PART-I

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION
CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Statement of the Problem:

Population of Assam is constituted by many ethno-cultural and linguistic groups having their own socio-cultural identity. Assamese culture is evolved as a result of interaction of various ethno-cultural groups viz. the Austro-Asiatic, Tibeto-Burman (Mongoloid), Indo-Aryan and Dravidian. In the prehistoric and proto historic period the above mentioned ethnic groups entered the north eastern region of India and settled in different parts of this region (Karotemprel, 1984). The tribal groups in Assam belong to the broad Mongoloid group who migrated from the north across the Himalaya’s and the first batch of them originally settled in the vast plain of the present North Bengal and then gradually migrated eastward. The Austro-Asiatic and Indo-Aryan people also came from different directions to settle in various parts of North East India including Assam in different periods. Since then, there has been intermingling of culture among these groups.

The population structure of old (undivided) Goalpara District, a part of western Assam has also been constituted in the same process. The scheduled tribes population of the district owes their origin to the Mongoloid group. Although there are some groups of scheduled castes people found in the district who are not Mongoloid descendants, their number is not significant. However, a
sizable section of the total population of Goalpara district is constituted by
general non-scheduled population.

According to the Article 342 (2) of the constitution of India “The
President may specify, by public notification, a list of scheduled tribes and
scheduled castes”. The Scheduled Tribes List Modification Order, 1956, Assam
has recorded a total of 23 scheduled tribes including 45 sub-tribes in the state,
whereas in India there are 356 scheduled tribe communities. In 1991 census,
detail reports on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are collected in
accordance with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes orders (Amendment) Act, 1976 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes orders
Amendment Act 1990.

According to 1991 census report, the aggregation of the scheduled tribes
or groups of tribes notified together comes to 571 in India and the total
population of scheduled tribes in India, constitutes 8.08 per cent of the total
population of the country. In Assam the figure is 12.83 per cent while in the
study area scheduled tribres constitute 17.13 per cent of the total population

The tribal population of old (undivided) Goalpara district is composed of
a mixture of different tribal groups viz. Bodo or Boro-Boro Kachari, Deori,
Hojai, Kachari including Sonowal (Kachari Sonowal), Mech, Miri (Mishing),
Rabha, Santhal, Hajong and Garo. As per government notification
the last three groups, viz. Santhal, Hajong and Garo are however, not recognised as scheduled tribes in the plains districts of Assam, though except the Santhal they are recognised as hill tribes in Assam. The tribes exhibit a distinct entity in the realm of environment and shows diversities in distribution, growth, migration, sex composition, literary attainment, occupational structure, religious composition, urbanization etc.

Because of their long isolation from the general population, the scheduled tribes people has become socio-economically backward in the study area. They are also recognised as weaker section in the Indian society by the constitution of India. According to the article 46 of the Indian Constitution “The state shall promote with special care educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation”.

During the early part of the twentieth century, the colonization schemes of 1917, 1919 and 1921 were implemented in lower Assam and as a part of the programme the immigrants from the then East Bengal came to settle in the lower Assam. They indiscriminately occupied the land in the neighbouring undivided Goalpara district and started cultivation of jute and rice. In the forties of the twentieth century “grow more food campaign” was lunched and a large number of immigrants from the then East Bengal again came to the study area with the aim to produce more food crops. Crimes and social disturbances in the area were gaining ground. This had even threatened the social life and culture of
the scheduled tribes population in the study area. As a result the tribal people were forced to move into the remote areas. In order to live peacefully away from the disturbances on the one hand and to protect their culture on the other, the scheduled tribes people in the district shifted to more isolated places like the foot-hills and forest lands. The Govt. took the matter seriously and in order to protect the culture of the tribal people, the government of Assam vide its notification constituted scheduled tribes belts and blocks in different parts of the state in the year 1948. In 1950, the Indian Parliament enacted the immigrants (expulsion from Assam) Act 1950 (Act-X of 1950). This Act provided for the eviction of any immigrant person from the scheduled tribes belts and blocks of Assam (except the displaced persons) whose stay was considered detrimental to the interest of the general public of India or any of the scheduled tribes of Assam (Barooah, 1979). During the time of partition of India also a sizeable number of immigrants infiltrated and a large area of the fertile lands of the undivided Goalpara district was occupied by them. This ultimately has resulted in social tension among the tribals. During the time of Bangladesh liberation in the early part of the seventies of the last century some non-tribal people, some of whom registered their names as refugees came into and settled in various parts of the study area. Since then the tribals have been suffering from a kind of fear psychosis of losing their identity in the face of the large scale infiltration of non-tribal population into the study area. As a result of this a major section of the tribals have been demanding their own land. Social tension, politico-social instability also have been increasing day by day and the situation at present have turned worse in various parts of the study area.
According to their demand, though separate Bodo Territorial Council was granted to them by the state as well as the central Governments, there has been no significant improvement in the situation.

