CHAPTER-V

Summary and Conclusion

In this chapter, the attempt has been made to find out the salient features and has drawn conclusion of the present study into a recapitulates mode. The present study is basically conducted to assess the demographic structure, morphological traits, genetic traits and dermatoglyphics pattern of the Deoris of Bordoloni block of Dhemaji district, Assam.

Demography, has gained popularity among social scientists quite recently. Demography works to identify the factors which lead to promotion and diminution of human fertility, mortality, morbidity and other characteristics of population. Demography is an analytical interpretation of population dynamics and composition. It also includes the study of condition and motivations affecting human health and survival. It also embraces the vital dimension, of generic and genetic space relations with the cultural features of the earth in physical and biotic environment. Demography is utilized as a tool of analysis in various social and biological sciences (Pande, 1990).

North-East India may be considered as the paradise for anthropological studies because different ethnic groups inhabiting in this area have their own unique culture, language, religious beliefs etc. The demographic structure of North-East India is undergoing in rapidity changes. High fertility rate is one of the main factor for rapid population growth in this region. The fertility rate and fertility behavior plays an important role because different socio-cultural variables that determine the fertility behavior of different tribe and caste affect them differently. Unfortunately, it is fail to give much attention excepting a few physical anthropologists to understand the demographic makeup among these diverse population groups.
Though, various studies have been conducted by different scholars among the
tribe and caste of North-East India. But no such investigation has far been undertaken on
the Deoris of Assam particularly viz. demography, morphological traits, genetic traits
and dermatoglyphics. Therefore, it is an urgent need to see the biological position and
variation with the other earlier studied populations groups of North-east India. The
history, culture and physical appearance says that Deori tribe are belongs to Mongoloid
group but it is very demandable need to a scientific study for find out the morphological
traits and biological variation with the studied population groups. On the other hand, the
physical anthropologists are desirable to study and understand this biological variation
among different populations groups. The present study tries to explore which factors are
associated with the fertility behavior within the population group. Besides, the
morphological traits, genetic traits and dermatoglyphics are considered under the
present study.

The tribe Deori is one of the small prominent plain tribe of Assam and they
belong to Indo-Mongoloid group of people. The Indian constitution has regarded the
Deori as a Scheduled tribe who are mainly inhabited on both southern and northern
bank of Brahmaputra River of upper Assam. The present inhabitation of the Deoris
spread in different district of Upper Assam but they are mostly concentrated in the
districts of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia
districts. Other than the state of Assam, the Deori villages are also found in Lohit and
Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Further the Deoris have been specified in the
Scheduled Tribe list of Arunachal Pradesh as per Scheduled Tribes Census Report of
1991, Govt. of India. The total tribal population of Assam is 3308,570 out of which the
total population of Deori is 41,161 that is 1.2% of the total tribal population of Assam (census 2001, Govt of Assam).

As per semantics the word ‘Deori’ means the off springs of God and Goddess. According to Deori language ‘Den’ means great or wise and ‘O’ and ‘Ri’ denotes male and female respectively. Hence, the meaning of ‘Deori’ is the great or wise male and female being. On the other hand, the Deori are believed to be Priests or worshippers of God and Goddesses. According to Dr. B.K. Kakati, the word ‘‘Deori is a new Indo-Aryan formation connected with Sanskrit deva-grhika’’ Sir Edward Gait wrote that the ‘‘Deoris are the priestly section of the Chutiya kings of Sadiya Dynasty who worshipped the Goddess Tamreswari (Kechaikhati) and Sri Sri Baliababa at the Copper Temple at Sadya. Even after the annexation of Chutiya kingdom by Ahom king in 1523 A.D., The Deori priests continued their worship at these shrines under the auspices of the Ahom kings.’ According to W.B. Brown the Deoris are a small and scheduled tribe of Upper Assam; and as the name implies, they are the representatives of the priestly or Levite class among the Chutiyas, who are one of the most numerous castes of Upper Assam; and whom it is known from history to have been the ruling race in Upper Assam before the Ahom invasion in the fifteenth century.

The Deori community has its own culture and traditions. They have their own language to converse amongst themselves. History says that the Deori language was the original language in the Chutiya kingdom before the reign of the Ahoms in Assam. Agriculture is the main sources for their livelihood. Diet is found among the Deori people are non-vegetarian. The staple foods consist of boil rice, vegetables, fish, meat, egg etc. Apart from these they prepare traditional food items like- rice beer, dried fish
etc. Pork is a favorite food among most of the people. Deori people are pile dwellers (*Chang Ghar*). They build their traditional house generally use by bamboos, woods, canes, reeds etc. The houses are 4-7 feet height from the ground. The granary is located in front of the main house and some of the family having their worshipping place which is also located in front of the main house. The Deori women are expert in weaving. They weave different colourfull dresses. Generally, a traditional Deori women wear *Igu* (a long cloth from the chest to toes), *Baiga* (a long cloth to cover the upper part of the body), *Gatibi* (a cloth that wear in their head) *Jokka Chirba* (a cloth encircling in the waist). The Deori is a patricidal tribe therefore the sons inherit the property after his death. They worship Lord Shiva-Parvati (*Kundi-Mama*) and hence fall under Hinduism. Most of the festivals, ceremonies and religious beliefs and practices are related to their life-cycle and agricultural life.

The present study comprises into five different chapters. The chapter-I presented the introduction and review of literatures. Chapter-II describes the materials and methods adopted during the data collection of present study. The findings and results of demographic, morphological traits, genetic traits and dermatoglyphics are presented in the chapter-III. The present study finding and results are discussed with the earlier studied population groups are describes in the chapter-IV and the last chapter-V is relate with the summary and conclusion of the present study.

