

PROJET REPORT
ON
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF TEA GARDEN LABOUR'S
OF ASSAM: A CASE STUDY OF BORBAM TEA GARDEN,
SIVASAGAR DISTRICT

A Field study Report submitted in partial fulfillment of the Requirements
for the B.A. 6th semester Major Course

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Deceleration

This is to certify that the report on “Socio economic Condition of Tea garden Labours of Assam: A case Study of Borbam Tea Garden, Sivasagar District” is a original Research work done by me and has not been Previously submitted to any other institutions.

Mateswari Akura

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the report on “Socio economic Condition of Tea garden Labours of Assam: A case Study of Borbam Tea Garden, Sivasagar District” submitted By Miss. Mateswari Akura is a original Research work done by her and has not been Previously submitted to any other institutions.

Place: Sivasagar

Signature of the Supervisor

Date:

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Date :

Mateswari Akura

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Chapter –I

1. Introduction

The term socio-economic comprised of two one is socio and another is economic. The term “socio” means social, sociological or society and the term “economics “means financial status. So, basically socio-economic condition of an individual refers to his society, culture, environment and his financial status, simply socio economic condition means the standard of living of the people. The term “socio-economic “is also known as social economics. Social economics is a branch of economics that focuses on the relationships because of their local or regional economy, or the global p between social behavior and economics. Wikipedia defines, “socio-economic is the social science that studies how economic activity affects and is shaped by social process. In general it analyzes how modern societies progress, stagnant or regreconomy. It also refers to the way that social and economic factors influence the environment. “The goal of socio-economic study is generally to bring socio economic development usually by improvement in metrics such as GDP, life expectancy , literally etc.

1.2 Factors influencing socio economic condition

There are various factors which influence the socio-economic condition of an area. The major factors influencing the socio-economic condition are educational qualifications of the people, the income level of the people, housing and sanitation facilities of that area etc.

1.3 Profile of the tea garden labour

The tea industry play an important role in the development of our economy. Tea is a labour oriented enterprise as it is agro based. It requires labour at every stage of its work right from clearance of jungle, making the

land suitable for plantation work, spraying of pesticides, drain cutting, path making, plucking, manufacturing and then finally dispatching it to different destinations. Hence labour is the heart and soul of plantation. Assam is the largest tea growing region in India. Most of the workers in tea industry are adivasis. They come from east, southeast and central india. These are mundas, orans, Tantis, cols and Kumar's brought in by the British over the last two centuries. Their population is estimated around 50lakhs at present. The adivasi community of Assam is locally known as tea tribe are the descendants of tribal people who were brought in by the British colonial planters. The Adivasis are the most marginalized communities in Assam today. The Adivasis are now the permanent resident of Assam and they are now well equipped with the Assamese culture. This adivasis play a crucial role in the all -around development of Assamese culture.

1.4 Migration of Tea-Tribes in Assam

Development of modern industrial capitalism and the consequent colonization of Asia, Africa and others part of the world by the British triggered a massive mobilization of india agrarian communities across these diverse geographical localities. The growing demand for raw materials and other tropical agricultural products in the West led to the establishment of large scale plantation using European Capital for the production of export commodities, for which a labour force was mobilized from different parts of the India subcontinent.

Assam is one of the oldest and perhaps the most Famous among tea -growing regions of the world. The tea industry originated here in the late 1830s by the colonial planters after the annexation of Assam in 1826.the credit for the discovery of tea in Assam goes to major Report Bruce who discovered the potentiality for growing tea in Assam in the year 1823

in 1839, the Assam company was formed with tea holding in upper Assam marking the beginning of the tea industry in India.

After the establishment of tea industry the major problem faced by the planters was shortage of labour. In early phase of cultivation, the planters used the skilled Chinese labourers but their important cost was very high and also they demanded increment of their wages. The British Government employed local Assamese and tribal people in the tea estates. Between the time period of 1843-, the so called local people, mostly the Bodo-Kachari remained as the sole source of labour for the industry. But with, with the increasing number of tea estate it became impossible to manage with minimum local labours, in addition, most of the local people were not interested and unwilling to work in the tea estate. To ever come this problem the planters had to find workers elsewhere, this search for labours led them to districts of present day Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal etc. The people from these areas were uprooted from their land and livelihood, by the permanent Settlement of 1793 due to impoverished condition, the workers had no choice but to be forced to become indentured labour in Assam. To types of ruthless labour brokers called Arkati and sirdar were appointed for collecting labours from different parts of the country. The planters encourage migration of labours to Assam in groups of families rather than individual so that the planters could utilize the services of all family members, men, women, children and also to ensure the reproduction of labour for the next generation.

