CHAPTER II
2. LITERATURE SURVEY : A REVIEW-RELATED LITERATURE

Literature about newspapers and rural information in Assam are not so rich. Journalism in Assam was started in 1846 by the Christian missionaries after publishing ‘Arunodoi’ which was the first Assamese newspaper. It ran up to 1870. Good collection of this magazine issues was published by ‘Asom Prakashan Parishad’ which were found as very important source of past journalism in Assam.

Like the complete collection of ‘Arunodoi’, we do not have the collection of ‘Assam Bilasini’ - the second newspaper of Assam. Only one copy of ‘Assam Bilasini’ is preserved at Aumiati Satra. This newspaper was published from Majuli.

‘Assam Bilasini’ published the news of flood, epidemic diseases, killing of persons by wild animals etc. The paper not only reflected the rural information but also the rural facts and ideas. The rural people got the opportunities to make advertisement about their problems and business also. Instance of such an advertisement published in the paper can be translated like this - ‘An elephant has been theft at last night of 23 Chaitra of 1797 sak from the forest area. The elephant is 5 cubit in length and its teeth will be one cubit. Please inform if some body finds any information about it (Krishna Ram Phukan, Dist. Sivasagar, Mouza-Kakati Gaon.....)’

This ‘Assam Bilasini’ ran for 12 years. But 20 years later it was again revived by Krishna Bhattacharya. This ‘Assam Bilasini’ was an weekly. This paper was devoted to the freedom movement and socio-economic development of Assam. Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya commented about ‘Assam Bilasini’ as follows - ‘Assam Bilasini’ was ugly looking. There was not even a provision of double column in the paper. The first and middle pages were not so informative. But important article was its editorial’. In these editorials British rule was criticised vehemently. The editorials like ‘Abkari Dokan’ (wine shop, 18 Jan, 1921), ‘Raijor Roh’ (Revolution of the people, 8th Feb, 1921) ‘Reform Govt.’ (24 March, 1921) were so aggressive against British rule that it created a panic situation among the British rulers and they plotted to stop the paper by creating various legal pressures. In ‘Political History of Assam’, ‘Assam Bilasini’ has been explained as follows - ‘Assam Bilasini’ used to carry congress news of Upper Assam and articles written by

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তিচুন্ন সাথে যত বস্ত মধ্যে,
দিনরা সার আপ করি একে থাই,
পুরাতি উড়ব টোষ ছে বাই পথিয়া।
গেদিকে মহিলে বনা পূর্ণ কর হিয়া।

"নহি আলেন মধ্যে পারিজাতে নিয়েতে"—বিড়া।

The first issues of Jonaki & Bahin
congress workers. The Government felt annoyed at the tone of the paper. The editor, who was a government pensioner was warned not to dabble in objectionable politics. However, the editor continued writing in the same style, consequently, the Government ordered discontinuance of his pension and ask him in April, 1921 to furnish a security of Rs. 2000 under Indian Press Act I of 1914. The paper deposited the amount, but there after could not continue its publication, most probably for economic reasons.”

60 years later, the paper was again published as “Nautan Assam Bilasini” (1987), chief editor of the paper was Nalinidhar Bhattacharya. But it could not run more then one year.

The ‘Assam news’ (1882-1885) tried to establish the Assamese language. ‘Arunodoi’ had created an artificial Assamese language and Hemchandra Baruah, the editor of ‘Assam news’ struggled against it and afforded to establish the natural real Assamese language, collecting vocabulary from the rural people. This writings were in rural Assamese tune.

On the other hand, ‘The Assam Bandhu’ edited and published by Gunabhiram Baruah from Nagaon tried to encourage the rural Assamese people for business and industry. It also tried to restore the Assamese language.

‘Mou’ of Balinarayan Borah had different character. Voice of the ‘Mou’ was the voice of conservative rural people. It did not support the women education. So, the writer like Lakshmi Nath Bezbaruah criticised the paper and did not co-operate with it.

‘Assam Hitaishi’ (1925-28), edited jointly by Kamala Kanta Bhattacharya and Mahadev Sarma influenced the rural people. The paper was very much concerned about immigrant problem which had created panic for the farmers of Assam. The paper tried to aware the people from the exploitation of outsiders.

