the sanctity of Mecca itself (Source: Google search: Assamese Muslims in positions of influence within Assam and even India, 21 June 2012).

2. Age and Sex Structures

Age and sex are important to understand the structure of the villages. Therefore, an analysis based on age and sex of the villagers is taken up here. By age the villagers are categorized into (i) children (0-14), (ii) youth (15-35), (iii) middle aged (36-60) and (iv) old aged (60 & above). The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the villagers:

Table 2.1
Age and Sex of the Villagers
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Age Group	Charal		Bhuyan		Laghdoidgarh		Borbahoni		Grand Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	T Male	T Female	Total
Children (0-14)	21 (15.10)	14 (14)	38 (28.58)	28 (22.59)	62 (24.13)	31 (13.24)	34 (15.25)	46 (21.50)	155 (20.61)	119 (17.70)	274 (19.24)
Youth (15-34)	42 (30.21)	32 (32)	42 (31.58)	30 (24.19)	63 (24.52)	62 (26.50)	78 (34.98)	78 (36.45)	225 (29.92)	202 (30.05)	427 (29.98)
Middle aged (35-59)	41 (29.49)	44 (44)	50 (37.59)	59 (47.59)	109 (42.41)	115 (49.15)	88 (39.46)	84 (39.25)	288 (38.29)	302 (44.94)	590 (41.44)
Old aged (60+)	35 (25.17)	10 (10)	03 (2.26)	07 (5.65)	23 (8.94)	26 (11.11)	23 (10.31)	06 (2.80)	84 (11.17)	49 (7.29)	133 (9.34)
Total (%)	139 (100)	100 (100)	133 (100)	124 (100)	257 (100)	234 (100)	223 (100)	214 (100)	752 (100)	672 (100)	1424 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages in March/April 2011

The table shows that majority (41.44%) of people are in the age group of 35-59 middle aged, followed by the youth (29.98%), Children (19.24%) and Old aged (9.34%).

In Charal, 30.21% of the male villagers are in the youth age group followed by the middle age group (29.49%), about one fourth (25.17%) are of the old aged and a few (15.10%) are male children. On the other hand, 44% females are of the middle aged, followed by the youth (32%), children (14%) and old aged (10%).

In Bhuyan the largest number of the males (37.57%) and the females (47.59%) are the middle aged, followed by the youth males (31.58%) and females (24.19%). Besides, over one fourth males (28.58%) and over one fifth of females (22.59%) are children.

In Lahdoigarh also, 42.41% of males and almost one half (49.15%) of females are the middle aged followed by the youth males (24.52%) and females (26.50%). Another 24.13% of males and 13.42% of females belong to children's group. Only small portions of males (8.94%) and females (11.11%) are the old aged.

In Borbahoni, 39.46% of males are in the age group of middle aged followed by youth (34.98%), children (15.25%) and old aged (23%). On the other hand, near about two fifths (39.25%) of females are in the age group of middle followed by youth (36.45%), children (21.50%) and old aged (6%).

Thus, most of the villagers are in the age group of middle in the four villages.

3. Educational Level

The villagers are categorised into two groups for educational purpose; viz., non-schooling children (upto 6 years) and the rest. There are found 35 (13.62%) villagers below 6 years in Charal and 14.65% in Bhuyan whereas 36 (7.33%) in Lahdoigarh and 33 (7.55%) in Borbahoni village. On the other hand, 222 (86.38%) are above 6 years in Charal followed by Bhuyan (85.35%), Lahdoigarh (81.46%) and Borbahoni (71.48%). The following table shows the distribution of literacy level in the villages:

Table 2.2
Literacy Level of the Villagers
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Literacy Level	Charal	Bhuyan	Laghdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
Literate	222 (86.38)	204 (85.35)	400 (81.46)	292 (66.81)	1118 (78.51)
Illiterate	35 (13.62)	35 (14.65)	91 (18.54)	145 (32.49)	306 (21.49)
Total	257 (100)	239 (100)	491 (100)	437 (100)	1424 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that 21.49% persons are illiterate; 32.49% are in Borbahoni, 18.54% in Lahdoigarh, 14.65% in Bhuyan and 13.62% in Charal. The total literacy rate of the villagers is 78.51% and all but the Borbahoni (66.81%), villagers have high literacy rate, which is more than 80%.

In Borbahoni, majority of the villagers are (77.22%) are tea garden labourers that is why they do not prefer to go school in their early stage. Most of the old age people do not read and write in this village. So, they have low literacy rate than other three villages.

Thus, of the total villagers Charal have high literacy rate followed by Bhuyan, Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni village.

The literates in the four villages constitute seven categories; viz, (i) primary, (ii) high, (iii) higher secondary, (iv) graduation, (v) post-graduation, (vi) professional and (vii) technical education. The distribution of the villagers above 6 years of age is given in the following table:

Table 2.3
Genderwise Distribution of Families into Educational Level of the Villagers
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Educational Level	Charal			Bhuyan			Lahdoigarh			Borbahoni						Grand Total
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	T Male	T Female		
Primary School	23 (19.82)	29 (27.35)	52 (23.42)	17 (13.93)	18 (21.95)	35 (17.15)	63 (28.89)	35 (19.23)	98 (24.5)	61 (39.35)	64 (46.71)	125 (42.81)	164 (26.84)	146 (28.79)	310 (27.72)	
High School	44 (37.93)	49 (46.24)	93 (41.90)	20 (16.39)	23 (28.04)	43 (21.07)	110 (50.45)	100 (54.95)	210 (52.5)	55 (35.49)	48 (35.03)	103 (35.27)	229 (37.47)	220 (43.39)	449 (40.17)	
Higher Secondary School	37 (31.89)	23 (21.69)	60 (27.03)	30 (24.60)	17 (20.73)	47 (23.03)	27 (12.39)	33 (18.14)	60 (15)	24 (15.49)	19 (13.86)	43 (14.73)	118 (19.32)	92 (18.14)	210 (18.79)	
Graduation	09 (7.77)	05 (4.72)	14 (6.30)	38 (31.15)	15 (18.29)	53 (25.99)	15 (6.89)	12 (6.59)	27 (6.75)	14 (9.03)	05 (9.48)	19 (6.51)	76 (12.43)	37 (7.29)	113 (10.11)	
Post Graduation	01 (0.87)	--	1 (0.45)	09 (7.38)	05 (6.09)	14 (6.86)	--	02 (1.09)	2 (0.5)	01 (0.64)	1 (0.72)	2 (0.68)	11 (1.81)	8 (1.57)	19 (1.69)	
Professional	--	--	--	5 (4.09)	2 (2.43)	7 (3.43)	--	--	--	--	--	--	5 (0.82)	2 (0.39)	7 (0.63)	
Technical	2 (1.72)	--	2 (0.90)	3 (2.46)	2 (2.43)	5 (2.45)	3 (1.38)	--	3 (0.75)	--	--	--	8 (1.31)	2 (0.39)	10 (0.89)	
Total	116 (100)	106 (100)	222 (100)	122 (100)	82 (100)	204 (100)	218 (100)	182 (100)	400 (100)	155 (100)	137 (100)	292 (100)	611 (100)	507 (100)	1118 (100)	

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that out of the total literates (78.51%), over one fourth (27.72%) are primary school passed: females (28.79%) and males (26.84%). Two fifths (40.17%) are high school passed: 43.39% of females and 37.47% of males. About one fifth (18.79%) are higher secondary school passed, followed by graduates (10.11%) and post graduates (1.69%). A few villagers have professional (0.63%) and technical (0.89%) qualifications such as doctor, engineer, mechanics etc.

