CHAPTER VII
SUMMARY

North Guwahati is situated in the north bank of the mighty river Brahmputra, adjacent to the city of Guwahati in the district of Kamrup, Assam. A number of castes and communities reside together in North Guwahati but the area is mainly dominated by Assamese caste people.

The present study has made an attempt to see the effect of health care practices on infant mortality and morbidity among the Kayasthas and the Kaibartas-two Assamese caste populations inhabiting the area.

The data for the Kayasthas were collected from Silsako, Rajaduar and Madhyamkhanda. The data for the Kaibartas were collected from Ghoramara, Tilinggaon, Majgaon, Dihing Satra, Ashwaklanta, Manikarneshwar and Pachim Rajaduar.

162 Kayastha and 239 Kaibarta households were visited to collect the demographic data. A sample of 250 Kayastha and 300 Kaibarta children belonging to 0-3 years of age were considered for the present purpose.

Information regarding age-sex distribution, type of family, size of family, marital status, education, occupation, house sanitation, sources of drinking water etc. were collected for demographic profile of the two communities. Interviews with previously prepared schedules was the main technique of data collection.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE KAYASTHAS

The total population of the Kayasthas is 1130 of which, 595 (52.65%) are males and 535 (47.35%) are females. The highest percentage for males are found in the age group of 0-4 years. The percentage is 28.57 and the highest percentage of females are found in the age group of 25-29 years.
and the percentage is 21.50. In the broad age group the male percentage is found to be the highest in the age group of 0-14 years (children) and the percentage is 38.66 and the female percentage is found to be the highest in the age group of 15-29 years. The percentage is 30.09. The sex ratio is 899 females per 1000 males. Regarding the marital status it is found that 43.19 percent are unmarried, 52.74 percent are married and 4.07 percent are widow/widower. 79.58 percent Kayasthas are literate and 20.42 percent are illiterate. 52.92 percent of the people are workers and 47.08 percent are non workers.

The earner dependent ratio is 890 dependants per 1000 earners. Service is the main type of occupation of the males, the percentage being 60.24. Weaving is the main type of occupation of the females, and the percentage is 40.23. The joint families dominate the nuclear families. The percentage of joint family is 75.93 and that of nuclear family is 24.07. 62.35 percent of the Kayasthas have supply water and 37.65 percent have well as means of water facilities. 33.95 percent have pit system and 66.05 percent have sanitary system of toilet facility. 92.59 percent live in C.I. roofed, Assam type house and 7.41 percent live in thatch and mud plastered houses. The mean age at marriage of the Kayastha males and females are 33 years and 24 years respectively.

206 Kayastha mothers having children of the age group of 0-3 years were selected and interviewed to collect data on infant mortality, morbidity and health care practices. Data for traditional health care practices of children of 0-5 years age group were also collected.

Of the total 250 live births the number and percentage of surviving and dead children among the Kayasthas are 229 (91.6%) and 21 (8.4%) respectively. Again of the total 250 live births 152 (60.8%) are males and 98 (39.2%) are females. And of the total 21 dead children 10 (47.62%) are males and 11
(52.38%) are females. Among the Kayasthas the highest percentage of infant suffers from cold, cough and respiratory diseases. The percentage is 24.0.