‘Bahin’ (1909...) edited by Lakshmi Nath Bez Baruah was mainly devoted to literature. Lakshmi Nath Bez Baruah collected the Folk - tales from rural people and published those in the magazine. This collection of stories namely “Burhi - Air - Sadhu” was a reflection of such efforts. The “Bahin” means flute which is nothing but a musical instrument played by the then rural artist. It reflects rural culture and beauty. Bez Baruah always tried to represent the rural sentiments in his writings.

‘Bijuli’ edited by Padmanath Gohin Baruah had made great efforts to eradicate
the problem of opium - addiction by the rural people of Assam. The magazine tried to educate and make the people aware by publishing the articles like “Amar Siksha” (our education) by Purna Chandra Konwar, ‘Kalazar’ (an epidemic fever) by Binanda Rajguru Phukan and so on. Gohain Baruah’s another magazine “Usha” was also devoted for the same purpose. The magazine published articles like “Gaonlia Swaisha” (Rural Health), ‘Asomor Utpanna’ (Products of Assam), “Asomiya Kapahi” (Cotton Clothes of Assam) etc14.

“Times of Assam” edited by Radhanath Changkakoti reflected the agriculture scenario, cultural heritage, social changes of the state. There was a regular column on agriculture aimed to provide information to the farmers15.

‘Tarun Asom’, edited by Benudhar Sarma was mainly devoted to literature. Benudhar’s style of writing was a rural tune16. He collected rural vocabularies and phrases to enrich the language. Writing of ‘Abahan’17 (edited by Dr. Dinanath Sarma) was also like the writing of ‘Tarun Assam’. In this magazine the scenario of the villages of Assam were properly reflected. The writers like Triolakya Nath Goswami, Lakshmidev Sarma, Nagendra Narayan Choudhury etc. wrote their articles or stories based on the problems of rural people. Ambika Giri Ray Choudhury, the editor of ‘Chetana’18 and ‘Deka Asom’19, also had the same tune of writing, “Deka Asom” always concerned about the problem of encroachment by the immigrants which created a panic among the indigenous farmers of Assam.20

Ambikagiri Ray Choudhury struggled for these farmers and tribal People of Assam with the help of his paper21. “Asomiya” (1918-1958) was the long run paper in Assam in the past22. It was a strong weapon of freedom fighters in Assam. From 26th January’ 1946 the paper became a daily and it declared - “our main objective is to develop the citizen of Assam. The paper will specially take care for backward class”. Tribes of hills and valleys and the labours were nothing but the villagers of Assam. “Asomiya” contributed a lot in acquiring the rights of the tea labours of Assam.23

The work about Assam’s news papers’ history is rarely found. A few researches had been done on the newspapers of Assam. Mr. Haren Kumar Hazarika did research on the “Role of press in Assam during the Assam movement on Foreigners issue”
This research reflects how the newspapers carried news about Assam agitation. During Assam Agitation, rural people were mostly affected. They were badly tortured by the Govt. forces. The newspapers had taken immense role to reflect their pains. Mr. Haren Hazarika’s study was almost political. Even then it has contributed a good portion of information about rural journalism also.

In 1981, Dr. Aravinda Mazumdar carried on his research on the topic - “A study of the newspapers of Assam and their editorial policies 1954-78”. The study was on editorial policies. The study reflected different policies of the newspapers but the policies on rural development were few. Dr. Kshirendra Chandra Roy studied “The newspaper Industry in Assam since 1947” under Gauhati University. The thesis of this research carried out about information of the development of newspaper in Assam after independence.

During the first half of eighteenth century, ‘Samachar Darpan,’ a Bengali newspaper, which was published from Kolkata was popular among the intellectual people of Assam. A few news items on Assam were also published in this newspaper. In “Sambadpatri Sekaler Katha,” published by Bangio Sahitya Parishad, edited by Rajendra Mohan Bandopadhaya, a few such reports have been found. These news were sent from Nagaon. Example of such a news item can be translated as follows - “...... we are very happy to announce that Mr. Jagya Ram Phukan has translated a number of English poem in to Bengali which we are going to publish. Mr. Phukan is also going to translate another one English book to their language. Haliram Dhekial Phukan has also published “Assam Buranji” before eighteenth month.’