In Borbahoni, two fifths (42.81%) are primary, 35.27% of high school, 14.73% of higher secondary, 6.51% of graduate and post graduate (0.68%). Most of villagers (52.5%) high school, 24.5% of primary, 15%, of higher secondary, 6.75% of graduate, 0.5% of post graduate and 0.75% are technical pass in Lahdoigarh. Of the total 204 villagers 17.15% primary, 21.07% high school, 23.03% higher secondary, 25.99% graduate, 6.86% post graduate, professional (3.43%) and 2.45% are technical in Bhuyan village. Two fifths (41.90%) of high school, 23.42% of primary, 27.03% of higher secondary, 6.30% of graduate, 0.45% of post graduate and 0.90% are technical pass in Charal village.

Thus, only the Bhuyan villagers have found in all the categories. The socio-economic conditions help to adopt education in Bhuyan village than other three villages. Due to high literacy rate most (78.51%) of the villagers know Hindi and English languages along with Assamese. 10% of them can write English but cannot speak. The students of the villages studying in Lower Primary schools shown in the following table:

Table 2.4
Number of Students in Lower Primary Schools of the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Classes	Charal		Bhuyan		Lahdoigarh		Borbahoni		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
I	8	8	7	4	4	4	5	3	43 (30.94)
II	2	2	1	5	4	3	3	2	22 (15.83)
III	1	3	4	6	6	2	2	3	27 (19.43)
IV	2	2	2	2	5	2	5	4	24 (17.26)
V	4	3	3	1	4	2	4	2	23 (16.54)
Total	17	18	17	18	23	13	19	14	139

Source: Register of the Respective School, May 2011

The table shows that out of the total students 30.94% are in class I, over one tenth in class II and about two fifths (19.43%) in class III. Second highest students (17.26%) are in class IV and 16.54% are in class V.

In comparison among village almost equal numbers of students read in the village primary schools, whereas majority of the villagers (Bhuyan and Charal) prefer to send their children to English medium schools like Gyan Vikash Vidyapith (Baruah Chah), Modern English School (Halwating) and Don Bosco for learning English education. Thus, it shows emerging trends of English education in the rural villages.

4. The Housing Pattern

Structure or pattern of a house is the indicator of socio- economic condition of a family in community. The houses in the four villages show difference of tradition and culture. The types of house are shown in the following table:

Table 2.5
Houses of the Villagers
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Type	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
	No. of Households	No. of Households	No. of Households	No. of Households	
Pacca	25 (45.45)	50 (96.15)	36 (31.31)	15 (14.86)	126 (39.01)
kachcha	08 (14.55)	--	52 (45.22)	61 (60.39)	121 (37.46)
Semi-pacca	22 (40)	02 (3.85)	27 (23.47)	25 (24.75)	76 (23.53)
Total	55	52	115	101	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that 39.01% houses are pacca, 37.46% are kachcha and 23.53% are semi pacca.

In Borbahoni, 60.39% houses are kachcha followed by semi-pacca (24.75%) and pacca (14.86%) houses whereas in Lahdoigarh, majority of houses (45.22%) are kachcha, pacca (31.31%) and semi-pacca (23.47%) houses. Bhuyan has the highest number (96.15%) of pacca houses followed by semi-pacca (3.85%). In Charal 45.45% houses are of pacca, two fourth (40%) of semi-pacca and 14.55% of kachcha houses.

Thus, pacca houses are found more (39.01%) in four villages where Bhuyan has the highest in numbers due to economic soundness.

The size of the house may indicate the size of family members or socio-economic status of a family. The following table therefore presents the different sizes of house in the villages:

Table 2.6
Size of House in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

No. of Rooms	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
1-2	--	--	12 (10.44)	74 (64.34)	86 (26.62)
3-4	41 (74.54)	07 (13.46)	95 (82.60)	22 (19.13)	165 (51.08)
5-6	14 (25.46)	38 (73.07)	08 (6.96)	05 (4.35)	65 (20.13)
7-8	--	07 (13.47)	--	--	07 (2.17)
Total	55 (100)	52 (100)	115 (100)	101 (100)	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The above table shows that over half (51.08%) of the houses have 3-4 living rooms and 26.62% have 1-2, 13% have 5-6 numbers, 2.17% have 7-8 rooms.

Thus, none of the families having 1-2 rooms in Charal and Bhuyan and also 7-8 rooms in their houses except Bhuyan. Most of them (82.60%) concentrated in the houses having 3-4 rooms in Lahdoigarh followed by Charal (74.54%), Borbahoni (19.13%) and Bhuyan (13.46%). 73.07% of families in Bhuyan have 5-6 rooms, whereas 25.46% in Charal, 6.96% in Lahdoigarh and 4.35% of families are in Borbahoni village.

It shows that these villagers have almost sufficient size of houses to live in as they have mostly nuclear families.

5. Movable Assets

Guest Room Items

Furniture and gadgets in a guest room contribute to the status of that family. In the families having-separate guest rooms, four items are found; namely, television, sofa, carpet and showcase. These families are shown in the following table:

Table 2.7
Guest Room Items in Families of the Villages
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Guest Room Items	Charal N=55	Bhuyan N=52	Lahdoigarh N=115	Borbahoni N=101	N=323
Television	42 (76.36)	52 (100)	31 (26.95)	26 (25.74)	151 (46.74)
Sofa	36 (65.45)	50 (96.15)	12 (10.43)	08 (7.92)	106 (32.81)
Carpet	02 (3.63)	13 (25)	--	--	15 (4.64)
Showcase	34 (61.81)	36 (69.23)	14 (12.17)	06 (5.94)	90 (27.86)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that of the total 172 (53.25%) families in the four villages have separate guest rooms and two fifths (46.74%) of them have television sets, sofa (32.81%), carpet (4.64%) and 27.86% of the families have showcase.

In Charal 76.36% of the families have television, sofa (65.45%), carpet (3.63%) and showcase (61.81%). In Bhuyan, all have television sets, including sofa (96.15%), carpet (25%) and (69.23%) showcase. In Lahdoigarh 26.95% of the families have television, sofa (10.43%) and showcase (12.17%). In Borbahoni, one fourth (25.74%) have television followed by sofa (7.92%) and showcase (5.94%). Those families which possess all these items in their houses are economically well-to-do families.