Among the migrant tea workers more 90% were hailed from east, central and South-eastern India including the Jharkhand area of Bihar (present Jharkhand state), northern and western Orissa, central and eastern parts of Madhya Pradesh including the present Chhattisgarh state, Warangal and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh Mirzapur, Varanasi, and Ghazipur districts of Uttar Pradesh. More than two-thirds of labours

came from Bihar and Orissa. A large section of the migrant to the gardens were drawn from the rank of the aboriginal tribal groups from the mundas, orans, kharias, khols Or has Bhumij And Sauthals , kurmis and muras, the second most important group of migrants were from semi aboriginal castes like Ghasis and Goraiks, Bawris and turi, Finally a smaller number was drawn from among low caste Hindus like the Bhogtas, Rautias, Chammers, Dasadhs etc.

1.5 Statement of The Problem

“The socio economic conditions of tea garden labours of Borbam tea estate Assam” A case study of Amguri division of Sivasagar district of Assam

1.6 Objectives of study

The proposed study is primarily concerned with an assessment of the socio-economic condition of tea garden labours in the Borbam tea estate in the sivasagar distract Assam. The main objectives of the study are.

1. To study the socio-economic condition of tea garden labours of Borbam tea estate.
2. To study the problems faced by tea garden labours.

1.7 Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a assumptions drown from knowledge and theory which is used as a guide in the investigation of other facts and theories that are yet unknown it is a guess, superstition tentative inference as to the existence of some fact, condition or relationship relative to some phenomenon which explain such fact as already are known to exist in a given area of Research to guide the search for new truth –

Following hypothesis has been set up which will the basic of verification-

H1 : most of the people from tea tribes has a low income level which lowers their standard of living e. g poor living conditions lack of necessary assets.

H2 : most of their people are living in Neuclear family

H3 : most of these people are unaware of the government schemes formulated their welfare.

1.8 Delimitation of the Study

The present study is delimitation to only of Borbam tea estate Amguri Division of Sivasagar District, for an intensive case study.

1.9 Field of Study

This study has been conducted the tea garden people of three tea garden under Amguri division of sivasagar district of Assam. The gateway to the North East India is the largest state in the North East is bordering seven state viz. Arunachal pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, mizoram , Nagaland, Tripura, and west Bengal and two countries viz. Bangladesh & Bhutan it is situated between 24N°-28E°latitude and 90°E°-96E°longitude . The state is endowed with abundant fertile land and water resources with total geographical area of 78,438sq.km.of which 98.4% area is rural. Assam shares about 2.4% of the country's total geographical area and provides shelter to 2.6% population of the country. Most of the state population lives in the lush valleys of it's two major river system in the 30 district of the Brahmaputra valley & 3district of the Barak valley. Less destiny population three hill district viz. Karbi-Along , west Karbi-Along & Dima Hasao , set in the low-laying hills that separate the two valleys more than 70

1.10 Profile of the Sivasagar

Sivasagar district is situated between 94.25* and 95.25* longitude east and 25.45* and 27.15* latitude North it has elevation of 86.6Mtrs above the sea level. The climate of Sivasagar district carries Apleasant weather throughout the year. The Lemperrature rangs from 8*in winter to 35 during summer the district is characterized by highly humid atmosphere and abounded rains the regular rains of the summer generally prevent the relevance of the hot weather. After the rainy season the cooler autumn starts from October and real cold whether prevails from the end of November and continuous till the middle march and in July and August it reaches the maximum. The whole district is influenced by the South -West monsoon. The district consist of three dministrative sub -division: these are sivasagar, Nazira and charaideo.