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE KAIBARTAS**

The total population of the Kaibartas is 1440 of which, 733 (50.90%) are males and 707 (49.10%) are females. The highest percentage for males is found in the age group of 0-4 years. The percentage is 25.38. The highest percentage of females is found in the age group of 25-29 years and the percentage is 20.93. In the broad age group the male percentage is found to be the highest in the age group of 0-14 years and the percentage is 36.02; the female percentage is found to be the highest in the age group of 15-29 years. The percentage is 35.50. The sex ratio of the Kaibarta is 964 females per 1000 males. In the marital status it is found that 43.68 percent are unmarried, 51.39 percent are married and 4.93 percent are widow/widower. 84.78 percent Kaibartas are literate and 15.22 percent are illiterate. The worker non-worker percentages are 45.35 and 54.65 percent respectively. The earner-dependant ratio is 830 dependants per 1000 earners. Service is the main type of occupation among the males and the percentage is 36.19. The main type of occupation among the females is weaving and the percentage is 69.64. The percentage of joint family is 64.44 and that of the nuclear family is 35.56. 95.39 percent of the Kaibartas have supply water and 4.61 percent have wells for water facilities. Among the Kaibartas 41.84 percent go to open place for nature's call, 26.78 percent have the pit system and 31.38 percent have sanitary latrine as means of toilet facility. 87.86 percent live in C.I. roofed Assam type house and 12.14 percent live in thatch roofed mud plastered house. The mean age at marriage of the Kaibarta males and females are 27.5 years and 22.5 years respectively.

Of the total 300 live births the number and percentage of surviving and dead children of the Kaibartas are 267 (89.0%) and 33 (11.0%) respectively.
Again of the total 300 live births 172 (57.33%) are males and 128 (42.67%) are females. Of the total 33 dead children 20 (60.61%) are males and 13 (39.39%) are females. Among the Kaibartas the highest percentage of infant suffer from stomach trouble and its percentage is 35.67.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF DEAD CHILDREN

In the age group of 0-3 years the percentage of death among the Kaibartas is found to be higher than the Kayasthas. For the Kaibarta it is 11.0 and that of the Kayastha is 8.4. The test of significance shows no statistically significant difference.

SEX-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF DEAD CHILDREN

In the sex-wise distribution of dead children among the Kayasthas the highest percentage of male infant deaths is found in the neonatal stage (0-28 days), the percentage being 9.09. The female infant death is the highest in the age group of 1-3 years and the percentage is 11.29.

Among the Kaibartas the highest percentage of male and female infant deaths are found in the age group of 0-28 days. The percentages are 35.71 and 18.18 respectively.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT DEATHS ACCORDING TO CAUSE

Maternal health factor is the main cause of infant deaths in both the castes. Among the Kayasthas the percentage is 33.33 and among the Kaibartas the percentage is 21.21.

ANTENATAL CARE AND INFANT DEATHS (0-3 YEARS)

The pregnant women of both the castes visited doctors regularly. Among the Kayasthas the percentage is 49.51 and among the Kaibartas the percentage is 55.79. The test of significance shows no statistically significant difference.
TYPE OF FOOD AND REST OF MOTHERS DURING PREGNANCY AND INFANT DEATH

Among the Kayasthas the highest percentage of infant deaths is found when the mothers took normal food and did normal duties. The percentage of infant death is 18.42.

Among the Kaibartas the highest percentage of infant deaths is found when mothers took normal food and did strenuous duties. The percentage of infant deaths is 42.86. No statistically significant difference is found between the two groups.

SPECIAL FOOD AND CARE DURING PREGNANCY AND INFANT DEATH

88.84 percent Kayastha pregnant women and 80.00 percent Kaibarta pregnant women took special food and care during their pregnancy. The infant death percentages are found to be 7.76 and 6.57 respectively. The difference between the two groups are statistically significant in this regard.

INTAKE OF IRON AND FOLIC ACID TABLETS AND INFANT DEATH

About 79.13 percent Kayastha mothers and 70.52 Kaibarta mothers used to take iron and folic acid tablets regularly. The infant death percentage is found to be the lowest in them. Among the Kayasthas the percentage of infant death is 5.64 and the Kaibarta is 4.83. The difference is statistically non significant.