Thus, guest room items like TV, sofa, carpet etc. found high in Bhuyan followed by Charal, Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni. It shows impact of modern items and way of living style in the four villages.

Kitchen Items

Along with the guest room equipments and furniture, kitchen is also important for their status as well as living standard. The following table shows the kitchen items in the houses of the four villages:

Table 2.8
Kitchen Items in Houses of the Villagers
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Kitchen Items	Charal N=55	Bhuyan N=52	Lahdoigarh N=115	Borbahoni N=101	Grand total N=323
Gas stove	28(50.90)	47(90.38)	28(24.34)	09(8.91)	112(34.67)
Dining table	28(50.90)	52(100)	20(17.39)	16(15.84)	116(35.91)
Water Filter	43(78.18)	27(51.92)	73(63.47)	40(39.60)	183(56.65)
Water Purifier (aqua guard)/cooler	12(21.81)	25(48.07)	04(3.47)	02(1.98)	43(13.31)
Electric Pressure Cooker	02(3.63)	09(17.30)	--	--	11(3.40)
Pressure cooker	59(107.27)	81(155.76)	35(30.43)	14(13.86)	189(58.51)
Mixer/Juicer/Grinder	05(9.09)	17(32.69)	03(2.60)	01(0.99)	26(8.04)
Electric oven	--	04(7.69)	--	--	04(1.23)
Wash basin	12(21.81)	40(76.92)	--	01(0.99)	53(16.40)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that 323 families of the four villages have their separate kitchens. Of these 34.67% families have gas stove, dining table (35.91%), water filter (56.65%), purifier/cooler (13.31%), electric pressure cooker (3.40%), pressure cooker (58.51%), mixer/ juicer/grinder (8.04%), electric oven (1.23%) and 16.40% of the families have washing basin.

In Charal, Half (50.90%) of the families use gas stove, dining table; 78.18% have water filter, water purifier or cooler (21.81%), electric cooker (3.63%), pressure cooker (107.27%) mixer/ juicer/grinder (9.09%) and wash basin (21.81%). In Bhuyan, most of the families (90.38%) have gas stove. All the families (100%) of Bhuyan have dinining table. 51.92% have water filter, 48.07% have water purifier or cooler, 17.30% have electric pressure cooker and most of the families (155.76%) have pressure cooker, 32.69% have mixer/juicer/grinder and 7.69% use electric oven. Most of the families (76.92%) have wash basin.

In Lahdoigarh, 24.34% of the families have gas stove, 17.39% have dining table, 63.47% have water filter, 3.47% have water purifier or cooler, 13.86% use pressure cooker and only 2.60% use mixer/juicer/grinder. In Borbahoni, 8.91% use gas stove for cooking, 15.84% have dining table in their kitchen. 39.60% have water filter, 1.98% have water purifier. 13.86% use pressure cooker to cook and 0.99% has mixer/juicer/grinder and wash basin.

Thus, the villagers are using modern means of cooking which implies emerging trend of modern culture as well as new methods of cooking food in the four villages.

Besides the above items, there are some other items found in the four villages which imply their status, income etc. The following table shows the necessary modern items found in the four villages:

Other Modern Household Items

Table 2.9
Household Items in Families of the Villages
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Household Item	Charal N=55	Bhuyan N=52	Lahdoigarh N=115	Borbahoni N=101	Grand total N=323
Steel Almirah	25(45.45)	40(76.92)	13(11.30)	10(0.99)	88(27.24)
Refrigerator	8(14.54)	27(51.92)	02(1.73)	02(1.98)	39(12.07)
DTH	42(76.36)	52(100)	31(26.95)	26(25.74)	151(46.74)
VCD player	16(29.09)	52(100)	65(56.52)	09(8.91)	142(43.96)
Electric Iron	16(29.09)	26(50)	05(4.34)	03(2.97)	50(15.47)
Electric fan	42(76.36)	52(100)	35(30.43)	18(17.82)	147(45.51)
Electric Heater	--	02(3.84)	--	--	02(0.61)
Inverter	07(12.72)	30(57.69)	05(4.34)	03(2.97)	18(5.57)
Immersion Rod	02(3.63)	05(9.61)	--	--	07(2.16)
Camera	06(10.90)	24(46.15)	03(2.60)	01(0.99)	44(13.62)
Telephone	--	04(7.69)	--	--	04(1.23)
Thermo flask	01(1.81)	07(13.46)	--	--	08(2.47)
Thermometer	--	03(5.76)	--	--	03(0.92)
Good night/All out	23(41.81)	21(40.38)	11(9.56)	07(6.93)	62(19.19)
Double Bed(6×6)	40(72.72)	103(198.07)	23(20)	20(19.80)	186(57.58)
Wall clock	46(83.63)	70(134.61)	97(84.34)	18(17.82)	231(71.51)
Sewing machine	03(5.45)	08(15.38)	02(1.73)	--	13(4.02)
Torch	40(72.72)	52(100)	111(96.52)	31(30.69)	234(72.44)
Calculator	10(18.18)	21(40.38)	04(3.47)	02(1.98)	37(11.45)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that the families of the villages have different items such as, steel almirah, table and chairs, refrigerator, DTH, VCD player, electric iron, electric fan, electric heater, inverter, immersion rod, camera, telephone, thermo flask, thermometer, Good night/All out, Double bed, wall clock, sewing machine, torch and calculator. 27.24% of the families have steel almirah, 12.07% have refrigerator, 46.74% have DTH, 43.96% have VCD player, 15.47% have electric iron, 45.51% have electric fan, 0.61% have electric heater, 5.57% have inverter, 2.16% have immersion rod, 13.26% have camera, 1.23% have telephone, 2.47% have thermo flask, 0.92% have thermometer, 19.19% have Good night and All out, 57.58% have double bed, 71.58% have wall clock, 4.02% have sewing machine, 72.44% have torch and 11.45% have calculator.

In Charal, 45.45% families have steel almirah, 14.54% have refrigerator, 76.36% have DTH, 29.09% have VCD player, 29.09% have electric iron, 76.36% have electric fan, 12.72% inverter, a very few (3.63%) families have immersion rod in their houses, 41.81% have Good night and All out, 72.72% have double bed, 83.63% have wall clock, 5.45% have sewing machine, 72.72% have torch and 18.18% have calculator.

In Bhuyan, most of the families (76.92%) have steel almirah, all the families have tables and chairs, over half (51.92%) of the families have refrigerator, and all the families have DTH, VCD player, electric fan and torch. A very few (3.84%) of the families have electric heater. Nearly three fifths of the families (57.69%) have inverter, 9.61% have immersion rod, 46.15% have camera, 7.69% have telephone, 13.46% have thermo flask, 5.76% have thermometer, 40.38% use Good night and All out, 15.38% have sewing machin and 40.38% have calculator.