It is already mentioned that tribal people are socio-economically backward in comparison to the other advance groups of non-tribal people. Literacy among them is low, especially female literacy is very discouraging. Work participation in secondary and tertiary sectors of economy is very negligible. Though they are basically agricultural people the operational holdings are very small and therefore, majority of them live in abject poverty. Female work participation pattern is also not encouraging among them. Demographic condition of the scheduled tribes is also discouraging with more population in the lower age groups.

Presently there has been a drastic change in the socio-political condition specially among the scheduled tribes dominated areas of the district. But the socio-economic transformation is very limited among them.

The discontentment among the scheduled tribes people even leads to violence in some parts of the district. Economic backwardness, slow progress in literacy, lack of infrastructural development and long isolation from the general population may be the main causes responsible for occurrence of such situation. Therefore, an in-depth demographic and socio-economic study of scheduled tribes population is highly essential in the study area in order to formulate strategies for their socio-economic development. It is also expected that this will ultimately help to restore peace in the study area.
In the present work the study area (Figure No. 1) is confined to the old or undivided administrative district of Goalpara (1983), because scheduled tribes population mainly Boro-Boro Kachari, Kachari including Sonowal, Rabha etc are distributed all over the study area, although the concentration is comparatively higher in the northern part. In 1983 the old (undivided) Goalpara district is gradually divided into four districts viz. Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar and Dhubri and presently three other new districts are formed within the study area. It is located in the western most part of Assam. The district lies between 25°28′ and 26°06′ north latitude and 89.42′ and 91.06′ east longitude. It is bounded on the north by the lower Himalayan Mountains viz. Bhutan Himalaya, on the west by west Bengal and Bangladesh, on the south by the Garohills district of Meghalaya plateau and on the east by the Barpeta and Kamrup districts. In the northern bank of the Brahmaputra, the study area is bounded by the river Sonkosh in western side and Manas in the eastern side. These two are the tributaries of the river Brahmaputra. The two other tributaries Jinari and Kulshi are flowing in western side and eastern side respectively in the south bank of river Brahmaputra. The shape of the district is almost square and it is divided into two parts by the mighty river Brahmaputra. The northern part consists of sixteen community development blocks. They are viz. Golokgonj, Agomani, Gouripur, Bilasipara, Chapar-Salkocha, Gosaigaon, Kachugaon, Dotoma, Kokrajhar, Sidli-chirang part-I, Sidli chirang part–II, Manikpur, Srijangram, Borobazar and Boitamari. The southern part consists of seven community development blocks, viz. Lakhipur, Balijana, Matia, Dudhnoi, Mankachar and South Salmara.
OLD (UNDIVIDED) GOALPARA DISTRICT*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS

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* As on 1983
Total area of the old Goalpara district is 10,359 sq. km. and it has 42,93,614 population according to 2001 census, claiming 4.29 per cent of the area and 13.13 per cent of the total population of Assam. The average density of the population of old (undivided) Goalpara district is 422 persons per sq. km, while average state density is 340 persons per sq. km. So far scheduled tribes people are concerned, they are very important in Goalpara district because the total scheduled tribes people in the district is 6,18,362 persons accounting for 17.13 per cent of the total population of the study area as against 12.83 per cent of the state and 8.08 per cent of the nation as a whole. It is also to be noted here that among the plain districts of Assam, the old Goalpara district has the highest number of scheduled tribes population. The share of each group of scheduled tribes is however not uniform in the study area. Out of the total scheduled tribes population the Boro-Boro Kachari claims the highest proportion which is as high as 81.83 per cent followed by the Rabha (16.93 per cent), the Kachari including Sonowal (0.94 per cent), Mech (0.03 per cent), Miri (0.02 per cent), Lalung (0.02 per cent), Hojai (0.04 per cent) and Deuri only (0.009 per cent) as per 1991 census. Among the other tribal groups not included in the list of scheduled tribes in the plain districts of Assam. Garo constitutes the highest proportion with 94,551 persons and Santhal with 75,477 persons as per 1981 census (data not available as per 1991 census).

These different tribal groups develop their own tradition and culture under different physical milieu. The scheduled tribes are peace loving people and since time immemorial they have been living peacefully in co-operation
with other non-tribals in the study area. But during the last thirty years the area has been politically disturbed because a section of them has been agitating and the situation has become turmoil and bellicocity due to insurgency problem.

In the post independent period the government of India as well as the state government have envisaged many development strategies to uplift the socio-economic conditions of scheduled castes as well as scheduled tribes of India. In the study area also, the Government has extended some facilities through different plans and programmes for overall development of the scheduled tribes population. This however, marked the beginning of the process of economic development and also initiated the process of transformation in the scheduled tribes societies. The exposure of the scheduled tribes population to non-scheduled tribes social institutions have affected the tribal people in such a way that they are suffering from the fear of losing their identity and culture. Prof. M. Raja has rightly opined "they now perceive new opportunities which are available to them in the democratic policy of India. The major problems which the tribals face today essentially flow from the inadequacy of the process of structural change in independent India as well as from the distortion inadvertently introduced in the socio-economic life within scheduled tribes areas through some welfare and regional development policies. Their old world is dead and now a new has yet not born." In the study area also the tribals have been facing the same problems. The old (undivided) Goalpara district specially in its northern side presently converted into Kokrajhar and northern part of Bongaigaon districts is mainly inhabited by scheduled tribes population. In the early part of the seventies only a section of Boro population raised their voice
for separate state i.e. Bodoland. Initially it was a simple agitation. Subsequently some tribal youths involved themselves and indulged in terrorist activities and the situation of the study area has deteriorated. As a result Bodo land Autonomous Council also came into existence on 21st of May 1993. But the Bodo people of the area are not satisfied in the functioning of Bodo land Autonomous Council and demanded for “Bodoland Territorial Council” (BTC). Accordingly Bodo Autonomas Council (BAC) was dissolved and BTC was constituted on 10th Feb'2003 by the central Govt. and state Govt. of Assam. The BTC area extends to Bhutan Boarder of Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts of old Goalpara district and covers a part of Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup, Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam. At present four new districts are also constituted. They are viz. Kokrajhar district, H.Q. at Kokrajhar, Chirang district, H.Q. at Kajalgaon, Baksa district, H.Q. at Mussalpur and Udalguri district, H.Q. at Udalguri in the BTC area. Interestingly the non-tribals in some parts of the study area also have started agitation against the decision of the Government.

Lastly a 12 member interim council of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), headed by former chief of the Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) Hagrama Basumatary alias Hagrama Mahilary, was sworn in by the lower Assam Division Commissioner Emilly Choudhury in presence of the Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani, Governor of Assam Lt. Gen (retd) Ajai Singh and Chief Minister of Assam Sri Tarun Gogoi on 7th December 2003. A new chapter in political history of Assam got under way with the swearing in of the interim body of the BTC as per Govt. of Assam notification No. GAG /(B) 3 37/2002/pt/117 dated Dispur, 30th Oct/03, for better and smooth functioning of the administration.
For development of human resource in any region, development of all its constituent groups are essential. It is also very important for overall development of an area. The scheduled tribes population claims a sizeable section of the total population of old Goalpara district and hence, an indepth study of their demographic and socio-economic characteristics is significantly important.