INFANT DEATHS ACCORDING TO IMMUNIZATION OF MOTHERS AGAINST TETANUS

88.35 percent Kayastha mothers are immunized against tetanus and the infant death is 5.24 percent among them. 78.24 percent Kaibarta mothers are immunized against tetanus and the infant death is 8.08 percent. The difference is statistically non-significant.
INSTRUMENTS USED TO CUT THE UMBILICAL CORD AND INFANT DEATHS

In both the castes the infant death percentages are found to be the highest when the bamboo strip is used as the instrument to cut the umbilical cord. 3.2 percent Kayasthas and 2.33 percent Kaibartas used bamboo strip and the infant death percentages are 37.5 and 57.14 respectively. The significance tests shows statistically significant difference.

BIRTH INTERVAL AND INFANT DEATH

In both the castes the highest percentage of infants survive when the birth interval is 18-24 months. Among the Kayasthas the percentage is 74.0 and among the Kaibartas the percentage is 65.33. When the birth interval is less than 18 months the infant death percentages are found to be the highest in both the castes. The percentage of the Kayastha is 29.72 and that of the Kaibarta is 23.73. The difference is statistically non-significant.

INFANT DEATHS ACCORDING TO PERSONNEL ATTENDING DELIVERY

When trained dais attend to the delivery the highest percentage of infant mortality is found in both the caste. The percentage among the Kayasthas is 45.45 and the percentage of the Kaibartas is 25.26. The highest infant survivality is found when doctors attend at the time of delivery. Among the Kayastha the percentage is 89.2 and among the Kaibarta percentage is 65.33. The difference is statistically significant.

INITIATION OF BREAST MILK AND INFANT DEATH

When the initiation of breast feeding in done after 24 hours the infant mortality is found to be the highest for both the castes. Among the Kayasthas the percent is 24 0 and among the Kaibartas the percentage is 36.36. The difference is statistically significant.
NATURE OF FIRST BREAST MILK AND INFANT DEATH

About 82.8 percent Kayastha infant and 86.67 percent Kaibarta infant survived when the nature of first breast milk is given with colostrum. The difference is statistically non-significant.

CONTINUATION OF BREAST FEEDING

When breast milk is continued upto six months along with water the infant mortality is found to be the lowest. The percentage among the Kayasthas is 6.34 and that of the Kaibartas is 7.69. The percentage of infant survivality among the Kayastha is 76.8 percent and that of the Kaibarta is 64.0 percent. No statistically significant difference is found among the two groups regarding this.

TYPE OF SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD AND INFANT DEATH

The infant death percentage is found to be the lowest in both the castes when indigenous food "Luthuri" is given as supplementary food after six months. The percentage of infant death among the Kayasthas is 8.33 and the percentage of the Kaibartas is 4.66. There is no statistically significant difference between the two castes regarding this.

IMMUNIZATION OF INFANT AND INFANT DEATH

34.8 percent Kayastha infants and 27.33 percent Kaibarta infants were completely immunized and the infant death percentages are 5.74 and 13.41 respectively. When the infants were not immunized at all the death percentage is found to be the highest. Among the Kayasthas the percentage is 18.75 and among the Kaibarta the percentage is 31.57. The difference between the two castes is statistically non-significant.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT DEATH BY BIRTH ORDER

Among the Kayasthas the highest percentage of infant deaths is found in the 4th order parity and the percentage is 25.0. Maternal age group of 20-
24 years experienced the highest infant deaths which is 15.91 percent. Among the Kaibartas the highest percentage of infant deaths is found in the 2nd order parity with 17.14 percent. Maternal age group of 35-39 years experienced the highest infant deaths with 25.0 percent.

**INFANT DEATHS ACCORDING TO MOTHER’S AGE AT FIRST CHILD BIRTH**

Highest percentage of infant mortality 33.33 percent is found among the Kayasthas when the mother’s age at first child birth is 30-34 years while among the Kaibartas highest percentage of infant mortality i.e. 37.50 percent is found when the mother’s age is less than 15 years. No statistically significant difference is found between the two groups in this regard.

**EDUCATION OF MOTHER AND INFANT DEATHS**

The highest percentage of infant mortality is found where the mothers were illiterate. The percentage among the Kayasthas is 14.0 and the percentage among the Kaibartas is 31.81. The difference is statistically non-significant.

