CHAPTER - THREE

DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

3.1 Kamrup, the legendary and ancient history:

Legend says that the name ‘Kamrup’ is deduced from mythological name ‘Kamarupa’. Kamadeva, the God of Love, was reduced to ashes by the fiery glances of Lord Siva in the island of Umananda and later he regained his form (Rupa) here and that is why the name ‘Kamrup’ was chosen for this place. The origin of the name Kamarupa is also associated with ‘Kamakhya’. The words Kamarupa and Kamakhya suggest an Austric or Alpine origin. The word Kamarupa is also derived from the formation like Kamru or Kamrut, the name of a lesser divinity in Santali and the land is thus associated with magic or Necromancy. Among all the sources of the origin of the name ‘Kamrup’, the legendary source as referred to, however, appears to be more popular.

3.2 Location and area:

The district of Kamrup lies between Latitude 25°, 43' and 26°, 53' N and longitude 90° 39' and 92° 11' E and covers an area of 4345 sq km. On the north, it is bounded by Bhutan, on the east by districts of Darrang, Morigaon/Nagaon, on the south by Meghalaya, and on the West by Goalpara. The total area is divided into two sub-divisions viz. the Guwahati and Rangia with 17 C.D. blocks and 15 revenue circles. The district's total habitations number 1422. It has urban areas covered by
1 metropolitan city and 8 towns.

3.3 **Natural Divisions and Topography:**

Topographically, the district is divided into two parts by the mighty river Brahmaputra flowing from the east to the West. The district forms a great alluvial plains comprising a few elevated tracts lying along the Bhutan in the north and Khasi hill of Meghalaya in the south. On the south of the river Brahmaputra, the plains is much broken up by hills. No portion of hills of Himalayan range falls within the district, never-the-less, there are a large number of hills on both the banks of the river which consists of a section of Assam range. These hills refer to Basishtha, Kannachal, Narakasura, Dirgheswari, Kedar and Gumi etc.

National High Ways No 31 and 52 on the north and 37 and 40 (partly) on the south of the river Brahmaputra have traversed the district. The river Brahmaputra is the principal river which provides the entire drainage of the district. Some small rivers like Nona, Borolia, Puthimari, Digaru, Kulsi and Singra with their sources from various hills ultimately have made their way to the principal river Brahmapura. While the hills provide a greenery with timbers and bamboos, the plains help the inhabitants grow agricultural crops of different varieties in the district.

3.4 **Administrative structure:**

The administrative structure of the undivided Kamrup\(^4\) is such that it has two sub-divisions with 17 community development blocks, 15 revenue circles (now 16) and 177 (at present 178) village panchayats. The administrative organogram of the district is illustrated as under:
The sub-division wise names of community development blocks and the number of village panchayats in each block figure in the table no. 3.4 as follows:

### Table 3.4 C.D. blocks and village panchayats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>C.D. Blocks</th>
<th>Nos. of village panchayat</th>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>C.D. Blocks</th>
<th>Nos. of village panchayat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bongaon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Dimoria</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bezera</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Hajo</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Boko</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Soalkuchi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Chaigaon</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Rani</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Chayani</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Rampur</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Samaria</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>C.D. Blocks</th>
<th>Nos. of village panchayat</th>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>C.D. Blocks</th>
<th>Nos. of village panchayat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Rangia</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Goreswar</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source**: Census of India, Assam, Kamrup, 1991

Statistical Handbook Assam, 2003

Of these 17 C.D. blocks, 4 C.D. blocks that being 23.52 p.c of the total blocks have been covered under the project. The names of the blocks surveyed and
covered are Kamalpur, Karara, Hajo and Rani C.D. blocks which fall in four different revenue circles such as Kamalpur, Goreswar, Hajo and Palasbari respectively. Apart from these revenue circles covered under the project, the Guwahai Metropolitan city is also brought under the purview of the study.

3.5 **Demographic Profile:**

Among all the districts of the state, the Kamrup district has the highest population. It shares 9.46 p.c. of the state’s total population. Of the total population of the district 9.92 p.c. belong to schedule Tribes and 6.76 p.c belong to schedule caste. Against this the state’s p.c of S.T and S.C population appear to be 12.41 and 6.85 respectively. Thus the area under study exhibits a pattern of population of multi-ethnic groups with distinct socio-economic and cultural milieux.