The present work, therefore, it is meaningful to consider the whole of the old (undivided) Goalpara district as major parts of the district are dominated by scheduled tribes population.

An attempt has been made here to analyse the distribution and growth of scheduled tribes, their age and sex characteristics, dependency ratio, fertility rates, literacy rate, economic characteristics and status, gender disparity in literacy and work participation and other socio-cultural characteristics. This study will help the academicians and planners to formulate strategies for the development of the study area in general and scheduled tribes population in particular.

1.2. Objectives :

The main objectives of the study area:

i) To analyse the growth pattern and distribution of scheduled tribes in different community development blocks of the study area.

ii) To analyse the demographic characteristics viz, age-structure, sex-ratio, dependency-ratio, fertility and mortality rates, infant mortality rates etc. among the scheduled tribes population in the study area.
iii) To study the socio-cultural and economic characteristics, viz literacy and level of educational attainment, occupational pattern, sex disparity in literacy and work participation, income pattern, dress pattern and food habit etc of scheduled tribes population in the study area.

iv) To find out the nature and characteristics of political behaviour of the scheduled tribes population in the old (undivided) Goalpara district since independence.

v) To identify the causes and problems which impede the development of the scheduled tribes in the undivided Goalpara district and suggest measure thereof.

1.3. Assumption and Hypothesis:

In order to achieve the above objectives the following hypotheses are taken to be tested:

i) The scheduled tribes of old Goalpara district are distributed and concentrated mostly in the foothills and high lands of the northern as well as southern parts of the district.

ii) The growth, dependency ratio and fertility rate of the scheduled tribes population are comparatively higher than the non-tribals in the study area.

iii) Both male and female literacy rates of the scheduled tribes population are lower than the general population in the study area and also there is significant sex disparity in literacy among them.

iv) Female educational attainment level is negatively related with fertility pattern.
v) Scheduled tribes are mainly primary workers and there has been only a slight occupational mobility among them during the post independence period. There is also significant sex disparity in respect of work participation among the scheduled tribes.

vi) Scheduled tribes population have been turning more to politics of tribalism than the national or regional politics.

1.4. Methodology:

The population problem has to be studied by empirical inductive and theoretical deductive method. This may be expressed through logico-mathematical symbolization. In the present study the whole work is divided into the following stages.

The first stage consists of the study of relevant books, journals, census reports of various decades, periodicals, literature, different maps and toposheets of old (undivided) Goalpara district. This also includes a study of reports, bulletins and souvenirs relating to physiography, population in general and scheduled tribes population in particular in the study area.

The second stage of the work consists of collection of primary data with the help of survey by stratified random sampling method in the study area.

The field work has been done by visiting different types of households, considering their socio-economic status in different categories of scheduled tribes villages for an in-depth study of the scheduled tribes population. Schedules and questionnaires both household and village survey are used in the field in order to collect information and data relating to the different aspects
of scheduled tribes population. In the study area the total number of scheduled tribes house-hold were 86,635 including rural and urban as per 1991 census. Sample survey was done in 480 scheduled tribes house holds in both rural and urban areas. Therefore, the proportion of surveyed household is approximately 0.55 percent only. Again the house-hold distribution is not equal in all the community development blocks, so, according to the population structure different number of house holds are considered for collection of data. The house-holds are surveyed in Golokganj C.D. 48, while 39 are surveyed from Kachugaon C.D. and Dudhnoi C.D. 36, from Lakhipur C.D, Srijangram and Bilasipara surveyed 32 each, from Gosaigaon CD 30 house-hold, 28 surveyed from Balijana C.D, from Gouripur C.D, Chapar-Salkocha CD, Boitamari C.D. and Sidli chirang part-I surveyed from 24 each, 23 house-hold surveyed from Kokrajhar C.D., 16 Nos. of house-hold taken from Agomoni C.D. and Matia C.D. Again from Dotoma C.D., Manikpur C.D., Borobazar C.D. and Sidli-Chirang part-II CD, surveyed 12 nos. of house-hold each. Lastly surveyed 2 house-holds are from Mankachar CD, and South Salmara C.D.

