3.1 Introduction:

According to John W. Best and James V. Kahn, Research is considered to be the more formal, systematic and intensive process of carrying on a scientific method of analysis. It is the recording of controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalization, principles, or theories, resulting in prediction and possibly ultimate control of events. The characteristics of research are:

1. It is directed toward the solution of problem and demand accurate observation and description.
2. It requires expertise and involves the quest for answers to unsolved problems.
3. It strives to be objective and logical, applying every possible test to validate the procedures employed, the data collected and the conclusion reached.

It is often characterized by carefully designed procedures that apply rigorous analysis.

Educational Research is mainly applied type in nature. First, it follows an inter-disciplinarian approach next, solving educational problem in teaching-learning examination, evaluation and such other domain. The preparation of a research proposal is an important step in the research process. First it begins with the selection of research problem. After that it is define and delimitated looking at its importance and different constraints. Next the significance of the problem because the researcher should point out how the solution to the problem, or the answer to the question can influence educational theory and practice. Therefore, scientific
approach is followed to formulate objectives, hypotheses, data collection, data analysis and drawing conclusion.

According to Koul (1991) research methods are of utmost importance in a research process. They see in which manners the problems are formulated, the definition of terms, the choice of subject for investigation, the validation of data gathering tools, the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, and the process of inference and generalization. The three basic categories of research methods are:

A. Historical method where the investigator discover, describe and interpret what existed in the past.

B. Descriptive method where the investigator study, describe and interpret what exists at present.

C. Experimental method where the investigator identify the conditions underlying the occurrence of a given phenomenon.

So, methods of a research problem is the science of studying pros and cons of the research problem depending upon logically derived empirical evidences from the huge stock of knowledge and experiences. Briefly, Research method of a particular problem includes the Research Design i.e. preparing the blue print for doing research and it must be relevant to the study. In the present study, descriptive survey method was applied to accomplish the objectives formulated for the same.
3.1.2 Descriptive Survey Method:

Descriptive research studies are designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomenon and, whenever possible to draw valid general conclusions from the facts discovered. They involve measurement, classification, analysis, comparison and interpretation.

It involves four characteristics viz.

* They involve hypotheses, formulation and testing.
* Use the logical methods of inductive-deductive reasoning to arrive at generalizations.
* Employ methods of randomization so that error may be eliminated.
* The variables and procedures are described as accurately and completely so that the study could be replicated by other researchers.

Survey refers to find out what is existing in a particular content. A descriptive study describes relationship that exists, opinion that are held, processes that are going on, effects that are evident or trends that are developing. It is primarily concerned with the present, although it often considers past events and influences as they relate to current conditions.

Descriptive survey study in education is concerned with examination of an educational problem by using standardized method of sampling for careful observation. Hence, an attempt has been made to describe what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects, attitudes, values, customs and tradition, mores, norms and beliefs as well.

At times, descriptive survey is the only means through which opinions and suggestions for improvement of educational practices and instructions and other
data can be obtained. It is useful in the development of data gathering instruments and
fools like checklists, schedules, questionnaires and rating skills. It also provides the
background ideas and data from which many more refined or controlled studies of
casual relations are made.

Descriptive survey studies are more or less concerned with the studies or
investigations of the phenomenon that are very typical in mature in normal
conditions. It helps to investigate conditions or relationship that have been existing
in particular state or level, practices that have been prevailing, ways and means,
beliefs, points of views or attitudes, norms, customs etc. of leading life have
been holding process that have been maintaining influences that have been
realizing and the trends that have been developing by man in a particular period
of life in a particular social settings.

3.1.3 Design of the study:

The present investigation falls under descriptive survey research due to its
nature and characteristics. The very purpose of the present study focus on the
various methods on child rearing practices based on parameters and how this
rearing practices had its impact on the physical and emotional development of
children in the district of Nalbari, Assam. Both the Qualitative and Quantitative
analysis of data as per objectives constituted the prime effort of the researcher.
For this purpose Purposive Random Sampling procedure from various blocks of
Nalbari district had been taken up. The present study intended to identify 13
parameters of child rearing practices and to see the main causes of these parameters
and its impact on the physical and emotional development of children among the
women of Nalbari district comprising both tribal (working, non-working) and non-tribal (working, non-working) of Nalbari district. The primary data were collected from the women of Nalbari district.

3.1.4 Demographical and Geographical Profile of Nalbari District:

The history of Nalbari which was an integral part of Kamrup till June, 1993 is inseparable from the history of the latter. The present district of Nalbari originally farmed part of the kingdom of Kamrupa. Prior Nalbari was ruled by a chain of non-Aryan princes 1000 years before Christ.