“The State of Assam is now under the British Govt. The State had handed over to the British before seven years. Within this short period, Assam is going to develop itself from the educational point of view. Honourable gentlemen of Assam always keep relationship with Bengal. Newspapers are popular in the state. Circulation of newspaper is large in Assam than that of any other district of Bengal. We do not get any letters from half of the districts of Bengal. But we get letters every week from the state of Assam. It is very happy to state that the British rulers have established schools in the state ..............”

Though the style of writing of the above mentioned news in ‘Samachar Darpan’ is not like the news item of today’s newspaper, it reflected the popularity and importance of newspaper in the state of Assam at that time.

These articles have discussed, analysed, criticised the role of newspapers since its beginning in Assam. But opinions in reflection of information by the newspapers of Assam is rarely noticed in these articles. The book is almost unconscious about the contribution of villagers in the development of journalism in Assam. Even then, it is found very informative about the past history of newspapers and their role in the development of languages and literature in Assam.

"Sri Sri Dham Ramraikuthi Satra" (Satrarhal), a book on Satrarhal Satra of Dhubri district reflects some information on the information dissemination process of the time of sixteenth century in the Vaishnavite satras. The book is compiled by Jitendra Nath Pradhan, 'Deka Satradhikaar' of the Satra. The book is on the history of Satrarhal satra. Satrarhal is situated in the border place of Assam and Bangladesh. The Satra exists with the great support of the rural people living in the area following their traditional culture and ethos. They are the disciples of Srimanta Shankardeva. The traditional information dissemination process which is followed at the time of Srimanta Shankardeva is still in prevalence in the satra.
‘Prosanga-Kosha’ is a reference book on various historical events, persons, places, etc. The book is compiled by Abdus Sattar where short notes on the Assamese newspapers and journals like Arunodoi, Jonaki and the personalities like O.T. Cutter; Hemchandra Baruah, Nilamoni Phukan, Chandra Kumar Agarwala etc. are discussed.

The book has provided some probable data and information on old Assamese literature, culture on the basis of dependable sources from different places.

“Asom Abhidhan,” a reference book for various historical, cultural, literary events has been searched to find out some past information of various newspapers. The compiler of this book is Mr. Santanu Kaushik Baruah. There are one thousand entries in the book which includes the entries of newspapers like ‘Arunodoi,’ ‘Asom bani’ ‘Agradoot’, ‘Assam’ ‘Assam news,’ ‘Assam Banti’, ‘Assam Bandhu,’ ‘Assam Bilasini’, ‘Assam Mihir’, ‘Assam Hitaishi,’ etc.

Noted historian Herambakanta Barpujari’s, “Asamar Navajagaran ; Ana Asomiyar Bhumiaka” (Renaissance of Assam : Role of non-Assamese) is a valuable analytical book on the modern Assam. The articles of the book are “Nava-Jagaranar Agrama : American Missionary Sakal,” “Pragatir Pathat Engraj Bishaya Sakal,” “Marwari Sampradaya,” “Nava - Jagaran : Bangalabhashi Sakalar Abadan”. These articles reflect the role of Christian Missionaries in the development of Assamese language and literature, role of Marwaris as well as the role of Bengali language speakers in Assam. It has also discussed the role of “Arunodoi” in the upliftment of Assamese journalism and education in Assam.

Anandaram Dhekial Phukan who was one of the leading intellectuals of Assam in the Eighteenth Century struggled hard to uplift the socio-economic condition of Assamese society. He used to write in “Samachar Chandrika”, a Bengali newspaper from Kolkata and “Arunodoi,” the first Assamese newspaper published by Christian Missionaries from Sivasagar. Dhekial Phukan wrote a book namely - “Asomiya Lorar Mitra” (Friends of Young Assam) which reflects the ideology of the writer as well as the intellectual status of Young Assam and also the natural scenario of Assam. There are three parts in the book. The first part is a dictionary, the second part is the articles on morale and ethical values and the third part is regarding geographical and socio-economic condition of various
parts of the world. According to the writer, the third chapter contains—"not only narrative and didactic pieces but it affords information on various other subjects chiefly in Geography, History and brief sketches of the Christian and Mahomedan Religions." The important articles found for the research topic in the book are—"Asom Dekhar Bibaran" (Description of Assam), "Asom Deshar Sangkshipta Buranji" (Short history of Assam), "Engrav Kartrik Asom Deshar Rajya Sashanar Bibaran" (Description of British rule in Assam) where the socio-economic and political scenario of Assam of that time were reflected.