The table 3.5 exemplifies the fact stated above and denotes a picture of population of the district as well as state, caste and sex-wise.

**Table 3.5 population by caste and sex of the district of Kamrup and Assam as per Census 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Schedule Caste</th>
<th>Schedule Tribe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>1326981</td>
<td>1195343</td>
<td>2522324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>13777037</td>
<td>12878491</td>
<td>2665528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Census 2001, Govt. of India.

3.5.1 **Area-wise distribution of population:**

Out of total population in the district 64 p.c live in rural area and the other 36
p.c reside in urban area. Of total Schedule Tribe population 87 p.c are in rural area and the remaining 13 p.c live in urban area. 68.73 p.c of total schedule caste population of the district belong to rural area and the remaining 31.26 p.c reside in urban area. The areawise pattern of distribution of population reflects the impact of urbanisation and flow of migration of people from rural to urban from within and outside the district. Of total population of 20,00071 in the district as per 1991 census, 303249 estimated to be migrants. In percentage it was 15.16. The migrants were found born in other districts of the state and also in the states of India beyond the purview state of enumeration as per census 1991.

The table 3.5.1 provides a pattern of distribution of population area wise as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>Place of residence</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Sch-Caste</th>
<th>Sch- Tribe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>16,14,107</td>
<td>1,17,221</td>
<td>2,17,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>8,33,438</td>
<td>60,400</td>
<td>1,10,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>7,80,669</td>
<td>56,821</td>
<td>1,07,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>9,08,217</td>
<td>53,320</td>
<td>32,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,93,543</td>
<td>27,676</td>
<td>16,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,14,674</td>
<td>25,644</td>
<td>15,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>23,216,288</td>
<td>1553691</td>
<td>3154546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>11,939,945</td>
<td>802548</td>
<td>1598269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11,276,343</td>
<td>751143</td>
<td>1556279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>3439240</td>
<td>272258</td>
<td>154024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1837092</td>
<td>141126</td>
<td>79850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1602148</td>
<td>131132</td>
<td>74174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 2001, Govt of India.
A comparative study of area-wise distribution of population between the district concerned and the state indicates that the p.c of state’s rural inhabitants is 87.09 against 64 pc of the district. This variation which is of significant nature speaks up the importance of coverage of urban areas for the purpose of unearthing the problem of child labour in the district.

3.5.2 **Demographic features, occupational diversities of population of the district of Kamrup and the state - a comparison.**

In comparison to the state the district exhibits a higher density of population both in 1991 and 2001 censuses. The decadal variation of population which figures 65.72 p.c during 1971-91 is an indicator of influx of population from neighbouring countries and an instance of migration from other districts and states as well. The decadal variation of population reduced to 25.75 p.c during 91-2001. However, it is still higher than the state’s decadal growth which figure as 53.26 in 1971-91 and 18.85 in 1991-2001. The p.c of literacy is high. Its position among the districts of Assam is 2nd and 3rd in census 1991 and 2001 respectively.

The Table 3.5.2 exemplifies the demographic features of the district of Kamrup along with the state.
Table 3.5.2. Basic features of demography of the district of Kamrup and the state, a comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic features</th>
<th>Kamrup</th>
<th>Assam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>200007</td>
<td>2522324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density per sq. km.</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decadal variation</td>
<td>65.72</td>
<td>25.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy rates</td>
<td>65.04</td>
<td>74.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census 1991, 2001, Govt. of India