1.11 Profile of Amguri

Amguri ia a town and municipal area committee in sivasagar district in the state of Assam it is located 25 km towards South from district headquarters sivasagar, near the border of nagaland. The latitude 26°48" 53.35 " North and longitude 94°31" 34,10" East are the geo coordinate of amguri. It has an avarage elevation of 74 meters. It is situated on the bank of the river jhanji and it is famous for it is tea gardens and oil fields, Amguri division includes many tea estate :some of them are :-Amgoorie tea garden, Haluwating tea garden, Borbam tea garden, Boruah tea garden, Baghjan tea garden, Tiphuk tea estate etc. Amguri is connected to the neighbouring towns by the National Highway -- 2 (mokokchung - Amguri road) which falls under the renumbered North -South Highway system and the Dhodr Ali road. There are many well situated schools, colleges, hospitals in Amguri. The transport and communication system of Amguri is also well developed.

1.12 Profile of the Borbam tea estate

The Borbam tea estate was established in the year 1865. It is situated almost 40 kilometers away from deputy commissioner office of Sivasagar district of Assam. The name Borbam is derived from the word BOR meaning big, in local language and the word BAM means highlands as it is located on the higher grounds on the banks of the river Jhanji. The Borbam tea estate has three divisions. Three are Borbam, Baghjan, and Halwating. The total area of this tea estate is 560 hectares. The population of this tea estate is 1,631. At present, the Borbam tea estate keeps around 761 permanent labours and around 870 casual labours. The electricity connection and government supply water is available in the whole tea estate. The Borbam tea estate is almost 6 kilometers long.

CHAPTER -2

Review of Related Literature

In this chapter a brief review of the literature the researchers which have a bearing on problem under investigation is presented. The research had gone through various research journals, books, thesis, dissertations etc. Gadapani Sharma (2007), in his study highlighted the economic condition of tea community of Lahpuria tea estate and how they are failing to provide the facilities to labours at epidemic time . Non -education, property, addiction of male and health facilities are the immutable problem in their lives.

Bhadra(1985) [4] in his study the researcher covered almost all the aspects of and social life of tea garden workers of NE india. The researcher also mentioned that there is a need to go into greater depth on socio-economic conditions of women workers to find out the solution of the problems that are faced by them.

Phukan(1986) throws light on the sociological aspect of the labourers of Assam. Though they extended their hand as earning member of the family, most of them are illiterate.

Purkayastha and kalita(2016) examined on the living condition of tea labours of Assam. The study highlighted on the socio-economic aspect of tea labours only. Study suggested that workers were suffering from multifarious problems of their daily life. According to the study, they were socially, culturally and economically lagged behind. The entire responsibility vested in the hand of planters to arrange for them opportunities to make them socially and culturally stable to live peacefully

Sarthak sengupta(2009) deflected in study, subjects like -migration of the workers in tea plantation sectors in the North-East india, their identity, ethnicity, socio-economic condition and their life and settlement there.

George kandulna(1999) in his study of Adivasis of Assam emphasizes on nature of socio-economic conditions of Adivasis of Assam. In his view traditional Adivasis were agriculturists . After migration to Assam they were engaged in a completely different profession that is highly industrialized. All Adivasis are engaged in plantation as tea garden workers. The major constraints in the economic development have been faced by them in Assam. It is due to their lack of adjustment with the local people.

Borah (2013) studied the socio-economic condition and income and expenditure pattern of plantation worker' in Lepetkota tea estate in Assam. The study found that majority of the Indian tea producers are not getting fair price in the market for their tea and this passes to the workers as wage cuts and it further effects the tea industry and also the educational facilities for the children tea labours.

CHAPTER-3

Methodology and procedures

Methodology is an important part of research. It is a way to systemically solve the problem. The researcher selected the variables which are useful, selected appropriate tool for the data collection by reviewing the cited studies. This chapter discusses about how the research was carried out, what research design was selected, what methods were adopted for sample selection, what tools were used for data collection and so on. There are various methods which can be applied in the field of educational research. Selection of the suitable methods depends particularly on the nature of the problem under study. For this study descriptive survey methods was found more suitable as this method of research can be used to deal with behavioral aspects and solution of a practical problem which are the major concerns of this study.

3.2 Source of Data:

Both primary and secondary sources of data has been extensively used for the purpose of study. Primary data have been collected mainly from the tea-tribes people living in the garden area through the techniques of questionnaire, interview schedule ,and partial observation. Interview schedules were used in order to understand the perception of the tribes who are subject of the present study.

Secondary data have been obtained from various sources such as previous study, books, news paper, e-journals and periodical report published official data, unpublished works, souvenir, manuscripts, individual records, Dissertation, MRPs and other literature.