"Jyotiprasad Rachanavalit" has also been searched for the information about the topic. It is worth mentioning that Jyoti Prasad Agarwala was not only a creative writer, artist and freedom fighter but also a journalist. In 1944, he was the editor of "Dainik Asomiya", a leading daily of that time. It was a time of freedom movement and Jyotiprasad tried to make the public aware to take part in the movement through the paper. Jyotiprasad Agarwala was a lover of rural and natural life and his writings were full with the picture of villages and villagers. His poems, songs, dramas, etc. were reflections of rural-life of Assam. These writings were published in the newspapers like "Dainik Asomiya." One of the his novel was "Amar Gaon" means our village. It was written in 1950. This small novel reflects the exploitation of simple rural people, their struggle and their socio-cultural condition.

Unlike Jyotiprasad Agarwala, Bishnuprasad Rabha was not a journalist. But he was a popular writer and used to write various articles in different newspapers of that time. His drama 'Krishak' is not only picturisation of village life where freedom struggle took its roofs but a picture of information about the newspapers which were popularly circulated among the people. The 'Krishak' was started with a scene where a hauker tried to sell some newspapers like 'Natun Asomiya', 'Assam Tribune' etc. His other writings like 'Sonamura Gaon' (Golden faced village), carry the information of exploited farmer or rural people. Bishnu Rabha wrote a lot for the poor villagers and he tried to solve their socio-economic problem through communism. He was an active worker of revolutionary communist party of India and for this purpose he visited hundreds of villages of Assam and the experiences of his struggle with the villagers were reflected in his writings.

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'Arunodoir Dhalpat', a book on first Assamese newspaper by Dr. Birinchi Kumar Baruah is studied to find out the role of the paper in the reflection of rural information. The author analysed some news and articles published in the paper. Out of those articles and news, the related articles and news having reference to the research topic are 'Kanir Bibaran' (Description of opium), 'Jgyan' (Knowledge), 'Stri Siksha' (Woman education), 'Nagayan Drohi Lokar Charitra Barnan' (Description of Characters of rebels of Nagaon), 'Kachar Aru Asom Desat Chah Oluar Katha' (Invention of tea plants in Assam and Kachar) are important. Noted scholar Mr. Maheswar Neog has analysed the book critically in the preface. He also explained the history of struggle of Mr. Nathan Brown, Mrs. Brown and O.T. Cutter who established press at Sivasagar and published 'Arunodoi' more than twenty five years.

"Kaliram Medhi Rachanawali" (Writings of Kaliram Medhi) has been searched and some information specially on Goalpara district and Kamrup district have been found. Kaliram Medhi was the third president of Asom Sahitya Sabha and a great scholar of that time. His various articles which carried information on rural Assam were published in the newspapers like 'Assam Bandhab' and so on. His important articles regarding to the research topic are "Goalparar Prachin Kirti" (The glory of ancient Goalpara), 'Oza Bhouria' (The oza actors), 'Prachin Kamrupia Git' (Ancient songs of Kamrup), Asomiya Khela (Asamese sports) etc. These reflects the cultural and social heritage of rural Assam. He emphasised on the rural arts which were developed by the illiterate rural poor people.