Table 3.5.2 (A) : Population by main activities and workers' and non-workers' categories as per Census 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population by main activities</th>
<th>Kamrup (Census 2001)</th>
<th>Assam (Census 2001)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Cultivators</td>
<td>2072262</td>
<td>3730773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Agl Labourers</td>
<td>75974</td>
<td>1263532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Workers in H.H. Industries</td>
<td>46788</td>
<td>344912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Other workers</td>
<td>512259</td>
<td>4199374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>842283</td>
<td>9538591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population by workers and non-workers categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kamrup</th>
<th>Assam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Main workers</td>
<td>697840</td>
<td>7114097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Marginal workers</td>
<td>144443</td>
<td>2424494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Non-workers</td>
<td>1680071</td>
<td>17116937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.5.2 (B) : Population by work participation rate etc. Census 1991, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work participation rate</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of main workers</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>31.19</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of marginal workers</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of non-workers</td>
<td>64.65</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>62.20</td>
<td>64.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivators to total workers</td>
<td>35.04</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>50.90</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agl labourers to total workers</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers of H.H. Industries to total workers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other workers to total workers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 3.5.2 (A) and 3.5.2 (B) indicate that the work participation rate in percentage for the district of Kamrup is lesser than that of the state. It figures 33.4 against 35.8 p.c for the state. The proportion of non-workers in the district in p.c is higher than the state’s p.c. It appears to be 66.6 p.c against 64.2 for the state as a whole. This is one of the indices of the poverty prevailing in the area under study.

3.6 Socio-economic profile, income, employment, occupational diversities and poverty of the population.

Consequent upon alien rule for nearly twelve decades the state of Assam at independence inherited an economy with infrastructure which by and large served the interests of colonial rule under the British hegemony. At independence the state had only a modicum of industries such as tea, oil and coal with little infrastructures
that catered mainly to the needs of tea industry alone.

The project area viz the district of Kamrup which is envisaged here for study having no trace of any kind of major/medium industries immediately after independence remained backward economically. The district’s economy, however, grew in post-independence era gradually. The area being flood-prone, the agrarian economy is found shattered. The economy has oflate grown with medium scale industries, SSI, tiny industrial sector and tertiary sectors only.

The table 3.6 brings a picture of sectoral contribution to gross district domestic product (GDDP) in regard to the district of Kamrup along with the state.

Table 3.6 Sectoral contribution to GDDP, 94-95 at 80-81 prices$^5$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>Primary Sector</th>
<th>Secondary Sector</th>
<th>Tertiary Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>13.89</td>
<td>19.87</td>
<td>66.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>40.34</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>45.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Economic Survey, Assam & Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Assam

The percapita net district domestic product (DDP) in rupees at constant prices (1980-81) as on 1994-95 is estimated to be 2157 for the district of Kamrup against 1585 for the state as a whole. The district ranks 3rd in this regard$^6$.

Among the districts, the Kamrup district contributes the highest proportion to the state domestic product. It figures 11.46 p.c of State’s gross domestic product (SGDP) as on 1994-95 at current price$^7$.

The secondary and tertiary sectors with 17.91 p.c and 18.38 p.c contribution to SGDP playing significant roles in strengthening the economy of the state. The
primary sector with 4.32 p.c contribution to SGDP is of less significance.

The district of Kamrup is not endowed with the precious crude oil, coal and tea etc. but still it has the opportunity to establish one crude oil processing and refining unit with 1m. ton capacity in early sixties of last century. With the commissioning of the refining unit some ancillary industries have grown and developed. In the medium and small scale sectors the district has a few industrial units producing cotton, polyester and synthetic yarn and other consumer goods. The district has limited timber processing units including asbestos making factories.

The area under survey occupies a predominant position in localising the silk and the golden silk of world fame absorbing few thousands of families in the process. Another few thousands of families of the district are engaged in eri silk. The impression gains in productivity in recent years and in developing value added products for new markets lend credence to the view that the sericulture and handloom sector can be enabled to regain its pre-eminence in Assam and the district under study.

The number of small scale units registered are increasing steadily. Assam accounts for 68.9 p.c of all the S.S. units registered in the north-east. Twelve industrial estates spreaded over the state as on 1997-98 with 200 industrial sheds housing numerous small scale industries in the state. For promotion of SSI and tiny units (97-98) there are six growth centres. The district of Kamrup has the highest number of factories (493) employing 12000 workers in 2000.
Income and employment are intrinsically related. Employment refers to the use of human resources in the production process and the wages paid to the factor (labour) is income. Low rates of growth of income in Assam implies that resources are not fully utilised. They are either unemployed or have extremely low productivity.

The disaggregated data for the districts exhibit the dominance of primary sector in most district. But, however, in Kamrup district the p.c of workers engaged in the primary sector found lowest i.e 45.6. In secondary sector, Kamrup district registered the highest p.c of workers (13 p.c). In the tertiary sector also, Kamrup recorded the highest proportion (41.4 pc) of workers.

