THE FIELD AREA: AN OUTLINE

Description of the field area, A description of Belguri, Ghiwnala, Murmela have been presented in this chapter
CHAPTER- II

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DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD AREA

The area Tangla is situated in Udalguri District, BTAD, Assam. The area is located to the North-East of Guwahati. It is about 96 Kilometer away from Guwahati and takes about three hours to reach by bus. The area covers a number of villages consisting of different tribal groups as well as non-tribal population. The different tribal groups are namely, Boro, Rabha, Garo, Hajong and Santhal. Amongst all the Boros are dominant group in Tangla area.

There is thirty bedded community health center in Tangla town and seven sub centers in the area. A number of religious institutions like, Siva temple, Hanuman temple, Bathou temple, Anukul temple, Mosque, Baptist Church and Catholic Church are there. A permanent daily market and two weekly Hats (market) are there where, the people from neighbouring areas join spontaneously to buy or sell the essential
commodities. The Assam state transport corporation buses and private bus facilities are the means to communicate other places. A railway station in Tangla town way of communication to other places is added facility to the socio-economic development of the area. A degree college with science, commerce and arts stream, two junior colleges in Tangla town, which cater spreading of formal education in the area.

There are twenty-one numbers of anchalik (local) committee of All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) under Udalguri District, BTAD, Assam. The Tangla area consists of fifty-three ABSU units under Tangla Anchalic Committee (local ABSU office record). Significantly, All Bodo Women’s Welfare Federation (ABWWF), the premier women organization under their respective anchalik wings.

As per 2001 population census, demographic composition of Udalguri District reveals that the total population is 818222 where 51.22% males of total population and 48.78% are females of total population, 3.97% of total population is scheduled caste and 37.99% are scheduled tribes of total population.
LEGEND CONNECTED
WITH THE NAME OF TANGLA

The researcher collected two legends connected with the origin of the name of Tangla from the elderly people of the area. However, there is no written record about these legends. According to one legend the people of the area were cultivators. The area was full of dense forest and wild animals. So, to save their agricultural products people made an arrangement on top of the tree, which is Tong in Bodo language to sit and watch their fields. In course of time after the name of Tong the name of the area became Tangla.

There is another legend in naming of the area. During the British regime the Government had appointed the local people of the area in the construction work of railway lines. After finishing the work in this particular area the Government had asked the people to travel to another area for construction of new lines, but the people refused to go for more work and answered as Thangla (not willing to go in Boro language). From this word Thangla the place got the name Tangla.
As it is very difficult to cover a vast area of the survey location therefore at random three Boro villages have been selected as sample villages out of fifty-three tribal (Boro) villages for the study.

**A DESCRIPTION OF BELGURI, GHIWNALA, MURMELA**

The selected villages of the study are namely, Belguri, Ghiwnala and Murmela. Homogenous community that is, the Boro community mainly inhabits these villages. The neighboring peoples of these villages are Assamese, Bengali, Hajong, Nepali, Rabha and Santhal/Oran etc. These neighboring villagers are followers of different religion. Though the Boro community has strong ties within their own society, yet, the Boros in this area maintain good relationship with their other neighboring communities. It has been observed that the Boros in sample villages though few in numbers have entered in marriage with other communities especially with Assamese, Nepali, Orao, and Assamese Muslims etc. This type of relations strengthens the tie in between them. There is a tradition of bisigi khanai in these villages. In this ceremony if the persons is personally interested to tie a bond with a particular person, then he/she may celebrate a ceremony of bisigi khanai. There are another relations also found in
these area that, Bima bifa lingnai, Bibo linnai, Bida lingnai and Binanao lingnai etc. These type of relations strengthen the inter community relations and the neighboring ties.

Descriptions of three villages selected for this purpose of research are given below.