In Lahdoigarh village, 11.30% have steel almirah, 1.73% have refrigerator, 26.95% have DTH, 56.52% have VCD player, 4.34 % have electric iron, 30.43% have electric fan and 4.34% have inverter. A very few (2.60%) have camera, 9.56% have Good Night and All Out. 20% of the families have double bed, 84.34% have wall clock and a very few (1.73%) have sewing machine; 96.52% have torch and 3.47% have calculator.

In Borbahoni, a very few (0.99%) have steel almirah and (1.98%) refrigerator. 25.74% of the families have DTH, 8.91% have VCD player, 2.97% have electric iron,

17.82% have electric fan, 2.97% have inverter, only 0.99% have camera, 6.93% have Good Night and All Out, 19.80% have double bed, 17.82% have wall clock, 30.69% have torch and only 1.98% have calculator.

Thus modern household items are found more in Bhuyan village than the other three villages which indicate high economic condition as well as living of standards.

Vehicles

Beside the assets, the villagers have private vehicles as shown in the following table:

Table 2.10
Vehicles in Families of the Villages
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Type of Vehicle	Charal N=55	Bhuyan N=52	Lahdoigarh N=115	Borbahoni N=101	Total N=323
Truck	01(1.8)	04(7.6)	01(0.86)	-	06(1.85)
Car	02(3.63)	16(30.76)	04(3.47)	03(2.97)	25(7.73)
Bicycle	51(92.72)	67(128.84)	102(88.69)	42(41.58)	262(81.11)
Scooter/motor cycle	15(27.27)	36(69.23)	09(7.82)	10(9.90)	70(21.67)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The data show six types of vehicles; namely, truck, car, bicycle, two wheeler vehicle, motor cycle and scooter. 1.85% of the families in the villages have truck, 7.73% have car, 81.11% have bicycle and 21.67% have scooter and motor cycle.

In Charal, 1.8% of the families have truck, 3.63% have car, 92.72% have bicycle and 27.27% have two-wheeler motor cycle and scooter. In Bhuyan village 7.6% have truck, 30.76% have car, 128.84% have bicycle and 69.82% have scooter or motor cycle. In Lahdoigarh, 0.86% has truck, 3.47% have car, 88.69% have bicycle and 7.82% have scooter and motor cycle. In Borbahoni 2.97% have car, 41.58% have bicycle and 9.90% have two wheeler motor cycle and scooter.

Vehicles like truck are not found in Borbahoni. There are also a very few (0.86%) families in Lahdoigarh village which have own truck. This indicates that some of the families in Lahdoigarh village are economically well off.

Thus, the transport vehicle scenario indicates that the villagers adopt modern way of life to maintain status as well as personal convenience.

Water Facility

In Assam most of the villagers get drinking water from pond or ring well. The distribution of villagers into major sources of water is shown below:

Table 2.11
Sources of Drinking Water in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Sources	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
Supply water	55(100)	52(100)	-	-	107 (33.12)
Tube well	-	-	24(20.86)	11(10.89)	35 (10.84)
Pond	-	-	71(61.73)	75(74.25)	146 (45.20)
Ring well	-	-	20(17.39)	15(14.85)	35 (10.84)
Total	55(100)	52(100)	115(100)	101(100)	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that the villages get supply water for drinking and 33.12% of families use supply water for drinking, washing cloths and related works. 10.84% of the families use both tube well and ring well for bathing, washing cloths, utensils etc. 45.20% of families have used pond for drinking water.

Thus, the villagers of Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni use water from tubewell, pond and ringwells due to lack of governmental facilities.

Methods of Purifying Water

For many years people have been using different methods of purifying water. Now-a-days electronic purifier is in great demand in many rural areas. On the basis of villagers' choice three categories of these methods have been made, namely: (i) no purifier, (ii) plastic water filter, and (iii) electronic purifier. The following table shows the distribution of villagers into these methods.

Table 2.12
Methods of Purifying Water in the Families of the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Methods	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
No Purifier	5 (9.09)	--	10(8.70)	50(49.50)	65(20.12)
Home made Filter	--	--	28(24.35)	9(8.91)	37(11.45)
Water Filter	38(69.09)	27(51.93)	73(63.48)	40(39.60)	178(55.10)
Electronic Purifier	12(21.82)	25(48.07)	04(3.48)	02(1.99)	43(13.31)
Total	55(100)	52(100)	115(100)	101(100)	323(100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that one fifth (20.12%) of the families have no water purifier, whereas 11.45% have home made filter, 55.10% have water filter with candle and only 13.31% have electronic water filter in the villages.

In all the villages, they use water filter and electronic purifier as method of purifying water. 24.35% in Lahdoigarh and 8.91% in Borbahoni villagers use home made filter for drinking water as few of them have low levels of income.

Thus, in Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni, families' drinking water is less safe due to poor economic condition as well as lack of health consciousness.

Types of Latrine

Besides the household items, sanitary condition of a house makes differences of status among the families. There are two types of latrine among the families; namely, pacca latrine and kachcha latrine. The following table shows the types of latrine in the villages:

Table 2.13
Types of Latrine used in the Families of the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Types of Latrine	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
Pacca	40(72.72)	52(100)	70(60.86)	29(28.72)	191 (59.14)
Kachcha	15(27.27)	--	45(39.14)	72(71.28)	132 (40.86)
Total	55 (100)	52 (100)	115 (100)	101 (100)	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that majority (59.14%) of the families have pacca latrine. All the families have pacca latrine in Bhuyan. Of all the families 40.86% have kachcha latrine in villages.

Thus, the sanitary conditions are improving through pacca latrine. In Borbahoni, highest (71.28%) numbers of kachcha latrine are found followed by Lahdoigarh (39.14%) and Charal (27.27%) village. The kachcha latrine having families are low income in four villages.

Types of Cooking Fuel Used

In Assam people mostly use firewood rather than other fuels. At present, LPG is common in many areas of Assam. The villagers are divided into three categories on the basis of fuel types.

Table 2.14
Type of Fuel among Families of the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Types of Fuel	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total N=323
	N=55	(N=52	N=115	N=101	
L P G	30(54.54)	47(90.38)	30(26.08)	09(8.91)	116(35.91)
Firewood	25(45.45)	05(9.61)	85(73.91)	92(91.08)	207(64.09)
Both	20(36.36)	17(32.61)	15(13.04)	9(8.91)	61(18.88)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The above table reveals that over one third (35.91%) of families use LPG for cooking and nearly two thirds of families (64.09%) use fire wood and 18.88% use both LPG and fire wood.

In Borbahoni, most (91.08%) of family uses firewood followed by Lahdoigarh (73.91%), Charal (45.45%) and Bhuyan (9.61%) village.

Thus, it shows that the families of Bhuyan village use LPG than firewood as fuel; it because of families getting less time to span on collecting firewood whereas majority of villagers engaged with service, business etc.