Benudhar Sarma was a noted writer and freedom fighter of Assam. He was a journalist also. His writings reflected rural tune and rural sentiment. So, "Benudhar Sarma Rachanawali" (writings of Benudhar Sharmah) has been searched to find out some information. Notable fact that Benudhar Sarma was a journalist of 'Dainik Batori' the first Assamese daily, which was published from Thengal gaon of Jorhat District. He was also associated with "Sadinia Batori", "Swaraj", "Asom" and such other newspapers. He was the editor of "Tarun Asom" (1939-1942). Sarma was a country born writer and he always tried to focus the problems of rural poor through his papers. He gave up the job of editor from "Tarun Asom" due to ideological differences with the publisher.
“Ratneswar Mahanta Rachanawali” (writings of Ratneswar Mahanta) has been searched to get information from his writings, which were published in ‘Assam Bandhu’ and ‘Jonaki’. Ratneswar Mahanta was a popular writer and his writings reflected various rural problems, his articles like “Garo Britanta” (Description of Garo tribals) are

‘Grihni Karthabya aru Stri Siksha’ (Duties of house wife and woman education), ‘Asomar Unnati’ (Development of Assam) are the important articles where different information about rural Assam are reflected. His “Asomiya Aru Bideshi Saj” is another important article where the writer discussed the indigenous Assamese dresses prepared by the rural Women.

“Adhunik Asomiya Biswakosh” (Modern Assamese encyclopedia) is searched for basic information on Assam. It is an incomplete encyclopedia, edited by Surjya Kanta Hazarika, published by Bani Mandir. The book has covered ‘A’ and ‘AA’ of Assamese Alphabet. The information regarding Assam is found in the entries of ‘A’. The book is well edited with colourful photographs. But no such information relating to Assamese rural information and newspaper is found in the book. Of course it has provided enough information on Assamese society as a whole.

‘Assam and North Eastern States Research methodology and Sources’ is nothing but a bibliography on the books relating to Assam. It is compiled by Dr. N.N. Acharya. In the preface, noted scholar, professor Dr. V. Venkata Rao of Gauhati University commented - “In my fifty years experience in research in social sciences, the biggest problem that I had to face is the collection of material which is scattered far and wide. These problems are solved to a great extent by the present publication of this book”. This comment of Dr. V. Venkata Rao reflects the importance of the book not only for information about book but also for the records, notes, accounts, correspondence, despatches, diaries, extracts, memorandums, unpublished government papers, treatises, memoirs, monographs, statistical accounts, census report, letters, theses and so on. It includes both published and unpublished literature.

“The Assamese” written by Audrey Contlie, a British sociologist is an informative book on Assam and Assamese people. The writer studied Assamese village people at Panbari village of Sivasagar district. The writer came to study Assam under the centre of
south Asian Studies, School of Oriental and African studies, University of London. The
book was published by Curzon press of London, in association with united publisher of
Assam. In this book, the writer has represented his study report on Panbari village which
includes economic deferences and caste system, the system of kinship, the nature of
affinity, the pattern of marriage etc. The second part of the book includes ‘Assamese
castes in historical perspective, the devotional path in Assam’, ‘Sri Sankardeva Sangha’,
‘Reform seats in Panbari’, ‘Caste and Sect’ and some statistical information on Assamese
rural society.

“North - East as reviewed by foreigners” by N.N. Acharya is a book on the
comments on North East by various foreign visitors from ancient time to the British regime.
The writer includes here the accounts of travellers who come from Greece, China, Arab,
France and Italy. These provide the information of the society of the past Assam. The
writer also discussed the administrative procedures and geography of that time. The book
is searched to have the knowledge from the view-point of foreigners on rural Assam and
its society.

“The place of Assam in the history of civilization of India” is a book by Dr. Suniti
Kumar Chatterjee, published by Gauhati University is full of analytical information of past
Assam in relation to India. Dr. Chatterjee who was a famous scholar in modern Indian
language analysed Assamese language in the scientific way. The book is searched for
background information of Assam. Dr. Chatterjee’s scientific judgement and comment
have made the Assamese language strong to struggle against the attack of such persons
who believed Assamese language as a dialect only. He said that a common language and
culture unified the Assamese people during the late medieval period, based on which this
common language, the modern Assamese language has developed which is main linguafranca
of Brahmaputra valley at present and journalism in Assam is also uplifted with this
language. The writer has discussed art, culture and heritage of Assam also. This book is
out come of “The Bani Kanta Kakoti Lecturers” which he had delivered and the same
was organised by Gauhati University.