Gadadhar Singh was the first king to definitely annex Nalbari to the Ahom territories. He was succeeded in 1695 AD by Rudra Sing.

The Nalbari district which had been a sub-division of the Kamrup district since 14/08/1985 vide Notification No. GAG (B) 46/84/33 dated 10/08/1985 with H.Q. at Nalbari. The district comprises the entire area of the then Nalbari sub-division. It is composed of 1 Review Circle. There are 7 C.D. Blocks on the District. The District as it exists at present is bounded in the east by Kamrup District, in the North by Bhutan, in the West by Barpeta District and in the South by Kamrup District.

Topographically, the District forms a great plain comprising a few elevated tracks lying along the Bhutan Hills which forms its Northern boundary.

The District is being traversed from North to South by two important Rivers – The Pagladiya and the Puthimari.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural people of the District. Besides that fishery, Sericulture, handloom and Textiles are also there.
Schedule Tribes of Nalbari


In Nalbari district, the sex ratio is 945 females for every 1000 males. The rate of female literacy is 73.85% consisting of rural 72.14% and Urban 87.48% according to 2011 census. The women are mostly engage in household activities like weaving, farming, poultry, part-time worker in domestic houses in rural areas. In the town areas, women are mostly working in schools, colleges, government services, and the like. The women of Nalbari district comprises both tribal and non-tribal. Among the tribal are mostly Bodo people who resides in the rural areas (80%) and in town areas (20%). In regards to child rearing practices the Urban literate section are aware of the practices than the rural illiterate sections, though now in both the areas, the women are aware through mass media and free medical check regarding medicine, immunization and vaccinations. But still in remote villages both the tribal and the non tribal follow the traditional methods in breast-feeding, toileting, taking to solid food, massage and the like. There also belief in rituals and ceremonies of the new born babies and also follow taboo and wearing of amulet, specially those children belonging to age group (0-6 years). In some villages they maintain cleanliness depending upon the family status, economic condition and education in case of the new born babies. Birth rate control is found in the town areas as compared to the village area due to the ignorance of the women folk.
But as a whole the women of Nalbari district are simple, hard working and maintain their status according to the economic condition. Village women still live in joint families for easy child rearing practices in compared to the town areas which are mostly nuclear family and more over engage in work whether private or government service.

a) Population :

According to 2001 census, the population of the district is 11,38,184, again the size of population stands 10\textsuperscript{th} (2001 census) as against 9\textsuperscript{th} in 1991.

b) Child population :

As per 2001 census, out of total population of the district (11,38,184) 1,61,616 are children’s belong to age group from 0-6 years and account for 14.20/- of population of the district. According to the size of the children population, the rank of the district degraded to 12\textsuperscript{th} position among the 23 civil districts of the state as against 8\textsuperscript{th} position in 991 with 1,89,113 children’s.

c) Density :

The district with 2.88/ area of the state shelters 4.27/ of the state’s total population as per 2001 census. The density per sq. km in the district is 504 persons/ sq.km. Against 340 persons/ sq.km of the entire state, the density of population in the district as per 1991 census was 450 as against 286 persons for the entire state.

The density of population in the urban area is 1977 persons/ sq.km and for
rural it is 495 as per 2001 census as against 1689 and 286 persons in respect of rural and urban areas.

d) Rural and urban composition:

The district has a total of 11,10,706 rural and 27478 urban population as per 2001 census, thus nearly 97.59% of the total population of the district live in the village, as per 1991 census the figure of rural and urban populations of the district were 9,92,915 and 23,475 respectively. Thus the percentage of decadal growth (1991-2001) of rural and urban population of the district are calculated as (+) 36.24 of the state as a whole.

e) Population of SC’s & ST’s:

The schedule caste and schedule tribes population details has not been published by the census authority till the preparation of this report. However as per 1991 census. The schedule castes and schedule tribes population of the Nalbari district was 89,194 and 1,79,641 respectively constitutes of 8.78% and 17.67% of the total population of the district. Schedule caste and Schedule tribe population together account for 26.45% of districts total population which was much higher than that of state figure of 20.23 percent.
### TABLE-3.1

**POPULATION OF NALBARI DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>161616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>769919</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: As per census report: 2011.

#### 3.1.5 Population and Sample:

There are seven blocks in the district of Nalbari. They are **Pub Nalbari, Borigog, Banbhag, Paschim Nalbari, Madhupur, Tihu, Barbhag** and **Borkhetri**. For the present study the researcher had taken Nalbari district as the area for her investigation. Hence all the women both tribal and non-tribal residing in the rural and town area under these seven blocks were selected as the area for her investigation. Hence all the women having two children from birth to six years constitute the population of the study. However, the sample of the study mainly confined to 300 women having at least two children belonging to the age-group of (0-6 years). It comprises 150 tribal and 150 non-tribal women of Nalbari district.