6. Economic Organisation

From time to time people are engaged with works related to production and distribution which are essential for any society. Traditionally the villagers in Assam are engaged with agriculture, especially rice, vegetables, cane, potato etc. by using traditional methods. Majority of the villagers have large size of land and forests. The village people did not pay attention to any services till Independence. After Independence many changes have been taken place in the structure of economy. With the formation of tea, rubber, coal and oil boards, the people have got an opportunity to engage in both private and public sectors of these companies. Now, services in agriculture, tea companies, Oil India Limited and ONGC are very common in Assam, especially in Sivasagar district. Small tea growers and plantation of *Aagar* (Shasi) have changed the whole economy of Assam especially in upper Assam.

Occupations

Due to the process of modernization new occupations are coming out among the villagers along with the traditional ones. Even the traditional occupations are being re-shaped under the process of modernization. Their occupations may be broadly divided into two types; viz., traditional and new. Their traditional occupations are (i) agriculture, (ii) weaving, (iii) liquor manufacturing and (iv) rearing cattle. Service jobs, paid labour and tea plantation are the newly emerging occupations among the villagers. However, the two types of occupations are well integrated together. These two occupational structures are discussed here.

Traditional Occupational Structure

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the people which is carried out by families in all the four villages. As majority of the villagers have cultivated land they collectively make it possible for production. Due to growing population, the land has fragmented in the villages. Those who don't possess any cultivable land generally lease in land on rent paid to the landowner as a portion of the production from the land.

Weaving is another important traditional occupation among the villagers in Assam. In 1921, during the British period when Gandhi came to Assam, he highly admired to see the weaving expertise among Assamese women. Generally they produced it for their own garments. But some women Self Help Groups sale it in different markets.

Manufacturing of liquor is tradition among the people of different tribes and non-tribes. In the villages only Mishing and some of Oriyas sell it for income. Liquor is made for religious purpose to offer to their gods and goddesses on different puja and festivals like Karam, Tusu, aali -ai Irigang etc.

Emerging Occupational Structure

Spread of education along with emergence of different companies and government jobs has slowly changed the occupational structure and economy of Assam. Now the villagers are engaged in different jobs like educational services, oil, ONGC, tea gardens and entrepreneurial works. The following table shows the emerging occupational categories:

Table 2.15
Occupations of the Villagers by Gender
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Occupation	Charal			Bhuyan			Lahdoigarh			Borbohoni			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Agriculture	80 (78.44)	70 (100)	150 (87.20)	45 (52.94)	41 (77.36)	86 (62.32)	103 (57.54)	141 (80.57)	244 (68.92)	122 (60.70)	98 (57.31)	220 (59.13)	700 (67.57)
Service	13 (12.74)	--	13 (7.56)	27 (31.77)	8 (15.09)	35 (25.36)	21 (11.73)	3 (1.72)	24 (6.78)	07 (3.48)	1 (0.58)	8 (2.15)	80 (7.72)
Business	03 (2.94)	--	3 (1.75)	13 (15.29)	4 (7.55)	17 (12.32)	40 (22.35)	31 (17.71)	71 (20.06)	07 (3.48)	--	7 (1.89)	98 (9.45)
Labour	06 (5.88)	--	6 (3.49)	--	--	--	15 (8.38)	--	15 (4.24)	65 (32.34)	72 (42.11)	137 (36.83)	158 (12.16)
Total	102 (100)	70 (100)	172 (100)	85 (100)	53 (100)	138 (100)	179 (100)	175 (100)	354 (100)	201 (100)	171 (100)	372 (100)	1036 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that over two thirds (67.57%) of the villagers are engaged in agriculture, whereas only 7.72% are in the service sector in private and government institutions. 9.45% of villagers are engaged in business like small brick industries, broiler farms, tent houses etc.

In Lahdoigarh, 20.05% villagers are engaged in selling *aapong* (home-made wine) and in other three villages, villagers are mostly engaged in selling vegetables, small grocery shops etc. Although very less number of villagers (12.16%) are engaged in daily wage labour but it is highest in Borbahoni (36.83%) followed by Lahdoigarh (8.38%) and Charal (5.88%). The villagers who engaged in business are found highest (20.06%) in Lahdoigarh, followed by Bhuyan (12.32%), Charal (1.75%) and in Borbahoni (1.89%). In Lahdoigarh, majority of business families related with selling liquor (*aapong*), fish etc.

Thus, agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the four villages. Both male and females help each other in agricultural activities. It also shows that most of families in Borbahoni are Oriyas having low levels of education, so more villagers engaged as labours. In Lahdoigarh, Mishing tribal are engaged in agriculture and small business such as liquor, fish, sand, woods, vegetables etc. In Bhuyan, most of families are agriculturists, service holders and businessman; so, it indicates the economic soundness of the families. The villagers of Charal also engaged with agriculture, service and business where majority of families almost well in economic condition.

Family Income

Income is one of the most important indicators for measuring one's status in society. The villagers are mostly engaged in the works related to agriculture, animal rearing, liquor manufacturing, garden labourer, services in private and government sectors and large business. The range of income in the four villages is from zero to above Rs. 515460/-. The following table distributes the families into income groups in the four villages:

Table 2.16
Annual Family Income of the Villagers
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Income Group (in Rupees)	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
0-46860	9(16.36)	3(5.76)	35(30.43)	52(51.48)	99(30.65)
46861-93720	4(7.27)	1(1.92)	49(42.60)	27(26.73)	81(25.07)
93721-140580	29(52.72)	3(5.76)	5(4.34)	7(6.93)	44(13.62)
140581-187440	10(18.1)	26(50)	16(13.91)	8(7.93)	60(18.57)
187441-234300	--	5(9.61)	6(5.21)	7(6.93)	18(5.57)
234301-281160	2(3.63)	7(13.46)	4(3.47)	--	13(4.03)
281161-328020	--	2(3.84)	--	--	2(0.62)
328021-374880	--	1(1.92)	--	--	1(0.30)
374881-421740	--	1(1.92)	--	--	1(0.30)
421741-468600	1(1.81)	1(1.92)	--	--	1(0.30)
468601-515460	--	2(3.84)	--	--	2(0.62)
Total	55(100)	52(100)	115(100)	101(100)	323(100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that nearly one third of the families (30.65%) are in the group of below Rs. 46860, one fourth of them (25.07%) are in between 46861- 93720 and 13.62% of families are in between 93721-140580. One fifth (18.57%) are in the group of Rs. 140581-187440 and a few (5.57%) of villagers are in the categories of 187441-234300. 4.03% of families' annual income are in between Rs 234301-281160 and 0.62% are in between Rs 281161-328020 and Rs 468601-515460. 0.32% of families, each, are in the categories of Rs 328021-374880, 374881-421740 and 421741-468600.