“An account of Assam” is a book on Assam written by John Peter wade in 18th
Century (1792). The book was published in 1800 and edited by Benudhar Sarma.
Actually, the book is an historical one, but it included geography and cultural heritages too.

“A cultural history of Assam” by B.K. Baruah is also on Assamese heritage. It has
reflected the agriculture, craft and industries, trade routes, social institutions, family,
marriage, women activities, food habits, dresses, games, education, religion, architecture,
esculpture, iconography etc. of the past rural Assam.
"Inscriptions of ancient Assam" by Mukunda Madhav Sharma is a comprehensive analysis of past Assam. The book covers various rock inscriptions, copper plates, clay plates etc. from the era of Surendra Barman to Vallavadeva. The book reflects some light on past literary materials of Assam, which are mostly found in stone inscriptions and copper plates. It is worth mentioning that most of the plates were written in Sanskrit. The writer has analyzed all those in English with detailed information of some villages also.

"Asomiya Jatir Itibritwa," edited by Giridhar Sharma, published by "Asom Sahitya Sabha" is a book on Assamese people. It includes political geography of Assamese social system, economy, language and literatures, education, music, dances, ornaments, paintings and so on. It can be regarded as an outline of Assamese society. The book which provides information dissemination process is consulted to know about information dissemination process in past Assam. According to this book "Hastayurveda" by Palkapya 'Muni' (saint Palkapya), is the first or ancient book on elephant - treatment in Assam. According to Mahamohopadhyaya Haraprasad Sastri, it was written before Chirst, but according to others, it was written in 12th century. The next book was "Sawla Matshyapuran" then 'Kalikapuran', 'Angirash Dharma Sastra', 'Dharmapuran' etc. were written in ancient Assam.

'Asomiya Sahityar Buranjii' (History of Assamese literature) edited by Homen Bargohain is an informative book on Assamese literature as well as journalism. "Charita Dasakar Asomiya Alochani" (Assamese journals of 4th decade), written by Jogendra Narayan Bhuyan has given analytical information on the journals and papers published during the 4th decade of 20th century. In this book he has discussed the papers and journals like 'Natun Prithivi', 'Bahin', 'Avahan', 'Surabhi', 'Ranghar' 'Pachowa', 'Abhijan Jayanti', 'Abhijatri', 'Bardaichila', 'Ramdhenu' from the point of their socio cultural and literary contribution.

'Maheswar Neog Rachanawali' (writings of Dr. Maheswar Neog) is searched for the ancient news dissemination tradition of Assamese Vaishnava Society, specially on the satras. Dr. Maheswar Neog, who was an erudite scholar of Vaishnavism of Srimanta Shankardeva or Shankar studies had explained about this tradition in the chapter of
“Gurucharitar Itikatha”. The Gurucharits were developed after the death of Srimanta Shankardeva. Mahapurush Madhavadeva started this tradition of disseminating about the news of Shankardev’s death and cremation ceremony in various Satras in front of the disciple of Shankardeva. He disseminated it verbally. Later on the information of Madhavdeva and other ‘Atai’ (prominent disciples) were also described to the disciples in the same way. Later on Daityari Thakur, Bhushan Dwij, Ramananda Dwij, Anirudha Das etc. had recorded them in the written form. These Gurucharits can be regarded as the ancient journals of Assam.

Lakshminath Bezbaruah was the pioneer of modern Assamese literature. His journal ‘Bahin’ enriched Assamese literature a lot. Various articles on rural Assam were published by Lakshminath Bezbaruah in ‘Bahin’. ‘Bezbaruah Granthawali’ (Books of Bezbaruah) has been searched to know about Bezbaruah’s attitudes towards rural Assam, their problems and attitudes. Bezbaruah’s language carried a rural tune and most of his writings were based on villagers. “Mor Jivan Sowaran” “Dinanath Bezbaruah’s Jivan Charit” are the two books where the personality of Bezbaruah has been reflected. Both these books were incorporated in this “Bezbaruah Granthawali”.

‘Katha Gurucharit’ written by Sasi Sarma is a book on the biographies presented by the Vaishnava disciples about their ‘Gurus’. Sasi Sarma has criticised these charits from social, cultural and linguistic point of view. It is worth mentioning that “Gurucharit” were not in a written format first. It was narrated verbally from one to the other which generally included various information of ‘Gurus’ as well as the ‘Satras’. The process can be regarded as ancient way of journalism in Assam, because they provided the news about gurus or news about the Satras.