#### 3.1.6 Purposive Random Sampling Procedure:

Purposive random sampling procedure was adopted to sort out 300 women in both rural and town areas. Randomisation was as a method of sorting out...
sample strength from each of the 7 blocks of Nalbari district. Hence, care was taken to see that from each of the 7 blocks the samples are selected.

Secondly, the very selection procedure adopted in the context of picking up women (both tribal and non tribal) was independent. However, Purposive Sample was the criteria to select 300 women both from rural and town areas due to their relevance in the concerned area of the present study. The purpose of such selection has been thoroughly discussed in the sampling of women.

**TABLE-3.2**

**SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION**

**TOTAL NO. OF SAMPLE (BLOCKWISE) OF WOMEN**

TRIBAL AND NON-TRIBAL (300)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tihu</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.7 Description of the sample:

The sample of the present study were sorted out as in the following manner.

a) Sampling of women on literate and illiterate – Blockwise distribution

b) Sampling of women – area wise on percentage.
c) Sampling of women– marital status on percentage.

d) Total number of children against sample women.

Randomisation techniques was applied to sort out seven blocks of Nalbari district. Among the sample women 150 are tribal and 150 are non tribal women.

**TABLE - 3.3**

**LIST OF SAMPLE WOMEN BOTH LITERATE AND ILLITERATE OF TRIBAL AND NON TRIBAL WOMEN SELECTED FOR THE PRESENT STUDY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Tribal Women</th>
<th>Non-Tribal Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LIT. W NW W NW</td>
<td>LIT. W NW W NW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tihu</td>
<td>05 02 02 03 09 02 02 05</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pub Nalbari</td>
<td>03 – – 04 16 06 05 11</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Barkhetri</td>
<td>10 04 10 11 13 01 01 05</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pachim Nalbari</td>
<td>02 – 04 14 10 01 03 08</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Borigog Banbhag</td>
<td>08 03 09 11 10 – 01 05</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Madhupur</td>
<td>06 01 08 05 04 03 04 05</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Barbhag</td>
<td>01 02 14 08 10 – 03 07</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 35 112 47 56 72 13 19 46 300

W – Working  LIT. – Literate
NW – Non working  ILL. – Illiterate
Table 3.3 represents the name of the seven blocks and 300 women are sample selected blockwise representing Tribal Literate (working and non working), Tribal Illiterate, (working and non-working) and Non Tribal literate, (working, non-working) and Non Tribal illiterate (working and non working).

a) Sampling of women– Area wise on percentage:

The sample strength of women was 300 spread over the seven blocks of Nalbari district comprising both tribal and non tribal. These women represent literate, illiterate, working and non working category.

Table 3.4

DISTRIBUTION ON WOMEN – AREA WISE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Women (Tribal and Non-tribal)</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tihu</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pub Nalbari</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Barkhetri</td>
<td></td>
<td>55</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pachim Nalbari</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Borigog Banbhag</td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Madhupur</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Barbhag</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.4 showing the total number of women block wise selected both from the tribal and non tribal category selected for the study.

b) Sampling of women – marital status on percentage:

There are 300 women in all the seven blocks of Nalbari district representing both tribal and non-tribal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Women (Tribal and Non-tribal) Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>79.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.5 showing the total number of women category wise – widow 16.3%, divorced 4.0% and none 79.7%. Total 300 sample women selected for the study.

c) Number of children including male and female against sampling of women:

Against the 300 sample strength of women both tribal and non-tribal, the total children was 600 including both male and female category. The age group of both categories ranges from 0–6 years of age. In this purposive sampling each women has two children from both tribal and non tribal women.
### TABLE-3.6

**DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN OF SAMPLE WOMEN SELECTED FOR THE STUDY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Tribal WRK</th>
<th>Tribal N-WRK</th>
<th>Non Tribal WRK</th>
<th>Non Tribal N-WRK</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6m-11m</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 yr.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 yrs.</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 yrs.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 yrs.</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 yrs.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 yrs.</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>176</strong></td>
<td><strong>142</strong></td>
<td><strong>170</strong></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.6. showing the total number of children (600) both from male and female category of women representing both tribal working and non working and non tribal working and non working.

#### 3.1.8 Tools for data collection:

Tools are the instrument used for collection of data or pertinent instruction. Tools are an important process to collect data. In the present study were used for data collection.
a) 13 parameters on the impact of physical development of the children.
b) Self structural questions on the impact of emotional development of children.
c) Self structured questions on child rearing beliefs and practices.