The next phase of the work is the collection of secondary data from different census reports, local Sub-Deputy Collector’s offices, Gaon Panchayat offices, Development Block offices, Mahakuma Parisad offices, Town committee offices, Municipal Board offices. Sub-Divisional (civil) offices and Deputy Commissioner’s offices, Integrated Scheduled Tribes Development Project offices, Bodoland Autonomous Council offices, Thana’s record, Village Head Man’s report, Zamindar’s record etc. are also consulted to evaluate the
history of the tribals, growth of population, socio-economic activities of the
scheduled tribes population inhabited in the area.

During the third stage, the collected data from primary and secondary
sources are processed and analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively with
the help of different methods and interpreted accordingly. This stage also
includes drawing of figures, graphs etc on the basis of analysis of data for a
facile interpretation.

The fourth and final stage consists of the writing of the thesis.

1.5. Significance of the study:

The problems of scheduled tribes population in an undeveloped region
like old (undivided) Goalpara district are varied and many. To understand and to
asses the problems and prospects of development of the scheduled tribes people
an indepth study of their inherent characteristics is highly essential.

The study area that is old (undivided) Goalpara district is an unexplored
one. Moreover, it is a backward region in all respects. Therefore, micro level
study is most essential in order to find out the causes of backwardness of the
area.

The significance of this study lies in the fact that for economic
development of an area all the constituent social groups especially backward
section of population is highly essential. It is useful both for academic as well as
for proper demographic rational planning purposes. As scheduled tribes
population constitutes 13.58 per cent of the total population of the old Goalpara
district (2001) a detail demographic and socio-economic characteristics of this
section of people in the study area will help the planners as well as the
academicians to understand the various problems of the area, which impedes the development. The findings ultimately help to formulate strategies for future development of the area.

In this study an attempt has been made to analysis the root causes of different problems of different groups of scheduled tribes population in different areas of old (undivided) Goalpara district. Thus, this study is very significant as it will give a detailed analysis of distribution, density, occupational structure, literacy, age composition, religious composition, socio-economic character, etc of the scheduled tribes population in the study area. It has already been recognized by the Government of India that the scheduled tribes population of India is not at the same socio-economic level with other non-scheduled tribes population who are recognized as advanced groups of population. So, such a study will be helpful for a proper rational planning of scheduled tribes population in the area where maximum scheduled tribes population live.

1.6. Review of Similar Studies:

"Man himself, the constant element in any geographical situation, whether as a doer of deeds or as a user of things, has ever been neglected by the geographers". This was for the first time pointed out by G.T. Trewartha in his presidential address of the Association of American Geographer in the year 1953 (Trewartha, 1953). Therefore, Population Geography is a new sub-discipline of Human Geography which entirely came into existence in the year 1953. According to Zelinsky (1966), "Population geography may be defined as the science that deals with the ways in which the geographic characters of places are formed by and in turn react upon a set of population phenomena that vary
within it through both space and time as they follow their own behavioural laws, interacting with each other and with numerous non-demographic phenomena”.

Population studies made before 1953 concerned mainly with distribution, density and growth, while other characteristics were completely neglected. Systematic population geography, a recent sub-discipline (Trewartha, 1953) of Human Geography is concerned with “demonstrating how spatial variation in distribution, composition, migration and growth are related to the spatial variation in the nature of places (Clarke, 1965). Thus population geography deals with world population growth, distribution, projection, age and sex ratios, expectancy of life of population in different spatio units of the world, economic, social, cultural, health, political characteristics of the world population (Gosal, 1985).