**OCCUPATION OF MOTHERS INCLUDING HOUSE WIVES AND INFANT DEATH**

When infant death in relation to occupation of mother is seen it is found that the highest percentage of infant mortality among the Kayastha is found in weaving category with 12.96 percent. Among the Kaibarta it is found in labour category with 42.86 percent.

**OCCUPATION OF FATHER AND INFANT DEATH**

When infant mortality in relation to occupation of father is seen it is found that the highest percentage of infant mortality among the Kayasthas is found in teaching category with 25.0 percent. And among the Kaibartas it is found in servant category with 50.0 percent.
TYPE OF FAMILY AND INFANT DEATH

Among the Kayasthas and the Kaibartas the highest percentage of infant deaths is found in nuclear families. The percentages are 15.68 and 19.39 respectively. No statistically significant difference is there in between the two groups in this regard.

SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER AND INFANT DEATH

The highest percentage of infant deaths is found when the source of drinking water is well. The Kayastha infant death is 16.21 percent and the Kaibarta infant death is 36.84 percent. The difference is statistically significant.

DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASES AMONG THE CHILDREN OF 0-3 YEARS

Regarding morbidity various type of diseases are recorded for both the castes. These are cold, cough, respiratory diseases, fever, stomach trouble, unknown causes (evil eye), worm and measles. Among the Kayasthas the highest percentage of infant suffers from cold, cough and respiratory diseases and the percentage is 24.0. Among the Kaibartas the highest percentage suffers from stomach trouble. The percentage is 35.67.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN (0-3 YEARS) ACCORDING TO AGE AND MORBIDITY

Among the Kayasthas in the age group of 0-1 year, 1-2 years and 2-3 years the highest percentage of infants suffers from stomach trouble with 10.8 percent, cold and cough with 8.4 percent and 10.4 percent with worm respectively.

Among the Kaibartas in the age group of 0-1 year and 1-2 years the highest percentage of infants suffers from stomach trouble with 12.33 percent and 14.67 percent respectively. In the age group of 2-3 years the highest
percentage of infants suffers from cold and cough and the percentage is 11.0.

**DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD MORBIDITY ACCORDING TO SANITARY SYSTEM**

When morbidity according to sanitary system is considered it is found that among the Kayasthas the highest i.e 66.05 percent households have sanitary system as the means of sanitation and the highest number of infants sufferer in this category from fever with 10.4 percent. 33.95 percent households have pit system and the highest i.e. 16.0 percent infant suffer from cold and cough. No one goes to open place for nature's call.

While among the Kaibartas the highest 41.84 percent households go to open place for nature's call and the highest percentage of infants suffers in this category from stomach trouble with 14.67 percent. 26.78 percent households have pit latrines and the highest number of infants i.e. 11.33 percent suffer from stomach trouble. Next 31.38 percent households have sanitary latrines and 9.67 percent infant suffer from stomach trouble.

**MID-UPPER ARM/HEAD CIRCUMFERENCE RATIO FOR AGE AMONG THE KAYASTHA AND THE KAIBARTA CHILDREN (0-3 YEARS)**

When mid-upper arm/head circumference ratio of both the Kayastha and the Kaibarta children are calculated it is found that the highest 65.6 percent Kayastha and 47.0 percent Kaibarta children are found to be in the normal category.

**BODY MASS INDEX (B.M.I) OF KAYASTHA AND KAIBARTA MOTHERS**

The Body Mass Index (B.M.I) of the Kayastha and the Kaibarta mothers in the normal category are 83.98 percent and 72.63 percent respectively.
WEIGHT FOR AGE AMONG THE KAYASTHA AND THE KAIBARTA INFANTS
(0-3 YEARS)

The weight for age among the Kayastha and the Kaibarta children of 0-3 years shows that the highest percentage is in normal grade and the percentages are 72.0 and 46.33 respectively.