‘Guru charit katha’ compiled by Maheswar Neog also reflects the same.

“Kramabikashat Asomiya Bhasa Saili” by Dr. Prafulla Kataka is a book specially on language, but it is taken for granted about the linguistic pattern of the newspaper of Assam, on what way information are reflected by them. Dr. Kataka has discussed here about Arunodoi, the first Assamese newspaper and also about the language of “Jonaki” - an Assamese journal.

“Rural information” are not only the news information. It also includes some
word - information or vocabulary. There are various Tribal words which are used in the language - papers. From this point of view, “Asomiya Bodo Sadakosh” (Assamese - Bodo vocabulary) published by “Purbottwar Bhasha Samiti” and complied by the members of the Samiti, it gives a lot of information about the dialects used in the rural society in Assam. ‘Asomiya la Baroh lane asomiya Hikai-ki’ (Assamese - Khashi vocabulary) also one such book which informs enough rural Khashi words.

“Prataya Aru Pratikshya”64 written by Lolit Kumar Baruah is a book on criticism. It includes “George Orwell: Sat Sangbadikata” (George Orwell - honest journalism) which is an article on the journalism of George Orwell was a novelist as well as a journalist. He was famous and honest personality in the field of journalism. The views of George Orwell and his works are discussed by the writer in this article. It is worth mentioning that “The Collected Essays, journalism and letters of George Orwell” edited by Sonia Orwell and Jan Angus are discussed in the article.

‘Rabha Sahityar Buranji’ (History of Rabha literature) is studied to know about the role of Rabha newspaper. According to this book ‘Champa’ (1978) is the milestone of Rabha journalism. The book is written by Dr. Malini Devi Rabha65.“Arunodoi”65 is an analytical book on the first Assamese newspaper. “Arunodoi,” written by Prasenjit Choudhury, reflects the role of socio-literary role of the paper on Assamese society. The writer has tried to evaluate “Arunodoi” from the angle of social, political, religious and linguistic approaches. Mr. Choudhury also has discussed about the paper in his another book ‘Unabingso Satikar Asamat Ebhumuki’ in details. The second Assamese newspaper “Assam Bilasini” was published from majuli the famous river -island of Brahmaputra. To get Information about the paper ‘Majuli’67, a book on the river island compiled by Prashanta Kumar Mahanta is searched. There are three articles on “Assam Bilasini” in the book. Those are “Kirtiman Purush Dutta Dev Goswami Aru Assam Bilasini” (Famous Dutta Dev Goswami and Assam Bilasini) “Asomar Sangbadpatar Abismaran Agradoot Assam Bilasini” (Assam Bilasini - the Pioneer of Assamese Journalism) “Majuli Aru Assam Bilasini” (Majuli and Assam Bilasini) where the socio-political role of “Assam Bilasini” is clearly discussed. Another two newspapers namely “Assam Dipak” and “Assam Tara” were also published from Majuli in 1876 and 1888 respectively. But those two newspapers failed to continue their circulation. (45)

“The Red River and the Blue Hill” written by Hem Baruah can be regarded as a brief encyclopedia of Assam in English. It includes history; different races, religion and people, urban and rural life, language, literature, assessment and anticipations of the people. It’s appendices includes “Bihu dances and their significance”, “North - Eastern hill tribes: Abors and Mishmis,” “The Theatre in Assam”, “Mother Goddess Kamakhya”, “Durga Puja in Assam”, “Manipur: Land of Dance and Music”. The chapter which is related to the research topic “Urban and rural life” is studied to understand the rural scenario of Assam and to find out some data on it. The book also provides the basic background about Assam.

A Trade Bibliography, published on Economics, Demography, Rural Development by Anmol publication pvt. Ltd. of New Delhi is searched for information about books on rural development or rural issues. It has cited the books on “Rural development” by Nagpal et al, “Rural Credit Management” by Rajendra, “Child Labour of India” by Nazir. A Shah, “Agricultural productivity and rural economy” and so on.

