Preface

The World Bank estimates more than 70 per cent of the world poor live in the rural areas. Various strategies have been formulated to address this concern, and among the major ones is rural employment creation. It is a well known fact that agriculture or farm sector has always been viewed as the core of economic growth of developing economies. The economy of rural areas in India is predominantly based on agriculture and allied activities. Hence a vast majority of rural population is mainly depending on agriculture sector both for its employment and livelihood. On the eve of Independence, the agricultural sector was the predominant sector of the Indian economy both in terms of its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) and providing employment opportunity to the country’s labour force. It has universally been recognized that as population of the rural area increases, the farm lands get fragmented leading to decreasing availability of per household cultivated land. In such a situation agriculture sector alone is expected hardly be in a position to create additional employment opportunities. Consequently, the momentum for achieving sustained development in rural areas has to pivot around expanding the base of non farm activities. The development and expansion of the non farm activities in the rural areas significantly attract several basic issues such as, creation of gainful employment, providing regular income to the poor people and minimize the out migration from the villages.

The present study was undertaken with the objectives of examining the growing role of the non farm sector in changing the occupational structure of rural Assam. The study also aim to investigate the causes of the growth of rural non farm sector and the importance of the sector in income and employment generation for better quality of life for
the people residing in the rural areas of Dhubri district of Assam. The study is based on both primary and secondary data collected from Dhubri district which is a part of North Eastern region of India and an important frontier district of Assam.

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Date:

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