3.3 Population :-

The population of the study comprises all the tea-tribe people living in the Amguri Division. Only one tea garden of Amguri division are included in the study. Borbam tea estate.

3.4 Sample :-

There are many tea gardens in Amguri Division (including private tea garden) . But the investigator selected only one tea garden areas for data collection. Thus a total number of 80 households /families were selected by using purposive random sampling method.

3.5 Tools and Techniques of Data collection:-

The principal tools adopted for collecting primary data in this study were the interview schedules used for interviews where the head or an adult member of each of the sample respondent household was interviewed. The interview schedule comprised of both closed and opened questions it contained two parts the first part of the questions was about the general information of the respondents. The second part asked about the socio-economic conditions. In addition to the interview schedule, personal observation, informal discussion. Data collected from both primary and secondary sources are analyzed through qualitative. The collected data are proceed and tabulated with justified analysis simple statistical calculation like percentage and mean are used to interpret the data along with graphical representation.

CHAPTER -4

ANNALYSIS AND INTERPRATION OF DATA

➤ Occupational Interpretation-

From the above table it is seen that majority of the respondents are working under tea garden i.e. about 71.25 percent and a very few are associated with other works for their livelihood.

Table-1: Occupation of the respondents

Sl.No	Occupation	Total Numbers	Percentage
1	Government	1	1.25%
2	Tea Garden under	57	71.25%
3	Daily Labours	2	2.5%
4	Business	20	25%
	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Educational Qualification

From the table No.2 it is seen that about 25 percent of sample respondents are illiterates. About 38.75 percent have education up-to class 10 but did not pass the HSLC examination. 23.75 have matriculation certificate. About 5 percent passed the higher secondary examination and only 3.75% percent have passed B. A degree.

Table-2: Educational Qualification

Sl.No	Educational qualifications	Numbers of qualifications	In percentage
1	Illiterate	20	25%
2	Under Matric	31	38.75%
3	HSLC	19	23.75%
4	HS	4	5%
5	B.A	3	3.75%
	Others	0	00

Source: Field Study

➤ House hold members

From table no. 3, it is seen that about 67.5 percent household's family member between 4 to 6 nos. and 16.25% of the total households have more than 6 members in their family. Thus we can say that about 83.75 households have joint family. Rests are having nuclear family.

Table -3: Family Size

SL.NO	Numbers of Members	In Number	In Percentage
1	1to 3	13	16.25%
2	3 to 6	54	67.5%
3	More than 6	13	16.25%
	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Monthly household

From the table no.4, it is seen that monthly income of majority of the household is between Rs 5,000 to 10,000 60 %. Only 16.25% of them have monthly income of then Rs 30,000 - 40,000 and only 12.5% have monthly income and 10% have monthly income between Rs 20,000 - 30,000 out of total only 1.25 % house hold have monthly income of Rs 40,000 above.

Table- 4: Month income of the households/family

SL.NO	Monthly Income	Total Numbers	In Percentage
1	5,000-10,000	48	60%
2	10,000-20,000	10	12.5%
3	20,000-30,000	18	10%
4	30,000-40,000	13	16.25%
5	40,000-60,000	1	1.25%
6	Total	80	100%

Source: Field study

➤ Economic status of the household

From the above it is seen that the about 60 percent of the respondents are from BPL categories and rest other belongs to APL category.

Table -5: Economic Status of the Household

Sl. NO	Economic Status	In Numbers	In percentage
1	BPL	48	60%
2	APL	22	40%
3	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Household having electricity connection

From the above table, it is seen that all household have electricity connection. All the households inform that they get the connection free of cost.

Table -6: House hold having Electricity Connection

Sl.NO	Electricity	In Numbers	In percentage
1	Yes	80	100%
2	No	00	00
3	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ House hold having bank account.

From the above table, it is seen that all the households have bank account. The banks whether most of the respondents have accounts are: Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank.

Table-7: House Holds having bank Account

Sl.No	Bank Account	In Numbers	In Percentage
1	Yes	80	100%
2	No	00	00
3	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Life Insurance

From the above table, it is seen that 23.75% of household have insurance and 76.25% don't have life insurance. The main causes for not buy insurance etc are: not enough income to run the family, do not know the process, fear of cheating etc.