“Bahin” a monthly journal edited by noted writer and pioneer of modern Assamese literature Lakshinath Bezburoah was published in 1909. The collections of “Bahin” from first issue to 12th issue of the second year have been published by Asom Sahitya Sabha. It is compiled by Jatindra Nath Goswami and Dr. Basanta Kumar Gowami. In this collection of “Bahin” three articles were published about rural areas of Assam. Those are
“Gaolia Manusher Prati Eti Upadesh” (An advice to the rural people) by Upendra Nath Baruah, in the sixth issue of first year. Another article is found in the magazine by the same writer in the seventh issue of the first year.

In the 12th issue of 1st year of “Bahin”, an article written by Padmadhar Chaliha as “Asomar Gaonlia Jiban” (village life of Assam) where economy, education, health, agriculture, culture, tradition etc. of rural people were discussed in detail. “Asomiya Jibani Abhidhan” (A Biographical dictionary in Assamese) has been searched. The dictionary compiled by Dr. Shivanath Barman has provided brief information on the personalities like Atmaram Sarma, who was the first person of Assam in the field of printing technology. The Baptist Missionaries took help of Atmaram Sarma to translate the Bible from English into Assamese language.

"Jonaki" was an epoch - making Assamese literary monthly. The journal was published from calcutta (1889-1899) and Guwahati (1901-1903) by "Asomiya Bhasha Unnati Sadhini Sabha" (An organisation for upliftment of Assamese language). It was a great efforts of the personality like Chandra Prasad Agarwala, Lakshminath Bezbaruah, Hemchandra Goswami and so on.

The issues of "Jonaki" has been collected, compiled and edited by Dr. Nagen Saikia and published by Asom Sahitya Sabha. "Jonaki" was a journal, so news was not published here, but there were different articles where rural scenario of Assam was reflected. Such articles were "Tirot" (woman) published in 11th & 12th issue of the first year written by Purnakanta Sharmah, "Asomiyar Kheti" (Cultivation by Assamese) in 1st issue of 2nd year, written by Binanda Chandra Phukan, "Asomer Unnati" (upliftment of Assam) published in 2nd issue, 2nd year written by Kamalakanta Bhattacharya, "Asomiyar Siksha" (education of Assamese) by Anada Chandra Gupta in 11th & 12th issue, 4th year, "Gash-Gashanir Upakaria" (usefulness of the trees) by Saifuddin Ahmed in 11th issue, 6th year; "Gaonlia Sikhsa" (Rural education), 5th issue, 1st year by Cheniram Baruah; "Stri Siksha" (women education) by Gourikanta Talukdar in 11th issue, 2nd year; These articles reflect various aspects of rural life of Assam. These are some general information, not the timely information like news.

"Uali Jota Nathir para" a book on historical notes, administrated during the British regime in Nagaon district provides information regarding the newspapers and journals of Nagaon district published in pre-independence era. The book is compiled by Dr. Jogendra Narayan Bhuyan. The important articles related to the research topic are "Gyanodoi Aru Padmahash Goswami", "Sachipat Udyog" (industry of sanchipat) "Adalatar Bhasa Sandarbhat ajan British Prashasak" (A British administrator regarding language of the court) and so on. According to the writer Dr. Jogendra Narayan Bhuyan the information are collected from the archives of the D.C. court. The book can be regarded as a research report.

"Swadhinatar Sapon Aru Dithak" (Dream and reality of independence) written by Dr. Hiren Gohain is an analytical book on socio-political situation of Assam. The articles are "Diplachowkar Haityakanda" (The killing incident of Dipilachok village),
“Medam Me-Fir Chinta : eta Byaktigit Abhimat” (Thoughts of medam mefi, a personal opinion), “Senabahinir Atyachar Samparke” (regarding the atrocities of Army), “Swadhin Batarikakat Prakitate Swadhin ne” (Is “independent” newspapers really independent?) “Asom Premi Harendra Nath Baruah” (Assam lover Harendra Nath Baruah) etc.

The news published in the dailies are critically analysed and he tried to examine the authenticity of these news. It was he who not only brought the incidents in its reality, he also analysed the rural community in regard of their aspirations.

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