Thus, all the categories of income groups are found in Bhuyan villages. The families having annual income of over Rs. 281161-328020/- are mainly engaged in agriculture, service and businesses like brick, furniture, wholesaler etc, especially in Bhuyan. The following table shows the distribution of BPL families in the four villages:

Table 2.17
BPL Families in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Income Group (In Rupees)	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
30000-35000	1(11.11)	--	12(34.28)	11(21.15)	24(24.24)
35001-40000	6(66.67)	--	7(20)	7(13.47)	20(20.20)
40001-45000	1(11.11)	1(33.33)	4(11.42)	9(17.31)	15(15.15)
45001-46860	1(11.11)	2(66.67)	12(34.28)	25(48.07)	40(40.41)
Total	9(100)	3(100)	35(100)	52(100)	99(100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that two fifths (40.41%) of the families' annual income is Rs 45001-46860 and one fourth 24.24% of families have annual income of Rs 30000-35000. 20.20% families have Rs 35001-40000, followed by Rs 40001-45000 (15%). Further, BPL families are highest (52%) in Borbahoni, followed by Lahdoigarh (35%), Charal (9%) and Bhuyan (3%).

Thus, among BPL families' majority of them are in the category of Rs 45001-46860 in four villages.

7. Family

The family is a basic unit of any society, including relatives, holding father, mother, sister, brother and intimate group. Families differ in terms of their types and size in different places, societies and groups.

Types of Family

In the four villages, there are found two types of families; namely, joint and nuclear. The types of the family are shown in the following tables:

Table 2.18
Types of Family in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Types of Family	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
Nuclear	35(63.64)	29(55.77)	70(60.87)	61(60.39)	195(60.37)
Joint	20(36.36)	23(44.23)	45(39.13)	40(39.61)	128(39.63)
Total	55 (100)	52 (100)	115(100)	101 (100)	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that two fifths of the families (60.37%) are nuclear and the rest are joint families.

Although family structure of Indian society has undergone change due to urbanization, spread of education and changes but still the villages of Assam are found with joint families. The married children still stay with their parents. Over three fifths of families are nuclear in villages, except Bhuyan (55.77%). Majority of joint families are in Bhuyan, followed by Borbahoni (39.61%), Lahdoigarh (39.13%) and Charal.

Thus, villagers prefer nuclear family in all the four villages because of modern education and individual freedom.

Size of Family

On the basis of size, the families are categorised into three types; (i) small (1-4) (ii) medium (5-8) and (iii) large (8+). Distribution of the families by their size is shown in the following table:

Table 2.19
Size of Families in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Size of Family	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
Small (1-4)	32 (58.18)	32(61.53)	50(43.47)	37 (36.64)	151(46.74)
Medium (5-8)	20 (36.36)	14(26.93)	45(39.14)	56 (55.44)	135(41.80)
Large (8+)	03 (5.46)	6(11.54)	20(17.39)	08 (7.92)	37(11.36)
Total	55 (100)	52 (100)	115(100)	101 (100)	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The data show that nearly half (46.74%) of the families are small sized followed by medium (41.80%) and large (11.36%).

In Borbahoni, 55.44% families are of medium sized, 36.64% of small and 7.92% of large sized. Over two fourth (43.47%) of small, 39.14% of medium and 17.39% of large families are found in Lahdoigarh. In Bhuyan, 61% of small, 26.93% of medium and one tenth (11.54%) of families are large in number. More than half (58.18%) of families are small, 36.36% of medium and 5.46% of large families are found in Charal village.

Thus, consciousness on family planning is seen among the families' which is high in Bhuyan and Charal because of modern education.

Marital Status

Marriage is a social bond between husband and wife with a legal sexual relationship. The villagers are categorised into married and unmarried groups in the following table:

Table 2.20
Marital Status of the Villagers
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Marital Status	Charal		Bhuyan		Lahdoigarh		Borbahoni				Grand Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total Male	Total Female	
Married	73 (54.88)	82 (66.12)	86 (61.87)	70 (70)	148 (57.58)	151 (64.53)	126 (56.51)	105 (49.06)	433 (57.57)	408 (60.71)	841 (59.05)
Unmarried	60 (45.12)	42 (33.88)	53 (38.13)	30 (30)	109 (42.42)	83 (35.47)	97 (43.49)	109 (50.94)	319 (42.43)	264 (39.28)	583 (40.95)
Total	133 (100)	124 (100)	139 (100)	100 (100)	257 (100)	234 (100)	223 (100)	214 (100)	752 (100)	672 (100)	1424 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The above table shows that around three fifths (59.05%) are married. 60.71% of females and 57.57% of males are married. A sum of two fifth (40.95%) are unmarried, where over two fifth (42.43%) of males are unmarried and less than this i.e. 39.28% of females are found unmarried.

8. Health Status

Although serious diseases occurred in many villages in India during the period of data collection, in the villages no serious disease occurred. But diseases such as gastroenteritis, bladder appendix, cold fever, cataract, liver problems, stone-deaf are commonly found. The following table shows the number of families visiting hospitals for the treatment of diseases:

Table 2.21
Place of Treatment among Families in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Place of Treatment	Charal	Bhuyan	Lahdoigarh	Borbahoni	Total
Govt. Hospital	46 (83.64)	26 (50)	96 (83.48)	70 (69.30)	238 (73.68)
Private Hospital	09 (16.36)	26 (50)	07 (6.08)	15 (14.85)	57 (17.64)
Sub-centre	--	--	12 (10.44)	16 (15.85)	28 (8.8)
Total	55 (100)	52 (100)	115 (100)	101 (100)	323 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that the places are divided into three groups, namely, government hospitals, private hospitals and local sub-centre. It is found that almost three fourths (73.68%) of the families visit government hospitals located in Amguri town. Nearly one fifth (17.64%) of the families go to private hospitals located in Amguri, Sivasagar, Jorhat or Dibrugarh for major diseases and and a few of them (8.8%) visit sub-centres for treatment. Half (50%) of the families in Bhuyan are found in both categories. In Charal, 83.64% families took treatment from govt. hospitals and (16.36%) families visited private hospital. 83.48% of families visited government hospital followed by sub centre (10.44%) and private hospital (6.08%). 69.30% of families visited in govt. hospitals, followed by sub centre (15.85%) and private hospitals (14.85%).

Thus, it has been observed that families having low income visited government hospital which is found more in Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni village. In Charal, most of villagers visited to government hospital due to short distance to the Pengera hospital at Amguri town. The families of Bhuyan prefer both private and government hospital for treatment as the village is located near Amguri town. Primary sub-centres are almost ignored by the villagers due to lack of doctor, nurses and medicines. It has also been noticed that in case of serious health problems all the villagers used to visits private nursing home for better facilities.