**BELGURI VILLAGE**

Belguri village is situated in Tangla area within newly formed District of Udalguri. *There is a legends after the naming of the village, said by the elderly people of the village, that there were large number of Bel trees in the village as the name of village is selected as Belguri. That is under Bel tree. The village is 5 kilometer away from the Tangla town. It is surrounded by other villages inhabited by Boro, and having mostly the same activities and livelihood pattern. On the north of the village is located Pachim Paneri village, on the east Maganchuba village, on the south Borigaon village and towards the west Murmela village. There are 61 (sixty one) households in the village; the total population is 363 in the village. Out of this total population 198 are male and 165 are female.*
57.64% people are agriculturist; only 2.78% service holders and 9.03% persons are daily wage laborer in the village. The literacy rate of the villagers is 38.81%; out of this only one male member is graduate. The people of this village are followers of their ancient animistic beliefs. The God Sibrai is the supreme God of them. The village road is un-graveled. The link road with the Tangla town is also un-graveled road. It is observed that most of the people walk or use bi-cycle, rickshaws and other small vehicles as the means of communication. The village has a Lower Primary (LP) school. The students of class V to X standards have to travel 2 kilometer on foot or by bicycle to their school. For the higher Education, students have to go to Tangla.

The village Belguri is not electrified. There is no telephone facility in the village. The villagers have to go to Tangla town for banking services. There is a market at a distance of 5 kilometer at Tangla, where the people of the village can sell their household products and purchase their necessary goods. There are no medical facilities in the village, for medical treatment they have to go to Tangla town. For emergency health care they have to take help from local traditional kabiraj or ojha. Almost every household has tube well for drinking water facility.
GHIWNALA VILLAGE

The village Ghiwnala is situated at a distance of 3 kilometer from Tangla town, Udalguri District, BTAD. There is a legend behind the naming of the village. According to the legend, the village was covered with jungles and a kind of plants was there, known as *Batha Ghiw*, and it was grown in the *Nalas* (low lands like canals). After these two words the name of the village has been termed as Ghiwnala. It is surrounded by Murmela village towards the north, on the south by Batabari village, on the east Borigaon village and the west Nashansali village. The total number of households of the village is 65 (sixty five), the total population is 417 in Ghiwnala village, and out of these the total population males are 213 and 204 females. It is found that 36.07% of the villagers are agriculturist, 3.28% are Government service holders, 15.30% are daily wage earner, 5.46% are service holder in private sector, and only 3.28% are engaged in business. The total literacy rate of the village is 65.35%; out of these only four males are graduates, among which one MBBS, one B.E. and two in general line. Among females only one graduate and one postgraduate is
there in the village. There is a Lower Primary school and an Early Child Education center (ECE) center in the village.

The village is electrified. Almost all the villagers have drinking water facilities.

The sanitary system of the village is very poor. Out of total villagers only a few villagers have nominal toilet facilities. The villagers are using open field for toilet.

There is no telephone facility in the village.

The villagers have to move three-kilometer distance for marketing; there is a small grocery shop at a distance of one kilometer from the village. The communication system of the village is very poor. The villagers are using bi-cycles rickshaws and other small vehicles as the means of communication.

There is no medical facility in the village. For emergency treatment villagers go to the traditional kabiraj or ojha.
MURMELA VILLAGE

The Murmela village is situated about 6-kilometer away from Tangla town. On the north of Murmela is Simaluguri village, on the east Belguri village, on the south Ghiwnala village and on the west Amguri village. There are 122 households in the village with a population of 739 (366 males and 373 females). Agriculture is the primary occupation of 48.02% and secondary occupation of 28.57%, 01.76% males and 01.88% females are in Govt. services, daily wage laborer (daily wage laborer includes - agricultural laborer, rickshaw puller and daily labor in other works) as primary occupation of 13.22% and secondary occupation of 35.71%; 03.96% males and 01.41% females in private sector. The literacy rate of the villagers is 52.24%, out of these only two male graduates and two female graduates are there. There is a lower primary school, an Anganbadi center and a high school in the village. For the higher education, students have to go to Tangla. There is a post office in the village and it serves the neighboring village also. There is a Siva temple in the village where the community religious functions are conducted. The village road is un-graveled. The link road with the Tangla town is also un-
graveled road. The people of the village walk or use bi-cycle, rickshaws and other small vehicles as the means of communication. For carrying essential commodities and rice thela is commonly used, carrying pole named baokha (made of bamboo) sikhai made of jute string etc. are also regularly used by the villagers.

The village Murmela is electrified. There is no telephone facility in the village. The villagers have go to Tangla town for banking services. There is a market at a distance of 5 Kilometer, where the villager can sell and buy their essential commodities. There is no medical facility in the village, for medical treatment they have to go to Tangla town. For emergency health care they have to go to the village medicine man or to the kabiraj or ojha. Almost every household has owned drinking water facility.