Probably, the first systematic research in population geography in India was conducted by Dr. G.S. Gosal in the year 1956. In his doctoral dissertation entitled “A Geographical Analysis of India’s population”, he has studied in detail all the significant aspects of population, such as distribution, growth, migration, sex-ratio, literacy, occupational structure, urbanization, etc of India. Another noteworthy study in this field has been done by Dr. Moonis Raza (Raza, 1977) who has studied the spatial pattern of clustering and concentration of scheduled tribes population of India in a very systematic way. “Tribes of Assam” a noteworthy work (Barkataki, 1969) in Assam in this book explained about the socio-cultural behaviour of the different tribes of Assam. Another important book in population studies is “Legends of Origin of the Castes and Tribes of Eastern India” (Ghose, 2000). In this book he has explained about the
human race and how it has undergone changes right from its day of creation originally from stone age to iron age then to copper age till it attained the stage of today. Eastern region of India is a wonderland where a number of tribes and groups stay together for several centuries. It is the region known to be a store house of many legends and folk stories. This book covers a number of legends connected with origin of mankind which clearly indicated the history of the different tribes. These legends also have scientific background to give us idea about human history, migration or creation.

"Asomor Janajati" (Bhattacharyya, 1962) edited by Dr. P.C Bhattacharyya a collection of essays written on different social and cultural aspects of the various tribes of Assam, the North East Frontier of Assam and Nagaland, written by different scholars. "Asomia Aru Rabha Samaj- Sanskriti Sarup" (M. Devi Rabha, 1999) written by Mallina Devi Rabha, a book on socio-cultural analysis of the Assamese and Rabhas are some important contribution which deals with the tribal of Assam. Another book entitled “The Tribal Societies of India” (Kumar, 1998) written by B.B. Kumar published by Omson publication, New Delhi, explains how the Indian society suffers from the obsession of diversity. There is diversity in our society, but not to the extent it gets projected. There is an unbroken continuum between the castes and tribes in this country. The book tries to highlight the same. “The Tribes of North East India” (Karotemprel, 1984) edited by S. Karotemprel is a collection of article written by eminent scholars about the socio-cultural problems of different tribes of North-East India. “The Tribal situation in India” (Singh, 1972) is edited by
Suresh Singh of Indian Institute of Advance study, Shimla. This volume brings together the papers presented at the seminar on the tribal situation in India. In these papers and also in the succinct summary of the discussions, the various strands in the complex processes of the adjustments of India’s tribal population to the idioms of an emerging nation. In the book “Boro-Kachari Samaj Aru Sanskriti” (Narzi, 1995) the author explains the socio-cultural characteristics like language, literature, society and culture etc of Boro-Kacharis of Assam. In the book “Assam: Land and people” (Krishnan, 2000), R. Gopal Krishnan has given an account of land and people of the state of Assam. It is an attempt to place the contemporary issues in a geographical perspective. “Tribal India” (Hasnain, 1991), is a book where different social dimension of the Indian tribal is discussed. The author explains that India has been rightly described as a “melting pot” of races and tribes. “Tribal Development in India” (Verma, 1996) is another book which deals with the development of tribes in India after independence. The study presents a detailed analysis of the programme since independence with special reference to the scheduled tribes of U.P. “Tribal studies in North East India” (Sengupta, 2002), an impressive collection of papers contains demographic features, colourful socio-cultural life, ethnic tensions, folk-lore, ethno-archaeological aspects, perception of health and development issue etc of North East India. This is an edited book published by Mittle Publication. “Morphology of tribal / Non-tribal Boundary (Evidence from Meghalaya)” a research paper written by Das, M and Nayak, D.K. In this paper discussion has been made about the spatial distribution of the tribal and the non-tribal population at macro level and submitted that they are distributed in a
highly segregated pattern. The distribution of the tribal population in India in pockets of varying degrees of isolation has permitted a low level of interaction between these two segments of the population. Moreover, attempt has also been made here to identify a typology of the morphology of the tribal, non-tribal boundary in a selected block of Meghalaya. "Demographic Dilemma of lesser known tribes of Meghalaya: A Geographical perspective" a research paper written by Nayak, D.K and Das, S (1997). This paper analyses the demographic dilemma of some of the lesser known tribes living in Meghalaya with particular emphasis on their spatial distribution, growth rate, rural-urban composition and sex-ratio. B. Banerji explained in "Geo-Political Background of NE India in the Glimpses of Tribal life of NE India" about the Geo-Politics of the tribals of NE India. Kalita B.C. (1984) studied the traditional political system and its relevance to modern political system that was introduced after the independence of India from Karbi perspective.