Preferred Medicine

The medicines used by the villagers are divided into four categories, namely, allopathic, homeopathy, ayurvedic and herbal on the basis of their preference. The following table shows the use of medicines among the villagers:

Table 2.22
Preferred Medicine among the Villagers
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Preferred Treatment	Charal			Bhuyan			Lahdoigarh			Borbahoni			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Allopathic	90 (94.74)	83 (86.45)	173 (90.57)	90 (76.27)	75 (87.21)	165 (80.89)	176 (90.26)	192 (95.53)	368 (92.92)	158 (83.59)	149 (88.69)	307 (85.99)	1013 (88.24)
Homeopathy	5 (5.26)	11 (11.46)	16 (8.37)	26 (22.4)	7 (8.13)	33 (16.17)	7 (3.58)	--	7 (1.96)	15 (7.93)	--	15 (4.21)	71 (6.19)
Ayurvedic	--	2 (2.09)	2 (1.05)	2 (1.69)	--	2 (0.98)	12 (6.16)	--	12 (3.96)	16 (8.47)	6 (3.57)	22 (6.16)	38 (3.31)
Herbal	--	--	--	--	4 (4.66)	4 (1.97)	--	9 (4.47)	9 (2.27)	--	13 (7.73)	13 (3.64)	26 (2.26)
Total	95 (100)	96 (100)	191 (100)	118 (100)	86 (100)	204 (100)	195 (100)	201 (100)	396 (100)	189 (100)	168 (100)	357 (100)	1148 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The data show that most (88.24%) of villagers prefer allopathic treatment followed by homeopathic (6.19%), ayurvedic (3.31%) and herbal (2.26%) medicine for treatment. In Borbahoni 85.99% prefer allopathy, 4.21% homeopathy, 6.16% ayurvedic and 3.64% of individuals prefer herbal. In Lahdoigarh, 92.92% prefer allopathic, 3.96% homeopathy, 3.96% ayurvedic and 2.27% prefer herbal medicines. In Bhuyan 80.89% prefer allopathy, 16.17% homeopathy, 0.98% ayurvedic and 1.97% prefer herbal medicine whereas 90.57% prefer allopathy, 8.37% homeopathy and 1.05% prefer ayurvedic medicine.

Thus, most of the villagers prefer allopathic medicines in the four villages. The villagers believe that it cures quicker than other medicines. Besides, allopathic medicines are available in markets and they have also minimum knowledge on it.

Health Information

The following table shows the sources of information about medicines among the villagers which are categorised as ASHA, friends, neighbour and media:

Table 2.23
Sources of Health Information in the Villages
(Percentages in Parentheses)

Health Information Source	Charal			Bhuyan			Lahdoigarh			Borbahoni			Grand Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ASHA	14 (14.73)	23 (23.95)	37 (19.37)	30 (11.27)	75 (36.76)	105 (51.47)	42 (21.53)	74 (11.94)	116 (29.29)	37 (2.52)	42 (25)	79 (22.12)	123 (20.60)	214 (38.83)	337 (29.35)
Friends	05 (5.27)	28 (29.16)	33 (17.27)	22 (10.78)	07 (3.43)	29 (14.22)	56 (28.72)	33 (16.41)	89 (22.47)	35 (1.40)	28 (16.67)	63 (17.64)	118 (19.76)	96 (17.42)	214 (18.64)
Neighbour	68 (71.57)	41 (42.70)	109 (57.07)	41 (13.24)	--	41 (20.09)	97 (49.75)	92 (20.39)	189 (47.72)	110 (4.76)	92 (54.76)	202 (56.58)	316 (52.93)	225 (40.84)	541 (47.13)
Media	08 (8.43)	04 (4.16)	12 (6.29)	25 (5.88)	04 (1.96)	29 (14.22)	--	2 (0.99)	2 (0.50)	7 (3.70)	6 (3.57)	13 (3.64)	40 (6.71)	16 (2.91)	56 (4.88)
Total	95 (100)	96 (100)	191 (100)	118 (100)	86 (100)	204 (100)	195 (100)	201 (100)	396 (100)	189 (100)	168 (100)	357 (100)	597 (100)	551 (100)	1148 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from the Villages during March/April 2011

The table shows that over two fifths (47.13%) of the villagers get information on health from their neighbours, followed by ASHA (29.3%), friends (18.64%) and media (4.88%). Of the total half of the (56.58%) villagers get information from neighbour, 22.12% of friends, 17.64% of ASHA and 3.64% from media. In Lahdoigarh, 47.72% of villagers get from neighbours, 29.29% from ASHA, 22.47% from friends and 0.50% of villagers get health information from media. In Bhuyan, 51.47% of villagers get information from ASHA, 20.09% from neighbours, 14.22% from friends and 1.96% get from media such as radio, TV and newspaper. In Charal, 57.07% of villagers get from neighbours, 19.37% from ASHA, 17.27% from friends and 6.29% from media.

Thus, role of neighbours helps the villagers get new information. The role of media is quite less (4.88%). The major characteristics of the four villages are as follows:

1. Large sections (41.44%) of people are in the age group of 35-59 (middle aged); followed by the youth (29.98%), Children (19.24%) and Old aged (9.34%) in the four villages.
2. One fifth (21.49%) of the villagers are illiterate; of them 32.49% in Borbahoni, 18.54% in Lahdoigarh, 14.65% in Bhuyan and 13.62% in Charal. The total literacy rate of the villagers is 78.51% and all in Borbahoni (66.81%), but the villagers have high literacy rate of more than 80%.
3. The Bhuyan villagers are found in different high categories of educational levels like graduate, post graduate, professional, technical etc. The socio-economic conditions help to adopt education in Bhuyan village than other three villages.
4. 39.01% houses are pacca, 37.46% are kachcha and 23.53% are semi pacca. In Borbahoni, 60.39% of houses are kachcha followed by semi-pacca (24.75%) and pacca (14.86%) houses whereas in Lahdoigarh, over two fifths (45.22%) have kachcha, followed by pacca (31.31%) and semi-pacca (23.47%) houses. Bhuyan has the highest number (96.15%) of pacca houses followed by semi-pacca (3.85%). In Charal 45.45% of houses are pacca, two fourths (40%) are semi-pacca and 14.55% are kachcha houses.