3.1.9 Self developed Questionnaire on physical development of the children:

The Questionnaire used to study the impact of physical development of the children belonging to the age group 0-6 years among the women of Nalbari district. The women belongs to both tribal, (working and non working) and non tribal (working and non working). Each parameters describe the different patterns of child rearing practices and its impact on the physical development. The questionnaires on 13 (thirteen) parameters were standardized by the researcher herself. Test and Re-test method was applied by the researcher to find out the validity and reliability of the test. Preliminary draft was prepared and applied to 80 women having children from 0-6 years and in the final draft the items were reduced to 13 parameters namely QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL and QM and applied it to 300 sample women of the 7(seven) blocks of Nalbari district both urban and rural areas.

3.1.10 Base for selecting thirteen parameter items of CRP and its impact on the physical development of children:

On the basis of experts opinion like child specialists, doctors, personal observation, review of research studies, face to face interview, personal observation, the tentative and possible impact on the physical development of the children on the child rearing practices were identified. The impact were
observed as reflected on their health condition of the children that is their height, weight, intake of milk, breast feeding, bottle feeding, solid food, vaccination and immunization, cleanliness, beliefs, superstitious, dogmas both in the rural and urban women of Nalbari district belonging to tribal and non tribal category. But these impacts were related to the mothers and their rearing practices who follows both traditional and modern child rearing practices on the study. The statement against each parameters were arranged logically which consists of 13 items, each items having more than 4 statements.

The Questionnaire was locally standardized to realize the specific and significant purpose.

3.1.11 Self structured questionnaire on the impact of emotional development of children:

The self developed questionnaire on the impact of emotional development on children consist of six part namely A, B, C, D, E and F provides information on children’s emotional development. It includes age, class (tribal and non tribal). All the items are arranged properly against each emotions for children 0-3 years and 4 to 6 years respectively and graded as 10, 20 and 30.

However, the questionnaire was developed and standardized by the researcher herself by applying test and retest method to find out the reliability and validity of the test. Against each age group preliminary questions was prepared and in final setting the items was reduced to 21 and applied to 300 women having two children each under seven blocks of Nalbari district both urban and rural areas. The 300 women includes Tribal (working and non-working) and Non-Tribal Working and Non-Working) categories.
3.1.12 Base for selecting items on child rearing practices and its impact on the emotional development of children:

On the basis of analysis of literature, previous studies, journals, articles, expert opinion, observation and interviews with the samples the causes on emotional impact of the children were identified. These causes are due to different child rearing practices adopted by different families based on both traditional and modern practices. Moreover it depends on the literacy and illiteracy, urban and rural areas, family background, joint and nuclear family on her study. It consists of 5(five) basic emotional impact, general for all children between 0-6 years and specifically for the women of Nalbari district. The very intention of the questionnaire was to check the opinion from the women included in the study.

3.1.13 Self structured questionnaire on child rearing beliefs and practices:

The self structured questionnaire on child rearing beliefs and practices consists of 10 questions which provides information an different beliefs and practices. Each questions includes two or three options either in "Yes" as "No" or "Male", "Female" and "Both" of children belonging to age group 0-6 years both male and female category of the women of Nalbari district comprising both tribal and non-tribal women.

3.1.14 The Information Blank:

The main purpose of the Information Blank (IB) was to collect information pertaining to personal, professional and institutional characteristics. These types of information might constitute some independent variable to serve the basis for analysing of data, regarding child rearing practices among the women of Nalbari district and its impact.
on the physical and emotional development of the children. But the Information Blank was quite helpful to describe purposive Random Sampling strength as per requirement.

3.1.15 Data Collection:

According to the objectives of the present study, both the primary and the secondary data were collected for the statement on various parameters. Data collection was done by the personal request of the investigator after visiting the sample women of Nalbari district. For this the investigator spent minimum one and a half year for this purpose. When the questionnaire was given, the investigator gave her introduction, the purpose of her visit, the idea on what the purpose was and, its objectives. After distributing the questionnaire, the investigator clarified each question along with its doubts. In some cases the questions are translated verbally to those who are illiterate to get the specific answer from the samples. At times, the local head man of the villages (Gaonburah) helped the investigator to collect the women in groups either in a school (during holidays) or in a place where the investigator could talk and explain to them. During her investigator, an informal and friendly situation was created, so they would feel free to answer the questions.

Apart from this, an informal interview was conducted with the local people. head man of the village, local doctors, child specialists, family members to identify certain problems of child rearing practices.

The Questionnaire was distributed and a time interval of 40 minutes was given for those literate section of rural and town areas, and for the illiterate section, they were explained thoroughly which helps them to respond freely and in a relax manner.