The recent works on tribals and scheduled tribes in India in the form of book and research paper in social sciences both published and unpublished deal not only with distribution, growth but also with economic problems relating to their development. Significant contribution about the distribution characteristics of tribal population in NE India is made by B.K. Ray Barman, 1971


So, far the study area is concerned, no significant work has yet been done by any scholar regarding the scheduled tribes population in detail. However, A.R. Saikia (1985) has made a detailed analysis about the Muslim population of the former Goalpara sub-division. Again J. Patgiri (1988) studied in detail systematically about the geographical analysis of tribal population in Goalpara district at thana level in his unpublished M. Phil thesis of Gauhati University.

Over an above, the different “Census Reports” and the “Statistical Hand Book of Assam” have published vivid statistical data, which are most essential for the study of scheduled tribes population of the old (undivided) Goalpara district.

1.7. Terms and Terminology:

i) Bathou : God Shivraj (Mahadev).
ii) Dakhna : A kind of dressed by the female of Bodo and Kachari.
iii) Bora rice : A kind of rice used for fermentation of country made liquor, cake etc.
iv) Paini : A strip of cloth used to wear by the woman of Rabha & Hajong.
v) Kherai : It is a religious festival of the Boro Kachari performed in the form of worship accompanied by dance and song.
vi) Boisagu : A festival observed in the new years day (1st of vaishag) by Boro Kachari.

vii) Domasi : Last day of the Assamese month.
viii) Dakmarda : A traditional cloth used by the Garo-woman.
ix) Kothopali : A traditional cloth used by the Garo-women.
x) Mekhela-Sadar : Two pieces of cloth used by the Assamese woman.
xi) Madh : Locally fermented liquor from rice by the Boro-Kachari.
xii) *Janga*: Locally an earthen pot used by the tribal to prepare liquor from decomposed rice by the Rabhas.

xiii) *Charland*: Island in the river Brahmaputra is locally known as “charland”.

xiv) *Ari*: Clan

xv) *Hathachuni*: Negotiation Marriage.

xvi) *Home Yojna*: Worship of Sacred fire.

xvii) *Barai*: Gotra.

xviii) *Mysako*: An offering of boiled rice with meat, egg, fish, rice-beer.

xix) *Rabha kamung*: A cloth taken by the Rabha women upon the blouse.

xx) *Khabo Khamata*: A cloth covered the head.

xxi) *Chaita*: Last month of the Assamese calendar year.


xxiii) *Chira*: Flatten rice.

xxiv) *Muri, Akhai, Laru*: Various kind of delicacies, prepared from rice by the women of Assamese tribal society.

xxv) *Arnai*: Muflar (Galbandha)

xxvi) *Jamrai*: Sunni, a piece of cloth taken by the girl upon the breast.

1.8: Format of the Dissertation:

The dissertation is divided into three main parts, the preliminaries, comprising of acknowledgement, contents etc, the main text and the reference part, which contains bibliography, appendix etc. The main text has been divided into three parts, viz, part-I introductory, Part-II analysis and Part-III synthesis.
Introducing part consists of chapter I: Introduction, chapter II: Geographical Account of the study area and chapter III: Historical background of old (undivided) Goalpara district.

The part II i.e. analysis, comprises of chapter IV: Growth Distribution and Density of scheduled tribes Population. Chapter V: Demographic characteristics of scheduled tribes population. Chapter VI: Socio-cultural characteristics of scheduled tribes population. Chapter VII: Economic characteristics of scheduled tribes population.

The part III is synthesis which comprises of the chapter-VIII contains summary, conclusion, suggestions, appendix and schedule-cum questionnaires and reference book.

Reference:


* Balkrishnan, S (1976): “Some Demographic Problems in Tribal Communities based on NICD studies paper. Submitted at the All India Symposium on Tribal Demography in India, held at Imphal, 8 to 11th Nov. 1976.


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* Sarma, B.C. (1977): “Tribal Hexagon – A study of Tribal Demography, *Geography out look, XII.*


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