Table -8: Life Insurance

Sl.No	Life Insurance	In Numbers	In Percentage
1	Yes	19	23.75%
2	No	61	76.25%
3	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Type of house

From the above table is seen that out of the 80 household 15 nos. households type of house is kaccha and remaining 65 households type of house is pacca.

Table -9 : Type of House

Sl.No	Type of House	In Percentage	In Percentage
1	Kaccha	15	18.75%
2	Pucca	65	81.25%
3	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Source of Drinking water.

From the table it is seen that out of the 80 households, all the household use supply water for drinking which is provided by the garden management and govt. of Assam .

Table -10: Drinking water facilities

Sl.No	Source Of Drinking Water	In Percentage	In Numbers
1	Supply water	80	100%
2	Hand pump	00	00
3	Pand /Well	00	00
4	Total	80	100%

Source: field Study

➤ Fuel used for cooking.

From the above table, it is seen that all the household use both firewood and LPG for cooking. Majority of the total households received free LPG connection under pradhan mantri ujjwala yojana.

Table -11 : Fuel used for cooking

Sl.No	Used For Cooking	In Number	In Percentage
1	LPG/GAS	80	100%
2	Kerosene	00	00
3	Firewood	00	00
4	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

➤ Electronic Assets have at home

From the above table it is seen that electronic assets have all house 100% mobile and fan use and 95% television and 32.5% Fridges.

Table -12: Electronic Assets have at home

No Sl.	Electronic Assets	In Numbers	In Percentage
1	Mobile	80	100%
2	Television	76	95%
3	Fan	80	100%
4	Fridge	26	32.5%
5	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

4.9.4 sanitation facility

From the table it is seen that out of the 80 households, all the households use sanitary lavatory.

Table -13 : Sanitation Facilities

Sl.No	Sanitation Facility	In Numbers	In Percentage
1	Pacca	80	100%
2	Katcha	00	00
3	Total	80	100%

Source: Field Study

CHAPTER-5

Major Findings of the study

5.1 Major findings of the study and conclusion

1. Major findings of the study area :-in the surveyed tea garden the age range of a most of the household heads is between 30-47 years almost all of them are men and they are all married.
2. In most households both husband and wife are working majority of the menwork in the tea garden some of them also do daily labour a very few of them do business or others jobs. Most of the men have educational qualifications below matriculation 38.75% are totally illiterate and very few have studied up to higher education level. majority (25 %) of the women of tea garden areas are illiterate % of them have educational achievement below matriculation a very few number of women have done matriculation and studies up to H.S level no women having graduate degree was found in the study area
3. Most of the households monthly income is between 5000-10,000 which can be turned as a very low range. Those families in which both husband and wife work. They are able get a little more amount of income compared to others.
4. It is seen that all the households which I have surveyed have bank account, they don't give priority an savings of mony in their bank accounts and most of them couldn't maintain the minimum account balance they expended everything what they have earned. It is found during the survey that the most of the families do not have life insurance policy so in case of death of the head of the family then the family may find difficulty to survive. The security or safety needs of the families are not fulfilled.

5. Their housing conditions are not very good. Most of the pucca house have been given to them the tea company for which they work very few of them can afford to live in pucca house of their own.
6. In case of drinking water the only source is the supply tap that is supply by the tea factory /company for its workers and their families only.
7. It is seen that people use both firewood and LPG gas for cooking. All the family's get free LPG. Connection under pradhanmantri ujjwala yojana

Conclusion

The report is the result of intensive field study on the Socio-economic status Confronting the tea -tribe's people of assam. This tea -tribe community of assam being the victim of poverty, ignorance literacy has become part and parcel of assam. And the Socio-economic problem of these workers continued to be deplorable. The fruit of the participatory democracy is still beyond their reach. Tea plantation has brought the state of assam in to the lime light of national and international area. There is enormous information available concerning the scientific and technical aspect of the industry, but unfortunately there is no systematic and reliable data base for studying Socio-economic aspects of the tea garden labour's. Tea plantation labourers are being subjected to a long process of Socio-economic political deprivation and discrimination in the state. Their presence has a significant impact on the Socio-economic life in the state. Therefore. There is a pressing need for the government evolves suitable policy to improve the quality of life of the people of the Tea-tribe.

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PICTURES OF THE FIELD



Borbam tea garden



Tea garden workers