Demographic traits: The demographic traits of the population have been shown with the percentage distribution in the present study in terms of age, sex and marital status. It has been observed that the age group 0---14 years, the highest percentage of child population is found (10.05%) between the age group 10---14 years.
It has been observed that more than half of the population is registered (62.08%) as childbearing age (15---49 years). This may be attributed to the falling mortality among the population of the present study and survival of the persons to be the age of reproduction. The findings show the potential on fertility and population growth in an upward direction.

With regard the age group between 50 and 80 years, the highest percentage (4.48%) is found between the age group 50 and 54 years. There are only a few persons registered (0.30%) above 80 years.

In the present study it has been observed that the illiterate rate is (29.98%) significantly shown a higher percentage among the population. The rate is higher among the females (18.95%) than the males (11.02%). In case of higher education, only a few people are found graduates (3.63%) and post graduates (0.18%) respectively. The occupational status of the present study exhibits most of the people are agriculturist. Therefore, it exhibits that they are economically backward and it hampered in their education. There are only a few people are engaged in govt. services. Among the population of the present study shows almost half of percentage of both male and female are registered in fertile group which is signify potential on fertility and population growth. The mean age at marriage is recorded among the male is (24.82 years) which is higher than the females (19.52 years). In the present study it is observed that according to educational level of mother’s, it exhibits higher numbers of average live birth are found among the illiterate women than the literate women. The reproductive wastage among the people indicates that they are not conscious about ante-natal care. In the present study the infant mortality rate is 4.09 which indicate that their health condition is poor because infant mortality is considered as the indicator of health
status for a community. Sometimes it also reflects the socio-economic condition in any population group.

In the present study regarding the morphological traits it is observed that they are medium statured people. The cephalic index indicates that both male and female possesses brachycephalic head. In case of length height index and breadth height index of head both the male and female predominantly shows hypsicephal and acrocephal head. Upper facial index mostly represented by hyperleptene face among both male and female. It is observed that the in the present study hyperleptoprospic face is found in very higher in both sexes. Nasal index of the present group is found to be \(80.35 \pm 0.80\) which means the average nose shape among the Deoris possesses mesorrhine nose. The relative sitting height index shows prominently metriocormic class \(52.36 \pm 0.81\) among the both male and female. The classification of relative biacromial breadth index of male and female shows medium range which means they possesses medium shoulder. It also observed that both the male and female possesses medium pelvic and medium chest respectively.

The results of genetic traits in the present study it is evident that, among the Deoris it is preponderance of blood group O among both male and females and followed by blood group A, B and AB. Thus the sex wise distribution of ABO blood group shows the similarities sequential order in both the sexes among the Deoris \((O>A>B>AB)\). The allele frequency calculated for the phenotypes \(r\) and \(p\) shows higher frequency than the \(q\). The occurrence of Rh (-) is nil in the present study. On the other hand, the distribution of colour blindness exhibits highest normal colour vision among the both Deori male and the female. Only 2.30% of total colour blind is observed in the present study.
The present study has been also attempt to made deal with recorded of finger and palm print of 228 number of individuals where 120 of male and 108 of female. The finger Pattern (all finger combined) loop occurs more highest than the whorls and arches in both male and female. The predominance of ulner loop significantly plays an important role in the whole finger pattern among them. The finger pattern whorl is found second highest among both males and females though female exhibits slightly higher than the male. In case of loop, female also shows higher percentage than the male. On the other hand among the male finger pattern arches shows higher percentage than the female in the present study. Distribution of Percentile frequency of finger print pattern of whorl and total loop exhibits higher in left hand than the right hand among male. The female group shows higher number of whorls in left hand but it exhibits equal number of total loop in both right and left hands. Arches is found slightly high in right hand than the left hand among the male but it is more number of arches is found in right hand than the left hand among females. Comparative occurrences of whorls and loop of two hands of both male and female and it is seen that only the digit IV whorls exhibits greater than the loops among the other digits I, II, III, and V. The distribution of pattern types has been calculated on the basis of three indices namely- Furuhata’s Index, Dankmeijer Index, and Pattern Intensity Index. Furuhata’s Index is occurred more in right hand than the left hand in males but in case of female it seems to be higher in left hand than the right hand in females. The Dankmeijer’s Index in left hand of both male and female shows higher percentage than the right hand. The Pattern of Intensity Index in right hand shows slightly higher in right than left hand in males where the female shows slightly low in right hand than left hand.
Regarding the palmer dermatoglyphics it is apparent that formula 11 9 7 appears in highest frequency, followed by 9 7 5’’ and 7 5’’ 5’’ in right hand. In case of left hand the highest frequency is exhibits in formula 9 7 5’’, formula 11 9 7 and 7 5’’ 5’’. On the other hand the frequency shows highest percentage in formula 9 7 5’’ (55.83) followed by (50%) in 11 9 7 and (37.5%) in formula 7 5’’ 5’’ respectively.

From the present study it may be concluded that some of the conditions may are effect on both bio-demographic and socio-economic factors like education level of mother, education and occupation of the husband, socio-economic condition, health care practice, lack of medical facilities etc.

The another point to make it clear that most of the similarities are exhibits by comparing in respect of somatometric traits, genetic traits and dermatoglyaphic traits with some other tribal groups of Assam as well as North –East India. Likewise some difference is also observed. All the parameters of the present study it established that the characteristic features of the Deori people show close similarities with the Mongoloids groups.