Unemployment continues to be the matter of serious concern and the problem has become more acute in Assam in recent years. The National Human Development Report, 2001, confirms that the incidence of unemployment in Assam is considerably higher than in the country and is particularly high for women.

In Assam, the number of unemployed people as a percentage of labour force has been more than doubled during the period 1983-2000. It has increased from 2.2 p.c to 4.6 p.c and is twice the figure for India. The unemployment percentage in urban area is extremely high. It was 9.8 p.c in 1999-2000 and was as much as 20.5 percent for women. Data from NSSO for 1999-2000 shows an extremely high incidence of unemployment i.e more than twice the rate that prevails in the country. Rural unemployment was almost three times the rate for India and urban unemployment in Assam was just over twice as much. Among women the unemployment rate in Assam, both in rural and urban areas was three times the all
India rates.

Among the unemployed persons, the highest percentage are in the district of Kamrup. Kamrup district reported the highest proportion of unemployed males among the male population (3.18 p.c) seeking employment⁹.

Poverty that rules the roost in the state covers more than one third (36.09 p.c) of its population against the nation’s 26.10 p.c of population falling below poverty line in 1999-2000. The number of poor in Assam is more than double the number in all the other north-eastern states, put together. In Assam 94.55 lakhs of people remain below poverty line.

As per sample survey conducted by Govt of Assam in 1999 covering the entire 219 development blocks and 52 urban centres in Assam for measuring human poverty in connection with the preparation of Human Development Report for Assam, the HPI (Human Poverty Index) value for the district of Kamrup is found comparatively low. It figures 17.44 against state’s HPI value of 23.24 and ranks 5th¹⁰. In calcaulation of human poverty the UNDP methodology of coverage of sub-indices like expectation of life, p.c literacy and deprivation of decent standard of living, absence of safe drinking water, health care and underweight of children at birth has been envisaged and adopted. Another variant of HPI value with more indices such as sanitary facility and dwelling houses has been estimated for the districts. This new variant of HPI value figures at 24.72 against state’s HPI value of 34.50¹¹.

The low incidence of poverty due to lower HPI value of the district in
comparison with other districts is, however, attributed to the excessive concentration of urban population in the state’s only metropolitan city viz Guwahati of Kamrup district which help generated income to poor people for their sustenance.

3.7 An abstract of community development blocks, metropolitan city covered and surveyed.

An abstract covering primary data of 4 C.D. blocks viz Karara, Kamalpur, Hajo and Rani falling under different revenue circles such as Goreswar/Kamalpur part, Hajo and Palasbari respectively along with a brief focus on Guwahati Metropolitan City and urban area viz Niz-Hajo C.T of Kamrup district is brought about in this study. Amongst the community development blocks surveyed, Karara C.D. Block is located on the extreme north of the district of Kamrup bounded by Bhutan. The Kamalpur C.D. Block on the north of Kamrup the district borders Darrang district on the east. The Hajo C.D. block is located on the north west of district. The Rani C.D. block on the south of the river Brahmaputra is bounded by Boko revenue circle on the west and Meghalaya on the south. Some basic facts and amenities of the blocks are outlined in the Tables 3.7 and 3.7 (A) as follows:
Table 3.7 Details of Community Development Block/Metropolitan City under survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C.D. Blocks (Revenue Circles)</th>
<th>Nos. of village</th>
<th>Total area in hectare</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Nos of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karara C.D. Blocks (Goreswar/Kamalpur Pt)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>17642.86</td>
<td>94741</td>
<td>14690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamalpur C.D. Blocks (Kamalpur Pt)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>24008.57</td>
<td>107496</td>
<td>16591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajo C.D. Blocks (Hajo)</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>34970.57</td>
<td>160980</td>
<td>24789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rani C.D. Block (Palasbari)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>19299.37</td>
<td>97369</td>
<td>16938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niz-Hajo C.T.</td>
<td>2 wards</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>12,810</td>
<td>2094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guwahati Metro City</strong></td>
<td>60 wards</td>
<td>216.79 (Sq. Kms)</td>
<td>8,09,895</td>
<td>184454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The picture on land use pattern and the amenities for health, sanitation and education etc prevailing in the C.D. Blocks is illustrated through the following chart:

Table 3.7 (A) Land use pattern, amenities for health and education of C.D. Blocks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C.D. Blocks</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Under Irrigation</th>
<th>Non-Irrigated</th>
<th>Cultivable Waste</th>
<th>Not available for cultivation</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kakara C.D. Block</td>
<td>324.67</td>
<td>54.00</td>
<td>11157.91</td>
<td>1741.54</td>
<td>4364.74</td>
<td>Hos-1, PHC-1, HLC-2, PHS-9, D-6, FPC-1</td>
<td>P-153, M-30, H-33, C-1, D-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamalpur C.D. Block</td>
<td>2852.16</td>
<td>142.02</td>
<td>10962.27</td>
<td>3384.97</td>
<td>6667.15</td>
<td>Hos-4, PHC-2, HLC-7, PHS-8, D-3, FPC-1</td>
<td>P-165, M-43, H-33, PUC-2, C-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajo C.D. Block</td>
<td>503.50</td>
<td>71.18</td>
<td>24885.13</td>
<td>3166.13</td>
<td>6344.43</td>
<td>Hos-3, PHC-4, HLC-3, PHS-18, D-5, FPC-2, MDW-7, DWC-7</td>
<td>P-202, M-64, H-46, PUC-3, C-1, D-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rani C.D. Block</td>
<td>530.37</td>
<td>617.54</td>
<td>11624.34</td>
<td>1778.98</td>
<td>4748.14</td>
<td>Hos-3, PHC-3, HLC-2, PHS-5, D-1</td>
<td>P-124, M-24, H-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Village Directory
In analysing the educational and health amenities of the Blocks it is observed that some villages are deprived of such facilities within the village itself. In Karara 2 villages are without educational facilities. The educational facilities for these villages exist within a range of 5 kms. In point of health facilities it can be said that 55 villages are not having medical facilities within the range of 5 kms and 7 villages are not having such facilities within the distance of 5-10 kms.

In Kamalpur C.D. Block 8 villages are not having schooling facilities within the range of a distance of 5 km. In regard to medical facilities it can be said that 72 villages are having such facilities at a distance of 5 kms. Six (6) villages are having medical facilities at a distance of 5-10 kms.

In Hajo C.D. Block 14 habitants are without schooling facilities. The schools in respect of these villages found existed within a range of 5 kms only. In point of health facilities 83 villages are enjoying it within a distance of 5 kms. Two villages are found enjoying health facilities from the health centres located within the distance of 5-10 Kms.

The Rani C.D. Block is educationally undeveloped. 16.66 p.c i.e 20 villages of this block are without primary schools. The schooling facilities for these villages are found at a distance of 5 kms only. Like manner the villages in this C.D. Block are having inadequate health facilities. Eighty three (83) villages are served by health facilities from health centres located at a distance of 5 kms. Six (6) villages are served by health centres located at a distance of 5-10 km and three(3) villages are served by health centres existed at a distance of 10 + kms.
3.8 **Socio-economic Scenario of habitations covered under the project area**

As per survey carried on in the rural area, 12 villages, 3 each of 4 C.D. Blocks have been covered. The socio-economic profile of the villages surveyed is exhibited in the following tables along with a brief note thereon. Table 3.8 and 3.8.1 are placed as follows:

**Table 3.8 Surveyed villages with area, population and the land use pattern in hectares**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>C.D. Blocks</th>
<th>Area in hectares</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Land under forest</th>
<th>Land under irrigation</th>
<th>Unirrigated lands</th>
<th>Cultivable waste</th>
<th>Uncultivable land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahipal Kuchi</td>
<td>Karara</td>
<td>176.31</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>59.37</td>
<td>20.42</td>
<td>96.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bali Kuchi</td>
<td>Karara</td>
<td>64.33</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35.67</td>
<td>5.86</td>
<td>22.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loch</td>
<td>Karara</td>
<td>262.35</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1694</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72.25</td>
<td>60.90</td>
<td>129.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haberi-Kura</td>
<td>Kamalpur (Pt)</td>
<td>126.40</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>29.99</td>
<td>10.51</td>
<td>82.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soneswar</td>
<td>Kamalpur (Pt)</td>
<td>126.24</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26.77</td>
<td>36.60</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>60.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundarasa</td>
<td>Kamalpur (Pt)</td>
<td>213.81</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>2285</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>137.96</td>
<td>27.50</td>
<td>48.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharapur</td>
<td>Rani</td>
<td>550.30</td>
<td>1491</td>
<td>6666</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>496.76</td>
<td>40.16</td>
<td>13.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garal</td>
<td>Rani</td>
<td>449.36</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>3723</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>118.73</td>
<td>237.63</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>63.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahi kuchi</td>
<td>Rani</td>
<td>507.16</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>3548</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>400.00</td>
<td>22.89</td>
<td>84.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetelia</td>
<td>Hajo</td>
<td>193.52</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>123.00</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kulhati No.2</td>
<td>Hajo</td>
<td>525.57</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>523.57</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niz Hajo</td>
<td>Hajo</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>2094</td>
<td>12810</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3199.35</td>
<td>5951</td>
<td>34359</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>149.37</td>
<td>2152.80</td>
<td>221.58</td>
<td>675.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.8.1: Infrastructural facilities and basic amenities of surveyed villages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Approach Road</th>
<th>Market/ Hat etc</th>
<th>Communication facilities</th>
<th>Drinking water</th>
<th>Postal facilities</th>
<th>Power supply</th>
<th>Health facilities</th>
<th>Educational facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahipal Kuchi</td>
<td>Kuchha Road</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Well, T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Primary. H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balikuchi</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Well, T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loch</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Bus facility</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haberi Kura</td>
<td>Pucca &amp; Rd., Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S. H.S.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soneswar</td>
<td>Kuchha Rd. &amp; N.H.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Available at a distance of (5-10) kms</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S. H.S.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundarasil</td>
<td>Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dharapur</td>
<td>Pucca Rd., Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>T. Well Ring</td>
<td>P.O</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garal</td>
<td>Pucca Rd., Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Well, T. Well</td>
<td>P.O</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>P.H.S.</td>
<td>Pry. middle H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahikuchi</td>
<td>Pucca Rd., Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>P.O</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetelia</td>
<td>Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Kulhati</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>T. Well</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niz-Hajo Kaibarta goan</td>
<td>Pucca Rd., Kuchha Rd.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>T. Well Ring</td>
<td>P.O.</td>
<td>Do</td>
<td>Available</td>
<td>Pry. Middle H.S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the table 3.8 based on Census of India 1991 it is seen that land area of the surveyed villages is small. On average it is estimated to be 266.61 hectares. The size of holding appears to be 0.53 hectare (4.01 bigha) against 5.7 average size of family. Of the operational holding areas 4.66% land are irrigated and 67.28 percent remain unirrigated. The cultivable waste and uncultivable land appear to be 6.92 p.c and 21.11 p.c respectively.

The surveyed villages have minimum infrastructural facilities such as road and communication. 75% of villages surveyed do not have market facilities. The supply of electricity is irregular though 90% of villages surveyed are electrified under rural electrification scheme. 83.33 p.c of villages are without health facilities and of the total villages surveyed 16.66 p.c only are having health centres. Schooling facilities at primary level prevail. But not all villages are provided with school facilities of secondary level of education.

Agriculture even though is the mainstay of inhabitants of villages it has failed to sustain them for various reasons. Very few inhabitants are engaged in handloom-textile, handicrafts and other cottage and household industries traditionally. The economy of the villages is in such bad shape that a larger section of inhabitants found below to subsistence level. The poverty-stricken people found looking for alternative avenues of income. Some of them move to city area in search of engagements and some others send their wards (minors even) elsewhere, rural and urban area, for supplementing to their meagre family income. Thus the child worker or child servitude emerged out.
In analysing the child labour problem of the area under study a comprehensive knowledge as to its composition, trend and dimension considered necessary. All these aspects are placed in Chapter 4.

*****

References:

4. Undivided Kamrup is now divided into two districts viz. ‘Kamrup Urban’ and ‘Kamrup Rural’ w.e.f. 15-8-2002.
5. Economic Survey, Assam and Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Govt. of Assam.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
10. Assam Human Development Reports, 2003, P. 175 (Table 1-10, Annexure-I).
11. Ibid (Table 1-11, Annexure-II).

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