5. Most of the villagers (82.60%) are concentrated in the houses having 3-4 rooms in Lahdoigarh followed by Charal (74.54%), Borbahoni (19.13%) and Bhuyan (13.46%). 73.07% of families in Bhuyan have 5-6 rooms, whereas 25.46% in Charal, 6.96% in Lahdoigarh and 4.35% of families are in Borbahoni village. Number of rooms relates with size and income of the family.
6. In Charal 76.36% of the families have television, sofa (65.45%), carpet (3.63%) and showcase (61.81%). In Bhuyan, all have television sets, including sofa (96.15%), carpet (25%) and (69.23%) showcase. In Lahdoigarh 26.95% of the families have television, sofa (10.43%) and showcase (12.17%). In Borbahoni, one fourth (25.74%) have television followed by sofa (7.92%) and showcase (5.94%). Those families which possess all these items in their houses are economically well-to-do families. So, guest room items like TV, sofa, carpet etc. found high in Bhuyan followed by Charal, Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni. It shows an impact of modern items and way of living style in the four villages.
7. Of the total 34.67% families have gas stove, dining table (35.91%), water filter (56.65%) purifier/cooler (13.31%), electric pressure cooker (3.40%), pressure cooker (58.51%), mixer/ juicer/grinder (8.04%), electric oven (1.23%) and 16.40% of the families have wash basin.
8. Six types of vehicles; namely, truck, car, bicycle, two wheeler vehicle, motor cycle and scooter are found in villages. 1.85% of the families in the villages have truck, 7.73% have car, 81.11% have bicycle and 21.67% have scooter and motor cycle. Vehicles like truck are not found in Borbahoni. There are also a very few (0.86%) families in Lahdoigarh village which have own truck. This indicates that some of the families in Lahdoigarh village are economically well off. The transport vehicle scenario indicates that the villagers adopt modern way of life to maintain status as well as personal convenience.
9. The villages get supply water for drinking and 33.12% of families use supply water for drinking, washing clothes and related works. 10.84% of the families use both tube well and ring well for bathing, washing clothes, utensils etc. 45.20% of families have used pond for drinking water. The villagers of

Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni use water from tubewell, pond and ringwells due to lack of governmental facilities.

10. The sanitary conditions are improving through *pacca* latrine. In Borbahoni, highest (71.28%) numbers of *kachcha* latrine are found followed by Lahdoigarh (39.14%) and Charal (27.27%) village. The *kachcha* latrine having families are low income in four villages.
11. One fifth (20.12%) of the families have no water purifier, whereas 11.45% have homemade filter, 55.10% have water filter with candle and only 13.31% have electronic water filter in the villages. In Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni, families' drinking water is less safe due to poor economic condition as well as lack of health consciousness.
12. Over one third (35.91%) of families use LPG for cooking and nearly two thirds of families (64.09%) use fire wood and 18.88% use both LPG and fire wood. The families of Bhuyan village use LPG than firewood as fuel; it because of families getting less time to span on collecting firewood whereas majority of villagers engaged with service, business etc.
13. Over two thirds (67.57%) of the villagers are engaged in agriculture whereas only 7.72% are in the service sector of private and government institutions. 9.45% of villagers are engaged in business like small brick industries, broiler farms, tent house etc. In Lahdoigarh 20.05% villagers are engaged in selling *aapong* (home-made wine) and in the other three villages people are mostly engaged in selling vegetables, small grocery shops etc. Although very less villagers (12.16%) are engaged in daily wage labour but it is highest in Borbahoni (36.82%) followed by Lahdoigarh (8.38%) and Charal (5.88%).
14. One third of the families (30.65%) are in the group of below Rs 46860, one fourth of them (25.07%) are in between Rs 46861- 93720 and 13.62% of families are in between Rs 93721-140580. One fifth (18.57%) are in the group of Rs 140581-187440 and a few (5.57%) of villagers are in the categories of Rs. 187441-234300. 4.03% of families' annual income is in between Rs 234301-281160 and 0.62% are in between Rs 281161-328020 and Rs 468601-515460 in the four villages. 0.32%, each, of families are in the categories of Rs 328021-374880, Rs. 374881-421740 and Rs 421741-468600 in the four villages.

15. Two fifths (40.41%) of the families' annual income is Rs45001-46860 and one fourth 24.24% of families have annual income of Rs30000-35000. 20.20% families have Rs35001-40000, followed by Rs 40001-45000 (15.15%). Further, BPL families are highest (52%) in Borbahoni, followed by Lahdoigarh (35%), Charal (9%) and Bhuyan (3%).
16. Two fifths (60.37%) of the families are nuclear and the rest are joint.
17. Half (46.74%) of the families are small sized followed by medium (41.80%) and large (11.36%) due to consciousness about family planning among the families' which is high in Bhuyan and Charal because of modern education.
18. Three fourths (73.68%) of the families visit government hospitals located in Amguri town. Nearly one fifth (17.64%) of the families go to private hospitals located in Amguri, Sivasagar, Jorhat or Dibrugarh for major diseases and a few of them (8.8%) visit sub-centres for treatment.
19. It has been observed that families having low income visited government hospital which is found more in Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni village. In Charal, most of villagers visited to government hospital due to short distance to the Pengera hospital at Amguri town. The families of Bhuyan prefer both private and government hospital for treatment as the village is located near Amguri town. Primary sub-centres are almost avoided by the villagers due to lack of doctor, nurses and medicines. It has also been noticed that in case of serious health problems all the villagers used to visits private nursing home for better facilities.
20. Most (88.24%) of villagers prefer allopathic treatment followed by homeopathic (6.19%), ayurvedic (3.31%) and herbal (2.26%) medicine for treatment. In Borbahoni 85.99% prefer allopathy, 4.21% prefer homeopathy, 6.16% prefer ayurvedic and 3.64% of individuals prefer it. In Lahdoigarh, 92.92% prefer allopathic, 3.96% homeopathy, 3.96% ayurvedic and 2.27% prefer herbal medicines. In Bhuyan 80.89% prefer allopathy, 16.17% homeopathy, 0.98% ayurvedic and 1.97% prefer herbal medicine whereas 90.57% prefer allopathy, 8.37% homeopathy and 1.05% prefer ayurvedic medicine.
21. Families having low income visited government hospital which is found more in Lahdoigarh and Borbahoni village. In Charal, most of villagers visited to government hospital due to short distance to the Pengera hospital at Amguri

town. The families of Bhuyan prefer both private and government hospital for treatment as the village is located near Amguri town. Primary sub-centres are almost ignored by the villagers due to lack of doctor, nurses and medicines. It has also been noticed that in case of serious health problems all the villagers used to visits private nursing home for better facilities.

22. Most of the villagers prefer allopathic medicines in the four villages. The villagers believe that it cures quicker than other medicines. Besides, allopathic medicines are available in markets and they have also minimum knowledge on it.
23. Over two fifths (47.13%) of the villagers get information on health from their neighbours, followed by ASHA (29.3%), friends (18.64%) and media (4.88%). Of the total half of the villagers, 56.58% get information from neighbour, 22.12% from friends, 17.64% from ASHA and 3.64% from media. 47.72% of villagers get from neighbours, 29.29% from ASHA, 22.47% from friends and 0.50% of villagers get health information from media. In Bhuyan, 51.47% of villagers get information from ASHA, 20.09% from neighbours, 14.22%from friends and 1.96% get from media such as radio, TV and newspaper. 57.07% of villagers get from neighbours, 19.37% from ASHA, 17.27% from friends and 6.29% from media.

In sum, socio-economic condition of the villagers in Bhuyan and Charal is almost similar and better than that in Borbahoni and Lahdoigarh villages. The housing condition, income, size of land, facilities of health, electricity, irrigation, and occupation is high in Bhuyan and Charal villages.